



# WINDOW on WINDSOR

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Vol XXXIV No.01

Jan 2020

## Next Neighborhood Association Meeting

**Saturday, Jan  
11th at 10am.**

**at Memorial  
United Method-  
ist Church, room  
off gym at back of  
church**

## HAPPY NEW YEAR & NEW DECADE

**Jan Meeting  
Focus:**

**CapMetro  
&  
Revitalization  
Committee**

Got something for  
the newsletter?  
Get it in by the 15th  
to [newsletter@  
windsorpark.info](mailto:newsletter@windsorpark.info)

## President's Letter

*By Dan Strub*

Here we are, kicking off a brand-new decade. We have lost some friends and favorites this year, but Windsor Park has continued to grow, becoming stronger and more vital. Pomerleau Park continues to move toward opening, adding to our green spaces. We have a new sign proclaiming to the rest of the city that we are a place, a destination. New stores and restaurants and music studios keep popping up. Berkman has become more bicycle and pedestrian friendly, despite all of the traffic moving through to Mueller. The library is open again after a spiffy remodel, keeping it relevant to those who need it most. Three more neighborhood students have headed off to college with our scholarships to make their load a little lighter. And thanks to our Climate Change Committee, we have become the first neighborhood in the nation to adopt a climate change resolution.

We do not have to peer very far to see some of the changes that we will encounter in the 2020's. Redevelopment of Windsor Village, part of the PromiseLand property, and Mt. Sinai are proposed or are already moving forward. AISD continues to struggle to decide which schools to close, and how to improve equity to its students across the district. The City continues to grapple with rewriting its outdated land development code, looking to find a way to provide more affordable housing and encourage mass transit to counter our increasing gridlock. All are issues we will continue to address at the Neighborhood Association.

With each end of a year and the start of a new one, I like to think of the things that need doing, things that I want to do better. One thing that I want to ask you to do is to renew your membership. Our income through memberships and sponsorships has fallen, and our budget is becoming critically tight. Your dues allow us to pay to have this newsletter printed, to keep the neighborhood email list serve running, to pay for the few meager needs to keep the Association running. They help build the web that ties us together and unites us. Please join at whatever level you feel appropriate, from student/limited income to full-on sustaining member. And while your membership dues are important, just adding your name as a member is also helpful. When we speak to the City or the School District, the more people our collective voice represents, the more attention will be paid. Together, we are more effective than we are individually.



## Harris Elementary School's crossing guard honored

Mr. Lonnell Shackles was nominated for crossing guard of the year, a national honor. Thanks to all the Windsor Park people who voted for him, Mr. Shackles finished in the top 5 nationally and remains in the running for National Crossing Guard of the Year. Let Mr. Shackles know that you appreciate his work keeping a safe crossing at Berkman and Wheless. We have presented him with a Windsor Park coffee cup and WPNA T-shirt.

At the WPNA holiday party, Mr. Shackles was one of the 2019 Heroes of Windsor Park. He said, "I was so touched and impressed by all that the neighborhood association does, especially your support of the Joas and Jacqueline family."

## Climate Corner: New Ways for the New Year

Lisa Chavarria

*“Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out.”* (Robert Collier). Thinking about how to battle climate change can feel overwhelming but there are small changes you can make in your everyday life that help the planet more than you might think. Below is a list to consider as we go into this new year.

**Around the Yard.** Before you break out the Round-Up and non-organic fertilizers this spring, think about the impact of these petroleum-based and synthetic chemicals. These chemicals end up in our waterways and contribute to algae blooms. Consider using only organic fertilizers and pulling weeds by hand. Know the impact of gas-powered lawn equipment - a recent study shows this equipment generates approximately 6.3 million tons of toxic and carcinogenic emissions and more than 20 million tons of carbon dioxide. Think about replacing your equipment or engaging a lawn service that uses electric powered equipment

**Food.** Replacing red meat and dairy for plant-based meals one day a week for one year would reduce the average household's emissions by an amount equal to that of driving 1,160 miles less per year. If one day without meat or cheese is too much, spread it out and have a few meat and cheese free meals per week. Food waste is also a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, but composting can significantly reduce this impact. If you aren't already, use that green composting bin the city has conveniently provided you – there's no excuse not to!

**Plastic Waste.** Only 9% of plastic waste gets recycled so as you grab that disposable plastic item, don't take comfort in your belief that it will be recycled because chances are that plastic bottle, bag, lid and utensil will end up in the landfill despite your intentions. Instead make a conscious effort to forego the plastic altogether buying items in glass or metal when you can. Consider re-fillable containers.

**Clothing.** Polyester is made from fossil fuels that emit greenhouse gases and it sheds microfibers that add to plastic pollution in the ocean. When buying clothes this year, think about buying natural fibers or used clothing.

### DRINK WITH US!

Join the WPNA Social Committee and your fellow neighbors to meet and mingle during our quarterly happy hour!

**DRINKS AND FUN  
FROM 5:30-7:30PM!**

Jan. 31st @ Cenote WP  
May 8th @ Knomad Bar

See FB events for more info.



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## Meet Your Neighbor - WALKER LUKENS

*Martin Luecke*

Our neighbor on Berkman since 2014, Walker Lukens is a singer/songwriter/musician. He shares a practice/office space with some other music industry people in what used to be a dental clinic. "This space has been passed down from musician to musician for two decades" he says. Austin record producer of the year Frenchy Smith is one of the former inhabitants. "It's a really awesome space and I love the history. I feel like places like this are going away in Austin." It's a music maker's paradise. "Five bands rehearse here, a few people who do recording, there's an isolation booth, and Grant has a record lathe, and he actually cuts vinyl over there."

Originally from Houston, Walker has been in Austin most of the past 15 years. These days he sounds like a Windsor Parker. "I've been blown away how much change has occurred on Berkman. For years, my life was just in this room, and since Hank's opened, it's been a very different street, completely transformed the whole energy vibe of the neighborhood." With his office facing the restaurant, Walker has a front row seat to the increase in traffic, where crossing the street for lunch has become a challenge. "I'm glad they put in those cross walks".

Walker is a busy guy. He released an album "ADULT" in April (produced by Spoon drummer Jim Eno), then went on tour for six months, and became a record producer for several local artists including Tameca Jones and Taylor Wilkins



(from Otis and the Destroyer). He recently created a new band called "Goldblum", named for the actor Jeff Goldblum. For Halloween the band created an original live score played to Goldblum's movie "The Fly" at the Scoot Inn. "It was so much fun we are going to do it again." Walker has been obsessed with music since he can remember. "I'm so lucky, two thirds of my life has been making music."

In November, Walker went in a new direction: podcast producer. He and bandmate Zac Catanzaro unveiled "Sound Confessional" a podcast show made in conjunction with KUTX radio (98.9). Walker built a mobile recording studio/faux confessional booth out of a 1960's two-wheel travel trailer. He and Zac travel around and record people's stories, pick out the best ones, give the story to a songwriter who then makes a song out of the story, and then Walker makes a podcast out of the whole event. Songs from the podcast also appear on KUTX radio. The stories are true, sometimes terrifying and told anonymously. "Me and Zac wanted to do something different and not just tour all the time. I had the little germ of this idea and we just kept talking about it. My original idea was to listen to someone's story and then immediately make a song out of it. We tried that but decided it would be better to get other bands and artists to make the song."

Sound Confessional is an ambitious project, producing 30 episodes a year. Walker and Zac are taking the rolling confessional on the road soon, traveling to a conference in San Francisco, and then down to Los Angeles before stopping in Santa Fe on the way back home. "I've been recording and touring basically non-stop since 2012. It's good to take a break from all my work being about me and my songs, and instead work on producing other people's stuff." Walker muses for a moment. "I love making sounds. Every song is a little world. I'm getting to be part of some world, which is pretty cool."

**In April, Walker will be opening his 'Sound Confessional' booth for Windsor Parkers. Date and location TBA on the WPNA website and Facebook group.**

**THANK YOU** to William Hamilton for donating a brand new vacuum cleaner and Mateo and Laura Clarke for donating \$500 to the Refugee family so they can get automobile insurance. We need 5 more people to match their gift.

### *Movement sessions right here in Windsor Park!*



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**Adam Wile**  
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## Garden Guide: Plant for Windsor Park's Future

William Glenn

Just about every time my wife and I take a morning walk through Windsor Park, she politely endures the trained-parrot of a husband (me) that squawks, "Eh, look at that, they got lucky. The builders gave 'em a Live Oak." She could easily finish the rest of my polemic. "Sycamores and Arizona Ash are falling apart; we really need to plant some long-lived trees quick so Windsor Park isn't treeless in 10 years. Why aren't people planting new trees? Everyone ought to plant at least one oak. It's so easy! What, they don't want shade?"

You're right, it's *obnoxious*. Still, though, I want to sledgehammer my obnoxious point here. Plant a good tree! This area used to boast a mixed woodland prairie with seas of Post Oaks, Blackjack Oaks, a whole myriad of shrubs and grasses "up to a horse's eye." Our little enclave can support everything from diminutive Orchid Trees to *El Generalissimo* himself; the commanding Coastal Live Oak. Why don't we have those trees here?

## The WINDSOR PARK SPECIALIST *and Resident!*



Every house in Windsor Park has a story. I have lived and invested in Windsor Park for nearly 10 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, Ph.D, CNE  
(512) 786-7224  
Karen@alluretx.com  
karenpagani.alluretx.com  
www.alluretx.com



You see, when Windsor Park was built and trees were chosen, varieties were chosen which grew quickly, not for long life spans. Arizona Ash was probably the most common, which only lives 50 or 60 years—and they were planted in the 50's. Currently, they're in different throes of decline, or, gracing the lawn in their best form of all—a stump. I hope you consider planting a great native tree along side your doomed Arizona Ash. Think of popping in a Monterrey or Lacey Oak while it's still cool outside, and the new sapling can develop in the dappled light of the outgoing tree. It's a natural state for a new tree to grow up under a mature tree's canopy. Take a look outside...see any place that could use a new tree?

"The one who plants trees, knowing that he will never sit in their shade, has at least started to understand the meaning of life."  
(Rabindranath Tagore)



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## WINDSOR PARK BOOK CLUB

Barbara Haefeli

Happy New Year! The next Windsor Park Book Club meeting is Tuesday, January 14, 2020, from 7-8:30 at the WP Library. The book for January is Mansfield Park by Jane Austen. February's book is A Gentleman of Moscow by Amor Towles. Other books for 2020 include The Testaments, One Hundred Years of Solitude, Furious Hours: Murder, Fraud, and the Last Trial of Harper Lee. We welcome new members & visitors and hope that we will see you in 2020!

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## NOV 2019 Windsor Park Market Statistics

AVG SOLD PRICE/SQ FT (NOV 2019) **\$284.18**

# OF HOMES SOLD IN (NOV 2019) **10**

AVG SQ FT OF HOMES SOLD **1,564**

AVG DAYS ON MKT OF SOLDS **13**

# ACTIVE LISTINGS ON MARKET **10\***  
\*As of Nov 14th, 2019 - Single Family Homes

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## Mueller Update - Jan 2020

*Rick Krivoniak*

Austin Film Society founder & artistic director Richard Linklater and Austin Council Member Kathy Tovo cut the ribbon for the grand opening of Austin Studios' new Creative Media Center on Monday, December 16. AFS partnered with the City of Austin, who provided \$5.4 million in 2012 bond funds for design and initial construction. The transformed National Guard Armory facility features 15,000sf of leasable office space situated around a central lobby and shared meeting, screening & break room amenities to support creative media artists and businesses. The former hangar is now dubbed Stage 7, providing 23,500sf of production space. Austin's Art In Public Spaces program participated in the project, and on the same evening, dedicated the "Split Diopter" sculpture, visible from Tilley Street a bit south of 51st Street. Commissioned by AIPP and created by Texas artist Eric Eley, the sculpture's dimensions mimic the aspect ratio of film, and it references the anatomy of a film camera lens with Elgin Butler ceramic blocks. It is lit by red, blue and green LED lights, colors featured in all projected images.

The Robert Mueller Municipal Airport Plan Implementation Advisory Commission will next meet at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, January 14, 2019 at the Chestnut Community Center, 1183 Chestnut Avenue. For RMMAPIAC agendas, minutes, meeting recordings and other documents, visit [austintexas.gov/rmmapiac](http://austintexas.gov/rmmapiac)

## Austin Achieve Public Schools

2019 was a landmark year for Austin Achieve, and we are excited to continue learning and growing with our scholars in 2020. Wishing everyone in the Windsor Park community a happy new year!

- Pre-K + Kindergarten for a Day, Thurs., Jan. 16<sup>th</sup> 9-11am. Austin Achieve Elementary School - 7424 E Hwy. 290, Building 1. As you consider your Pre-K and Kindergarten options, we invite you to experience all that Austin Achieve has to offer firsthand. Childcare for younger children will be provided. To RSVP, please visit [bit.ly/2CJIyK2](http://bit.ly/2CJIyK2). Space is limited. If you have questions or would like more information, contact Priscilla De La Torre at [pdeltorre@austinachieve.org](mailto:pdeltorre@austinachieve.org) or (512) 234-0142.
- One School, One Family Wellness Workout. Sat. Jan 25<sup>th</sup>, 10am. Middle School - 5908 Manor Rd. Kick-off the new year with a rush of endorphins! Join us for a morning of yoga and mindfulness. A light breakfast will be served after the workout. All are welcome!



## Harris Elementary

Laura Tomlinson, Librarian



The Harris Elementary Honor Choir consisting of our talented 5<sup>th</sup> graders went on their annual caroling tour spreading holiday cheer to The Andy Roddick Foundation offices, A+ Federal Credit Union, Double Tree Hotel in downtown Austin and both Hart and Pecan Springs Elementary.

Mrs. Maya Smart made a generous gift to help purchase books through BookSpring, a non-profit organization in Windsor Park that encourages book ownership. Students got two books each at the Books for Me Giveaway! Harris Elementary gives a big THANK YOU to Maya Smart for her donation and



her time. We also thank the BookSpring volunteers Lauren Gant and Shannon Throne, and our neighbor volunteer, Judi Rockman.

Many thanks to the neighbors who answered the call to help Harris families for the holidays, including John Paul Porter, owner of Dignified Dwellings Realty, who generously donated gift certificates. **Volunteers are needed** to help with lunch duty and front office support from 10:00-12:30 or to volunteer in our library. Please contact Lisa Rodriguez, 512-414-2085, [lisa.rodriguez@austinisd.org](mailto:lisa.rodriguez@austinisd.org)

## Blanton Elementary

Karon Smutzer

The holiday season of December had everyone looking forward to the winter break but January brings a new year with many new adventures for the staff, students and parents of our school family. We encourage the Windsor Park community to join us for the fun and enjoyment of any special events whenever they have the opportunity.

- \* Jan. 14 - School Tour, 9:00 a.m.
- \* Jan. 21 - STEM Night, 4:30 p.m.
- \* Jan. 24 - Winter Fest @ PAC, 6:00pm

## Northeast Early College High School

Katherine Wallach, LMSW, Social Services Specialist

Please welcome Principal McGruder to the Northeast ECHS community! Sterlin McGruder will serve as the new principal. Since 2013, McGruder has been the principal of the Gus Garcia Young Men's Leadership Academy. Prior to coming to AISD, he was the principal of David Daniels Elementary and the District Alternative Education Program in Grand Prairie, Texas, where he worked for approximately 13 years in various leadership and teaching roles.

Mr. McGruder has a Master of Science degree in education from the Texas A&M University-Commerce, and a Bachelor of Science degree in interdisciplinary studies from East Texas State University in Commerce. We'll welcome Mr. McGruder to his new home beginning January 6.

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## Yard of the Month Jan 2020 - 1806 Northridge

*Sara Jane Lee*

The January winners are John and Allie Hewlett of 1806 Northridge Drive. They have lived there nine years and in Windsor Park twelve years. The Hewletts are big fans of Big Bend National Park and its environs so they have planted many cacti and other plants that thrive there.

Their cacti include Golden Barrel, Cinnamon, Bunny Ears, Montrose Totem Pole, a variety of Old Man, spineless Prickly Pear, and many more. They also have Agaves, Aloes and other succulents, Ocotillos, a Sago Palm, and plants that belong to that popular and widespread species, "I knew what it was when I planted it". John and Allie's yard also has an attractive small weed that keeps on popping up; after digging it up several times, John decided to keep it. One of his favorite plants is the Ocotillo.

John, Allie and their three children work in the yard about two hours a week. Since most of the plants are drought tolerant, most of the family's time is consumed pulling weeds and grass out of inappropriate places. Long planting beds run along the walkway from the street to their house. Recently their children took over maintaining those beds.

The Hewletts also have two 1,000-gallon rainwater tanks to supply their outdoor water needs. A huge Holly bush covers one side of the tank in their front yard. John advises new gardeners to start small and plant what you like; it helps if the plants need little water.



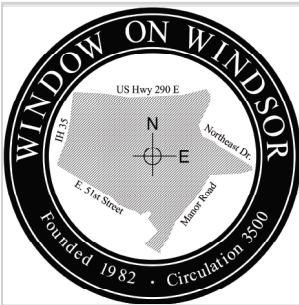
Please tell us if you like a certain yard; we rely on nominations to be aware of yards we may not have seen. Send your nomination(s) to WPNA YOMC. P.O. Box 16183, Austin, Texas 78761, call 512-928-0681, or email [wpna.yom@gmail.com](mailto:wpna.yom@gmail.com).

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## Thanks to Friends of WOW:

- Dan Strub
- Anonymous Friend of WOW

## Library Events

### Windsor Park Branch

- Jan 6th Monday 6pm Adult Graphic Novel Book Club “Night Witches”
- Jan 8th Wednesday 6pm Resume and Job Search Help
- Jan 9th Thursday 6pm Board With Books (Come play board games!)
- Jan 14th Tuesday 11am Biz Aid Business Orientation (Small business help)
- Jan 14th Tuesday 7pm Windsor Park Book Club “Mansfield Park”
- Jan 22nd Wednesday 6pm Resume and Job Search Help

Weekly All ages, Toddler, and Pajama Story Times, details at <http://library.austintexas.gov/>

### St John Branch

January 6, 3:00-5:00: Hot Cocoa Social: cocoa, printmaking, Print Austin art opening

### University Hills Branch

January 18, 1:00-3:00, Adult Crafternoon: Winter Scene Cylinder Bases



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