

## WINDOW on WINDSOR

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President's Letter – January 2021 Jackie Brooks

Next Neighborhood Association Meeting Well, hello there, neighbor –

Saturday, Jan 9th I'm so glad you are here. Thank you for sticking with us, and most importantly, for being there for each other. Reflecting on 2020 (deep exhale...) In our neighborhood we've had to say farewell to some of our much-loved small businesses, typical ways of life, and worst of all, ones we love dearly. For any loss you have endured, please know our community heart aches for you. It's in times like these when our lights have a tendency to shine brightest, and I couldn't be prouder of our neighbor heroes - seizing countless opportunities to lift one another up, rallying to support our local businesses, and reminding ourselves that a little grace goes a long way in difficult times. I'm so grateful to be surrounded by each and every one of you.

STREAMING starts at 10:15 but connect early for some visiting! The Windsor Park Neighborhood Association has a long lineage of selfless and caring individuals – Windsor Parkers, we call them. They convinced me that I, too, could make a difference which is why I volunteered to serve as an officer in our Association. Our past-President, Dan Strub, previously acknowledged several of our neighborhood volunteers for their contributions. I would like to extend our gratitude to him. Thank you, Dan, for your leadership, your improvisation, and your dedication during what seemed like a never-ending year of unpredictability.

Jan Meeting Focus: HAPPY NEW YEAR Though I doubt 2021 will be free of surprises, I'm optimistic and delighted to join this team of talented and devoted neighbors that you have selected to serve as our officers this year: Vice President Jack Lewis; Treasurer Josh Pitts; Secretary Alice Graulty; and Intra-Neighborhood Representative Peter Struble. We will likely continue to reach you virtually for the near future, and will be ready to greet you in person at our monthly meetings when that day comes. Thank you to this whole crew for stepping up this year.

Membership and volunteer opportunities

You know who else I'd like to extend my thanks to? You. Yes, you. If you're already a member, thank you for showing your support – have you renewed your membership for 2021? If you're not a member yet, you care enough to read this newsletter, and that means a lot too. Have you considered becoming a member? There are so many reasons to join - check out more on our website at windsorpark.info.

Hancock
Conservancy
on
Hancock Golf
Course ->
Public Park

What's that you say - You're already a member, AND you volunteer? Awesomesauce. You already know about the wonderful gift it can be, and we hope you find ways to continue to share that inspiration with others. At our January meeting, we'll hear more from our committees about opportunities for you to get involved this coming year. I'm looking forward to many more moments of pride thanks to you, Windsor Parkers. Keep supporting each other. Keep showing up. We'll do it together and kick off 2021 with our first \*virtual\* meeting of the year. See you January 9, 2021, at 10:15am streaming live via Facebook or on the website!

#### January 2021 Mueller Update

Rick Krivoniak

Got something for the newsletter? Get it in by the 15th to newsletter@ windsorpark.info A Happy 2021 to all! There is little news to report since the Mueller Commission did not meet in December. Mueller's businesses and parks remain under the City of Austin protocols for the pandemic. Playground, exercise and sports facilities at Mueller's parks are open with notices to follow COVID-19 precautions. The Mueller Commission will continue to meet virtually for the foreseeable future. Agendas, minutes, meeting recordings and other documents, are available at austintexas.gov/rmmapiac

## WPNA Schools Committee: How we can support our local high schools

Shaleiah Fox & Alice Graulty

For the third month in a row, the Schools Committee is highlighting impactful and achievable ways you can support your neighborhood public schools. In November we featured our elementary schools; for December we shared about middle schools, and for January, we are spotlighting the high schools in our neighborhood: Northeast HS and LBJ HS.

Both of these great high schools are <u>Early College High Schools</u>, which means students have the opportunity to graduate with both a high school diploma and an associate's degree from Austin Community College, free of charge. This exciting, innovative program prepares students to compete in the workforce, while saving thousands of dollars in college costs. Through Career and Technology classes, students can learn valuable career skills and earn certifications in areas such as nursing and automotive, in hands-on classes.

As you read last month, joining a school's **PTA** or **Campus Advisory Committee (CAC)** is one of the best ways to be involved and make a difference. Both organizations are open to anyone in the community, including residents and business leaders (even if you don't have a child at the school). PTA



membership dues are a critical way you can give to a school. **To join a school's PTA get in touch with the school contacts listed below.** Community engagement is a predictor of better student outcomes and stronger schools. Get involved today! **Our featured schools are on page 5** 



I hope you stayed safe this year and made it through the craziness that was 2020!

Lack of inventory continues to drive our strong real estate market (We have about 1/3 what we usually have this time of year). Listings are going for thousands over list price and in multiple offers. I've been helping my clients determine what updates make the most impact and put the most money in their pockets.

In the meantime, stay safe out there. I'm always here to answer all of your real estate questions whether you're looking to buy, sell, invest, or rent.

#### Meet Your Neighbor - Tim and Beth Stell

Martin Luecke

For many years now, there has been a revolving decoration on a dead tree in a front yard on Suffolk. When my kids were young, they would get excited about what the tree was wearing. What's it going to be this time? And then we'd look up at a giant Betty Boop! Or another year, we would see a 30-foot Jack Skellington from Nightmare Before Christmas, in all his pumpkin glory. It was thrilling and inspiring all at the same time.



Today if you drive west on Suffolk from Berkman, keep a lookout to your left for a tree sized Bender the Robot from the TV show Futurama.

Tim and family have been costuming this dead tree for more than two decades as everything from Sock Monkey to Gumby. Tim recounts the story of the tree. "It had been dying, so I hired this guy to cut it down and he did part of the tree but didn't return, so I was going to finish cutting it down when I realized it had an unusual shape, and maybe I could turn this into something cool." Making a positive out of a negative!

But rot has begun to set in the base, and it's clear the dead tree will not stand much longer. As we talk, Tim kicks at the roots and reveals they are not connected to the tree. "It's the last year of the tree" Tim laments. He's afraid it's going to fall over and hit a parked car. "I'm going to retire in March [Tim is a project manager for Health and Human Services] and cutting down this tree will be one of my first projects." I feel like I'm losing a favorite uncle.

Make a point of visiting our friend Bender, soon. He is one of a kind in the history of Windsor Park. And speaking for my family, the Lueckes give thanks to the Stell family for making something memorable all these years.

#### Take the Windsor Village Shopping Center Survey!

The Windsor Village Shopping Center - located at the intersection of Berkman Drive, Briarcliff Boulevard, Gaston Place Drive, and Westminster Drive - has been sold and will be redeveloped.

A group of fellow neighbors active in the Windsor Park Neighborhood Plan Contact Team and Windsor Park Neighborhood Association has created a survey to bring community awareness to the proposed redevelopment, provide an avenue for dialogue, and gather community input to share with the new owner. The survey should take about 5-7 minutes of your time.

At the end of the survey, you may provide your email address to enter a drawing to win a Hank's Gift Card as a thank you for your participation!

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WindsorVillage

For more information: <a href="mailto:rodney@windsorpark.info">rodney@windsorpark.info</a>



### Farewell to Gus' Garage Jackie Brooks

The loss of Gus' garage in our neighborhood is just one of the many casualties this year, though ironically not as a result of COVID-19. The departure happens at a time of transition to new ownership and a proposed redevelopment to the Windsor Village shopping center. We are not aware of the negotiations with the existing landlord and how the transition of leases to the new ownership took place, but I do wish the circumstance was not resulting in the loss of one of our cherished and successful small businesses.

## 15% off Drop-Off Wash & Fold Service

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It's going to be gloomy on the corner of

Briarcliff and Westminster without Gus and his crew. For many, seeing the classic cars is one of the highlights of the neighborhood. Without a doubt, the aesthetics fit the context of our vernacular like a glove, but what patrons will likely miss the most is Gus' neighborly approach to service.

My personal experience with Gus and his team (entrusted with my husband's "baby"- his first ever vehicle, an '88 Dodge Ram he still drives today) involved many moments where Gus has gone above and beyond. I have also witnessed him taking special care of some of our legacy neighbors and their older vehicles. In the case of long-time resident Rosaena Resendez (a patron and regular of Gus' Garage), her car wouldn't start on her way to an appointment- she called Gus and he was there in 10 minutes to troubleshoot and get her on her way. "I don't know what I'm going to do without him here," she said.

Gus is a fellow neighbor and often walked to work from his residence in Windsor Park. I see Gus' Garage as an encouraging example of the vision of living and working in your neighborhood. It is something I hope the new owner will be mindful of as they find inspiration for the future redevelopment of Windsor Village.

If you would like to reach out to wish them farewell or keep in touch, Gus' Garage is moving just a few minutes north to 10604 Bluff Bend Dr. (78753). Further contact info., cool photos, and greaseball merch can be found on their website: gusgarage.com

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NOV 2020 Windsor Park

Market Statistics

AVG SOLD PRICE/SQ FT \$304.73 (NOV 2020)

# OF HOMES SOLD IN 10 (NOV 2020)

AVG SQ FT OF HOMES SOLD 1,490
AVG DAYS ON MKT OF SOLDS 19

# ACTIVE LISTINGS ON MARKET 6\*

\*As of December 14th, 2020 - Single Family Homes. Request a Detailed Report for Your Section of Windsor Park John Paul Porter
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JohnPaul@DigDwell.com

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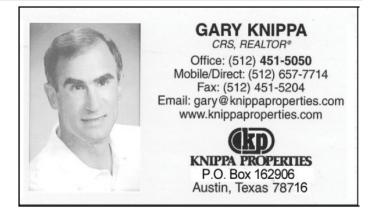
WindsorParkAgent.com

[Featured High Schools - continued from page 2]

#### **Northeast Early College High School**

Northeast ECHS is proud to be both an **Early College High School** and a **Community School**.

Northeast ECHS prepares students for the workplace through a partnership with information technology leader, DELL, by providing genuine experiences in mentoring, workplace learning, and internships. Students gain valuable insight into the real world of information technology and cybersecurity.



As a <u>community school</u>, Northeast runs a Family Resource Center which works with families and students on all basic needs: assistance with food, clothing, access to resources, assistance with utilities, housing, and more. They also have many partnerships including Communities in Schools, Vida Clinic, Seedling, LULAC, Breakthrough, Upward Bound, APIE, Hungry Souls, SRSF, and others.

Wondering how to help?

- Join the Campus Advisory Council (CAC)—Northeast is currently looking for a community member, and all are welcome. The mission of CACs is to promote excellence in education for all students through broad-based representation. CACs provide valuable input to principals who ultimately have decision-making responsibility for their campuses. Please contact Lacey Faulkner (lacey.faulkner@austinisd.org) and Principal Sterlin McGruder (sterlin.mcgruder@austinisd.org) for more information. Meetings (all virtual this year) are held the second Tuesday of each month.
- To *donate to our Family Resource Center*, please contact Katherine Wallach at <u>katherine.frazerwallach@austinisd.</u> org.
- When schools reopen, consider *getting a plot in our community garden*, or helping out with the *garden club*. Northeast's garden club chair is Nurse Carol Sweetman.

*Follow Northeast on social media*: Instagram: @northeastechsaustinisd, Twitter: @NortheastECHS, Facebook: Northeast Early College High School-Austin.

#### Lyndon B. Johnson (LBJ) Early College High School

LBJECHS is a vibrant and close community of teachers, parents, and students. Many of the teachers and staff are proud LBJECHS alumni and know firsthand the great experience students have on campus. In addition to being an Early College High School, LBJECHS is known for its LBJ **Early P-Tech Pre-Health Sciences Program**, which prepares students interested in the health science industry for a successful career in the field. Students have the opportunity to earn certifications for indemand health science fields upon graduation, an associate's degree, and hands-on training through internships and job shadowing activities.

You can get a sense of the immense pride bubbling out of the hallways of LBJECHS from the monthly newsletter and Principal Bailey's welcome message. This month alone they celebrated seniors who were recently accepted into college (a list of 20+), basketball and football victories, teacher achievements, and the dance team's Winterland showcase. You can watch it on YouTube at this link: <a href="https://youtu.be/lopcDXPzus4">https://youtu.be/lopcDXPzus4</a>.

Karen Brown, the Parent Support Specialist and LBJECHS alumna, invites you to learn more about the campus, current volunteer and support opportunities by joining a Principal Coffee Chat or the LBJECHS CAC. The next coffee is on **January 12th at 9:30 am** and the next CAC meeting is on **January 19th at 5:00 pm**. Please reach out to Karen directly about these and future opportunities at <a href="mailto:karen.brown@austinisd.org">karen.brown@austinisd.org</a>.

Follow LBJECHS on social media: Instagram: @lbjechs, Twitter: @echsLBJ, Facebook: LBJechs

#### **Harris Elementary School**

Laura Tomlinson and Amna Syed

Kinder - 5th students viewed **The Nutcracker Suite** during their Specials Class on Friday, December 11, and we had holiday dress-up theme days 12/14/20- 12/18/20. Harris had its **Annual Christmas Sing-Along Virtual** - December 18th! The entire school came together to bring holiday cheer for all to hear in the annual sing-along led by the music teacher, Ms. Napoles.

**BookSpring Book Giveaway:** December 14-18, every student PK3 - 5th grade received their first book this year (1 of 3!) during their library visit. We give a big **Thank You!** to our generous sponsor Maya Smart who makes this event possible.

Harris Bulldog PTA purchased recess kits for every classroom. We are beyond grateful for the AMAZING Harris community & neighborhood supporters who have helped fund recess kits from sets of balls, chalk, and games to a brand-new volleyball net & cornhole game! See our wishlist if you want to donate and support our active bulldogs! https://a.co/gY3P72f

Student Council has a GoFundMe page for next spring's field trip to Science Mill. Our 16 student leaders are working hard this year to improve the campus environment through anti-bullying campaigns and school-wide spirit weeks. We are planning a trip to Science Mill in the Spring. Please help support our club by contributing to our GoFundMe: <a href="https://gf.me/u/zatkb9">https://gf.me/u/zatkb9</a>

Harris welcomes Andy Roddick Foundation (ARF) after-school programs and Vida Clinic back to campus. After-school programs will resume on the Harris Campus beginning Spring 2021 semester. For more information contact: LaTash King, Bulldogs After-School Project Specialist, 512-841-5435, latash.king@austinisd.org. Additionally, the Vida Clinic, a mental health care service, will also recommence its work.

#### **Blanton Elementary**

Karon Smutzer, BASE Project Director

We thank you so much for your ongoing support! The holidays and vacations are over, staff and students are preparing for the new year. Blanton will still have students on-campus and virtual learning. We will always continue to follow current public health guidelines and district mandates. Virtual programming is still available for students who chose to remain at home. Please feel free to contact the school office, ask questions and learn more about what Blanton Elementary can offer for your student.

BASE (after school program) is planning to begin in-person

programming in January - we will be contacting parents to confirm the need. For more information, please contact Karon Smutzer at karon.smutzer@austinisd.org

#### **Andrews Elementary School**

Elizabeth Morales, Community School Facilitator

Andrews Elementary is excited to have been awarded the Bright Green Futures Grant by City of Austin's Office of Sustainability. The grant will fund EcoRise's Sustainable Intelligence Program so students can tackle real world problems using innovation design, sustainability, and social entrepreneurship. The Neighborhood Grant was also awarded to our school to begin the installation of outdoor classrooms. We began work on part of the **EcoGator Grove** during a recent community beautification day, in partnership with Austin Parks Foundation, our community park adoptee, Eagle Scout volunteer, and school community. We'd like to thank our everexpanding community partners for supporting our students, staff, and school.

We would love the support of our Windsor Park community during future outdoor workdays. If you are interested in participating, please contact our Community School Facilitator, Elizabeth Morales to be added to the volunteer contact list. elizabeth.morales@austinisd.org (512) 414-1770

We welcome our community to join our CAC meetings, held on the last Thursday of every month. We could also use the support of our community in funding student programs, incentives, and supplies. Please donate to <a href="https://bit.ly/GiveAndrews">https://bit.ly/GiveAndrews</a> or stay connected with us on Facebook @AndrewsElementaryECP.

#### Sadler Means YWLA

Rosalind Oliphant, Phd

The Sadler Means YWLA Dragons would like to thank all Windsor Park neighbors who donated to our successful Giving Tuesday campaign! We appreciate your support!

AISD Superintendent Dr. Stephanie Elizalde has appointed Ms. De'Sean Roby as the principal at Sadler Means. Ms. Roby had been serving as our interim principal. She has a vision of excellence for our young leaders and welcomes parents and community members to play an integral role in our success.

Sadler Means dance, theater, and band students experienced the magic of Ballet Austin's The Nutcracker during the virtual Night of Community annual performance. Our media students enjoyed premier access to indie films featured at the 2020 Capital City Black Film Festival. Tremendous thanks to The Austin Chapter of The Links for arranging both events.

[School updates continue on page 7]

#### Yard of the Month - 6708 Haney Drive

Sara Jane Lee

Nick and Louise Connolly of 6708 Haney Drive are the January winners. We took a chance on this yard because we were not sure how any possible freezes would affect the yard. We wanted some color and some color did survive.

The Connollys moved to Windsor Park 30 years ago, then moved to Haney 27 years ago. They called their first garden on Haney "the Money Pit" because everything died. Walking around the neighborhood and talking to their neighbors gave them many ideas and much good advice.

They have a Sago Palm, a Sky Flower, which so far is has not been frozen to the ground, a Belinda's Dream Rose Bush, Sedum, Ghost Plant, Skullcap, Mexican Honeysuckle, and Chinese Fringe Tree, Maidenhair Vine. Near the house there is Pomegranate and a Knockout Rose. In a circular plot there are Snapdragons, Dianthus, a Sweet Olive, a Wax Myrtle, Arabian Jasmine, Meadow Sage, and Wildflowers.

They also have a cedar planter with Pansies, Grape Hyacinths, and Stock. Another planter has Portulacas, Ginger Plants, Pentas and Begonias. In front of this planter there is a Yaupon Holly filled with berries. Nick made these planters and the welcoming front porch where he and Louise can visit with their neighbors and watch the birds, bees, and butterflies play. Nick and Louise have also gotten some extra plants from them like Lobelia and Coreopsis. Now that the yard is well established, they water their shrubs and weed the yard when necessary.

The Connollys will get a \$50.00 gift certificate from Shoal Creek Nursery. Right now, Shoal Creek is remodeling, but they are open and have a good supply of plants, pots, and equipment. It is still a pleasure to visit there - just enter toward the back. Send your Yard of the Month nomination(s) to WPNA YOMC. P.O. Box 16183, Austin, Texas 78761, call 512-928-0681, or email <a href="mailto:wpna.yom@gmail.com">wpna.yom@gmail.com</a>.



[School updates, continued from page 6]

#### **Gus Garcia YMLA**

Mr. Mejia, Principal

Gus Garcia YMLA CoderZ robotics club is among the top teams in the nation with a couple of 1st place competition wins! They are still working home to bring more wins back to our school community. The winter break for students starts December 21 and students return January 6. Please join our PTSA/CAC boards for volunteer opportunities at our school or call 512-841-9400. Follow us on twitter @GusGarciaYMLA



WEB: http://www.Windsorpark.info NEWSGROUP:

https://groups.io/g/windsorparkatx FACEBOOK: WindsorParkAustinTx

Contact Us

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☐ Standard / Individual — \$15/person
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☐ Sustaining — \$35 or more
☐ Non-voting donations - gladly accepted
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Address:
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#### **Library Update**

Dana Newlove

Make your way to the Library website (library.austintexas.gov) and check out a fantastic art exhibit. Austin Public Library has teamed up with CAMI-NOS to present the artwork of the 2020-21 Teen Leadership Interns. The site showcases the work of 11 high school students, including text and bios written by the students. The Caminos Teen Leadership program is an immersive, year-long paid internship providing students the opportunity to work with professionals at the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center on a variety of community-oriented activities. As the students themselves explain, "Through tumultuous times in our world, we find resiliency, resistance and rebirth in our creativity. We forge our collective caminos ahead, rain or shine, infused with the love and hope of our generation." Check out the amazing work of these young artists.

Austin Public Library continues to provide curbside service at 11 branches. Ever wonder what's happening at the branches that are *not* open for Curbside Service? Some have been repurposed to provide other public services, including Covid testing, learning pods for AISD and Victory Tutoring, and space for the Downtown Austin Community Court (DACC).

The Austin Public Library hosts a number of online clubs and events. You can find the full calendar of online events on the library website under the "Events" menu. When you register for an event, you will be emailed instructions for attending.

#### Austin Police Department District Representatives for Windsor Park

Officer Harold Ristow: (512) 974-5046

Officer Aaron Pippin: (512) 974-5542