



WINDOW on WINDSOR

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

Next Neighborhood Association Meeting:

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

**Back room of
Memorial United
Methodist Church
6100 Berkman Dr.**

Focus for February's WPNA Meeting:

**Changes and
updates in
public
transportation
from CapMetro**

Got something for
the newsletter?

Submit it by the
15th to newsletter@windsorpark.info.

Letter from the President - Why Civic Engagement?

By Meghan Dougherty. Translation by Guadalupe Abbud

“Civic participation over a lifetime, working in neighborhoods and communities and service of all kinds - military and civilian, full-time and part-time, national and international - will strengthen America’s civic purpose.” --John McCain

Within the first month of moving into our home in Windsor Park, I received the Window on Windsor, and I knew I had moved into the right community. A community with neighbors who volunteer their time to write, edit, and publish this newsletter, and then walk the streets hand delivering it indicated to me that this is a neighborhood with a deep sense of civic engagement.

My husband and I didn’t want to live in an HOA community, with a board policing the colors of doors and the height of the grass. We have our challenges in this community for sure, and conflicts or disagreements from time to time, but I think the biggest marker of the ethic of this community is that we work together to solve problems democratically. This community is the hallmark of what civic engagement means to me.

I write this article thinking ahead to the upcoming primary election. Dan Strub, our Vice President, is spearheading an effort with other nearby neighborhoods (Mueller, Agave, J.J. Seabrook, and Pecan Springs) to organize a candidate forum for Texas House District 46, the seat currently occupied by Rep. Dawnna Dukes. We have invited both Democratic and Republican candidates to participate ahead of the primary election on March 6. As you all well know, the primary election in this district is very important, and often even has greater importance than the general election. So this will be a fantastic opportunity to get to know more about the candidates running for this key position.

Esta es una llamada para tomar acción. Participen en nuestro foro de candidatos el 15 de Febrero en la iglesia Memorial United Methodist a las 7. Y voten sin falta Marzo 6 o antes si pueden.

Tenemos 2 metas - lograr una participación de votantes más alta que el promedio en el condado de Travis y sobrepasar el número de votantes de hace dos años, Marzo del 2016. Creo firmemente que lo podemos hacer y así mostrarle a todo Austin nuestro compromiso y dedicación a la vida cívica de la ciudad.

I did a little research into our voting turnout in Windsor Park. You can find more here: <http://traviselectionresults.com>. I looked at the precincts in Windsor Park (one of which also includes part of Mueller) and averaged the voter turnout in these elections.

See research, continued on page 9

Windsor Park Library Closed for Renovations Starting January 19, 2018

The Windsor Park branch of the Austin Public Library, at 5833 Westminster Dr., will be closed starting Friday, January 19, 2018 for a complete renovation. *La biblioteca cerrara por renovaciones de seis meses comenzando el viernes, 19 de enero.*

The renovation work, expected to take six months, will include:

- Technology upgrades
- Plumbing retrofits and HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) improvements
- Improved interior layout and replacement of flooring and other interior finishes
- Replacement of all worn furniture, fixtures, and equipment

Visit the bookmobile at Bartholomew Park on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:30-7 pm for free public wi-fi.

For full library services visit (*para servicios completos de la biblioteca*): University Hills Library at 4721 Loyola Ln., St. John Library at 7500 Blessing Ave., Willie Mae Kirk Library at 3101 Oak Springs Dr., or Carver Library at 1161 Angelina St..

Looking for easy transportation? Use CapMetro's Pick Up Service (a free pilot program for our neighborhood) available Monday through Friday 7 am - 7pm and Saturday 10 am - 5 pm. They will pick you up at your home and drop you off at the door of the St. John Library. Download the app on your phone or call 512-369-6200 for more info.

For more information call Project Coordinator Paul Sanchez at 512-974-7469 or visit www.library.austintexas.gov.

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UPDATE FROM COUNCIL MEMBER HOUSTON

Dear District #1 Neighbors,

As we resume council meetings in February, I urge everyone to stay informed regarding the many upcoming opportunities for your involvement, input, and feedback.

Some of the most important items that will begin to take final form are CodeNext, 2018 Bond proposal, Aquatics Master Plan, and ongoing 2016 Mobility Bond projects.

We realize that there are a lot of personal things going on in your lives. Please remember that the decisions and work done at City Hall has an effect on your lives. In reality, you may not see the effects of the decisions immediately, however it is very likely that you will experience the impact in the years to come.

I continue to stress and invite you to, "Show up, stand up and speak up." The city needs your voice and ideas to make Austin the best city for all individuals who call it home!

As usual the District #1 office will continue to do our best to keep the community informed so that you are aware of the opportunities to get involved and share your ideas for possible solutions.

Finally, every year since 2015, we have hosted four quarterly Town Hall meetings in different parts of the District. The focus was to introduce constituents to the various departments in the city that we all depend on.

In 2018, instead of quarterly Town Hall meetings, we will continue to host "Coffee & Chats" at various locations throughout the district and periodically host district-wide meetings. The first one will be to introduce the district to the new City Manager, Spencer Cronk. You will receive a timely notification regarding the location and time once we have confirmation from the City Manager's office.

Sincerely,

Council Member Ora Houston
District #1, Main: 512-978-2101

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February 2018 Mueller Update

Rick Krivoniak

Quack's 43rd Street Bakery saw an opportunity to open its third Austin shop when Bribery Bakery closed its Mueller location back in September. Called Lady Quackenbush's Bakery, the company will move the cake production shop from 43rd Street into Suite 300 of 1900 Simond Avenue, across from Lake Park, and is expected to open in early 2018.

Lady Quackenbush will make use of Bribery's liquor license to serve beer and wine, as well as coffee and espresso. The bakery will also offer pastries, cookies, customized cakes and truffles.

Colleen's Kitchen, at 1911 Aldrich Street on the McBee corner of the Alamo Drafthouse building, had its soft opening the second week of January, and should be fully operational by February. The restaurant is owned and operated by Mueller residents Ashley and Sean Fric, who wanted to channel the spirit, and recipes, of a favorite aunt. Customers have posted rave reviews about the service, cocktails, and southern food, like chicken and buttermilk biscuits.

Check the Mueller Austin Facebook page for events planned for 2018, like the KUTX Concert Series and the new Wednesday Night Live tradition, which is an Aldrich Street event happening the second Wednesday of each month.

When the IH-35 frontage road striping that leads drivers onto Barbara Jordan Blvd. was put in by TXDOT 10 years ago it caused confusion and drew complaints. The recent re-striping of the area is more logical and should lead to smoother traffic flow. Other transportation improvements at Mueller include the late spring completion of Zach Scott Street's connection to Manor Road, where sidewalk and trail improvements will also occur. Then later in the year, the connection of Tilley Street to 51st Street just east of the reclaimed water tower will be complete. The Austin Transportation Department is also applying to the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, who parcel out federal transportation dollars to six central Texas counties, for funding that may allow construction this year for the 51st Street Vision Plan (now called the 51st Street Mobility Project). WPNA, the Mueller Neighborhood Association, and RMMAPIAC all sent correspondence in support of the funding. Updates on

the project are available at www.austintexas.gov/departments/e-51st-street-mobility-project.

The Robert Mueller Municipal Airport Plan Implementation Advisory Commission will meet on Tuesday February 13, at 6 pm at the Britton, Durst, Howard & Spence Building (Chestnut Community Center) at 1183 Chestnut Avenue. RMMAPIAC agendas, minutes and other documents are available at <https://austintexas.gov/rmmapiac>.



Candidate Forum: Stay informed, get engaged!

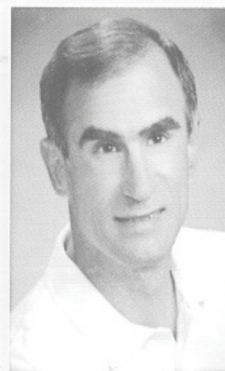
Dan Strub

Do you want to know what the Texas Legislature can do for you? Want to get engaged before the March 6 primary? Come talk to the candidates running to represent you. The WPNA, working with several other neighborhood associations, is hosting a candidate forum for Texas House District 46.

The Texas House District seat is currently held by Dawnna Dukes, and she is being challenged by Warren Baker, Sheryl Cole, Ana Cortez, Casey McKinney, and Chito Vela for the Democratic nomination. Gabriel Nila is running for the Republican nomination.

All candidates have been invited and the forum is open to all. Audience members will be given a chance to ask questions of the candidates.

Attend the candidate forum on Thursday, February 15 from 7-9 pm at the Memorial United Methodist Church on Berkman Drive.



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Teachers have been trained in Creative Learning throughout the school year and will have a day devoted to the support of this initiative in classes. This can look like students interviewing each other over a graphic related to their learning or creating drawings of their reading process.

Students in pre-k and 2nd have upcoming field trips to watch *The Adventures of Enoughie*, a bilingual play focusing on kindness and embracing differences.

On February 23rd, students will have the opportunity to explore different careers at Career Day and will focus in on what characteristics motivate success in their career choices. The excitement is building around science fair projects being completed by students and whole classrooms to be displayed at Math & Science night taking place on March 1st.

Harris is also excited about sending a group of staff and parents to a community engagement conference hosted this month, made possible by Harris receiving the Kellogg grant focused on bridging a family and school connection.

Thanks for staying connected and catching up with Harris here!

Important upcoming dates:

February 19: No School for students
February 23: Career Day
March 1: Math & Science Night

Reagan Early College High School

Julia Remington, LCSW Bilingual Social Services Specialist

On January 13, the Soul Raider Band competed in the Port Arthur Memorial Underground Showdown Battle of the Bands.

The band received 1st place in the Medium Band Division, 2nd place Overall Dancers, and 3rd Place Overall Color Guard. The band placed 2nd overall and was only behind Cedar Hill High School out of Dallas, which is a band more than twice our size!

The school district has named Reagan as a school who will have a name change due to the current name having ties to the confederacy.

For updates and more information, and to provide input please go to www.austinisd.org/naming.

Important February dates:

- February 7 at 6 pm: Girls soccer game at Nelson Field
- February 8 at 6 pm: Dance showcase in the large gym
- February 13 at 6:30pm: Choir and Guitar concert in the theatre
- Mon-Thur (ongoing) from 4:30 pm to 7 pm: Twilight program in the library. If your student needs to make up credits or missed assignments this is their chance to get support!



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Blanton Elementary

Karon Smutzer, ACE Site Coordinator

January, with all its cold weather and icy winds, brought an interesting beginning to the start of the new year. Many activities kept students busy and, of course, planning for the upcoming standardized testing has our teachers working very hard.

As usual, we have many wonderful activities and events planned for 2018 so please check your newsletter monthly for the updates.

Feel free to visit the school, ask questions and learn more about what Blanton Elementary can offer for your student.

Important February dates:

- February 1, 3:15 and 4:15 pm: PTA meetings
- February 5 from 8:30-10 am: Adult ESL classes every Mon. and Fri. in room 108
- February 15 at 5:30 pm: Literacy Night
- February 19: Parent/teacher conferences, no school
- February 23 at 8:30 am: Principal's Coffee

The new year is off to a busy start and we encourage the Windsor Park community to join us for the fun and enjoyment of any special events whenever they have the opportunity.

Keep an eye on this column to find out what has and will be happening at Blanton Elementary.

A quick note about the ACE after school program, which has been part of Blanton for five years: The grant that provided funding for this program will come to an end in July, so the parents are working to put together a very low cost program to continue in the place of ACE.

The new BASE (Blanton After School Enrichment) program will begin taking registrations immediately. They are hoping to provide care for 100 students, which is about 15 students per grade level.

For more information, please feel free to contact Karon Smutzer, ACE Site Coordinator at karon.smutzer@aus-tinisd.org.

Sadler Means Young Women's Leadership Academy

Community Members, we are working with our elementary schools so we can visit our future dragons and families through the Parent Support Specialists during the month of February.

If you would like more information or any specific dates contact Ms. Garcia, Parent Support Specialist at 512-841-5788.

Important February dates:

- February 1 from 4-5 pm: Bertha Sadler Means YWLA CAC Meeting in the library
- February 1 from 5:30-7 pm: 8th Grade High School Information Night in the library
- February 13 from 5:30-7 pm: CIS Family Night in the library
- February 16 from 11 am - 1 pm: Bertha Sadler Means YWLA Coffee with the Principal in room 103
- February 22 from 5-6:30 pm: Bertha Sadler Means YWLA Parent Night in the library
- February 27: 5th grade campus visit (future Dragons will visit our campus!)
- February 27: Incoming 5th grade parent open house; 5-6 pm (open house) in the library,
- 6-6:30pm (new parent information session) in the library

Harris Elementary

Kimberly Blankenship

Students will have the opportunity to fall more in love with learning with an upcoming month of engagement planned.

February 2018 Yard of the Month

Sara Jane Lee

The February 2018 yard belongs to John Vinson and Martha Vogel at 1803 Ridgemon Drive. Throughout the year their yard welcomes wildlife ranging from bees and butterflies to anoles and toads. John and Martha have gotten ideas from the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center and local nurseries, as well as their neighbors.

They have lived on Ridgemon for 17 years, during which time their yard has gone through several changes. Losing their big elm tree to drought forced them to plant more sun-loving annuals and perennials. On the other hand, their oak tree has continued to grow causing them to add more shade-loving plants. The yard is sectioned off using low rock fences. Swales or trenches give the landscape still more interest and also help control water.

Their trees and shrubs include Mountain Laurel, Eve's Necklace, Bamboo Muhly, Nolina, Mazari Palm, Mexican Fan Palm, Red Oak, Live Oak, Dwarf Bamboo, and a Peach tree. They also have Dwarf Yaupon Holly, Cenizo, Palmetto, Pigeonberry, native Sedges, Bicolor Iris, Twistleaf Yucca, Red Yucca, Camellia, Agave Parryi, Squid Agave, and Rosemary.

Depending on the weather in February their several types of salvia, Turk's Cap, and lantanas may be blooming.

They save water by using low-water plants, mulching, and harvesting rain water. On the north side of the front of the house they have a cistern. It is light blue to go with the blue painted brick. Martha and John are both avid gardeners, who work in the yard all year. Much of their front yard is mulched with crushed granite. Since weeds like to grow in granite, they find that they spend much of their work time pulling weeds. I assume that much of the time they spend in their yard is fun, but weeding is work!

Support our sponsor, Shoal Creek Nursery, who gives a \$50.00 gift certificate to our Yard of the Month winner each month.

Do you like a certain yard, or yards, in the neighborhood? Tell us. We cannot visit every yard in the neighborhood every month. We may not have seen your great yard. Send your nomination(s) to WPNA YOMC, P O Box 16183, Austin, Texas 78761, call 512 928-0681, or e-mail wpna.yom@gmail.com



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We are located at 6414 North Hampton
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WPNA Revitalization Committee Meetings Location Change

Mohan Rao

Due to the temporary closing of the Windsor Park Library, the Revitalization Committee meetings will be held the 4th Thursday of each month from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm at the University Hills Library (4721 Loyola Ln.) from February through July.

The Revitalization Committee seeks to preserve and enhance the vibrancy of our neighborhood by supporting existing area businesses and by attracting new businesses into our neighborhood.

For more information please contact Mohan Rao at mohan@windsorpark.info.

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The WPNA schools committee thanks donors for their
generous contributions. Visit the website for more information

WPNA Social Committee Meetings

Joe Marotta

The Social Committee will be meeting on the following dates to continue planning for our annual Windsor Park Block Party:

- February 3 from 10-11:30 am at the University Hills Library
- February 17 from 10-11:30am at the Willie Mae Kirk Library

The WPNA Social Committee is in full planning swing for our annual Neighborhood Block Party set for mid-April, 2018.

If you'd like to be involved with planning, please contact Joe Marotta at joe@windsorpark.info.

FEBRUARY WPNA MEETING SPEAKERS

We're pleased to welcome **Roberto Gonzalez** from Capital Metro – Planning to talk with us about important and relevant transportation updates in our neighborhood.

Join us on Sat. Feb. 10 at 10 am at Memorial United Methodist Church (in the back room) at 6100 Berkman Drive.

President's Letter from page 1, Why Civic Engagement?

Here's what I dug up for the last primary and general elections in 2016:

| | | |
|---|-------|-----|
| Ballots cast in Windsor Park precincts 118, 130, 133, 135, 142 | 36.8% | 59% |
| Ballots cast in all of Travis County | 36.9% | 65% |


We can draw the following conclusions: Although the primary election often plays a bigger role in the outcome of the general election, we are not giving it the attention it deserves. Our voter turnout for a presidential election is lower than Travis County's as a whole. Turnout is usually even lower during midterm elections.

Politicians pay attention to votes. Let's make the politicians sit up and take notice in this election. This primary for district 46 matters to our community. The Texas Legislature makes key decisions that affect everything from education to law enforcement to bathroom bills. In many ways, the decisions made by the state legislature will have a broader, more meaningful impact on our daily lives than decisions made at the national level.


This is my call to action: Participate in our candidate forum (more information on page 4) on February 15 at the Memorial United Methodist Church. Vote on or before March 6. Then talk to your neighbors and remind them to go vote as well. We have two goals - push our voter participation higher than Travis County's, and surpass our voter turnout from the March 2016 election.

I believe we can do it and show all of Austin our neighborhood's commitment to lifelong civic engagement!


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DEC 2017 Windsor Park Market Statistics

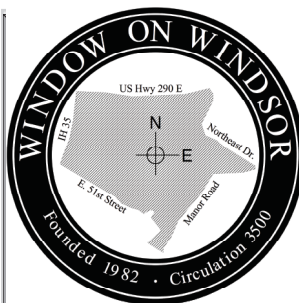
| | |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| AVG SOLD PRICE/SQ FT (DEC 2017) | \$272.48 |
| # OF HOMES SOLD IN (DEC 2017) | 5 |
| AVG SQ FT OF HOMES SOLD | 1,457 |
| AVG DAYS ON MKT OF SOLDS | 22 |
| # ACTIVE LISTINGS ON MARKET | 19* |

*As of Jan 13th, 2018 - Single Family Homes

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WPNA MEMBERSHIP FORM - CUT OUT AND SEND IN

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Social Committee Meeting (planning neighborhood block party)

- Feb 3, 10-11:30 am, University Hills Library

School Committee Meeting

- Feb 7, 7 pm, location TBD, email schools@windsorpark.info

Contact Team Meeting

- Feb 12, 6:30 pm, location TBD

WPNA meeting

- Feb 10, 10am -12pm, Memorial United Methodist Church on Berkman Dr.

Beautification Committee Meeting

- Feb 15, 6 pm, Cement Loop (Windsor Village)

District 46, Texas House of Representatives Candidate Forum

- Feb 15, 7-9 pm, Memorial United Methodist Church on Berkman Dr.

Social Committee Meeting (planning neighborhood block party)

- Feb 17, 10-11:30 am, Willie Mae Kirk Library

Transportation Committee Meeting

- Feb 20, 6:30-8 pm, Cenote on Cameron Rd.

Revitalization and Economic Development Committee

- Feb 22, 6:30 pm, University Hills Library

WPNA Executive Committee Meeting

- Feb 26, 7 pm, Hope Lutheran Church

Austin Neighborhood Council

- Feb 28, 7 pm, Austin Energy at 721 Barton Springs Road

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