



# WINDOW on WINDSOR

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Vol XXXIX No.02  
Feb 2020

## Next Neighborhood Association Meeting

**Saturday, Feb  
8th at 10am.**

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

## Feb Meeting Focus: CapMetro

**Sarah Whitson,  
City Animal  
Services Officer**

## Revitalization Committee Update

## School Equity Audit Resolu- tion vote

Got something for  
the newsletter?  
Get it in by the 15th  
to newsletter@  
windsorpark.info

## President's Letter: New WPNA email list provider

*Dan Strub*

Windsor Park has a new email host. Our old host, Yahoo, has reduced their offerings and support. As a result, we have moved to a new provider, Io. With this migration, we also transferred all of our memberships and all of our archived emails to Io. So, if you were a member of the old Yahoo list serve, you are now a member of the new Io list serve. You do not have to do anything to retain that membership. Not only that, but you can go back and search the old emails for babysitter and plumber recommendations, discussions on development and traffic, announcements, or to contact that one person who was looking for that thing.

To use the new list serve, just send your emails to [windsorparktx@groups.io](mailto:windsorparktx@groups.io), and if you are a member, it will be sent out to your neighbors. If you are not yet a member and want to sign up, go to <https://groups.io/g/windsorparktx/> and apply for membership in the group. You can also search the old emails at that site even if you are not a member.

This does not replace NextDoor or either of the Windsor Park Facebook pages. However, unlike NextDoor, it does maintain a venue for people to have respectful, constructive conversations about things going on in the neighborhood, with the assurance that it is moderated to keep things within the bounds of civility (thanks, Brett!). Nor are there any ads, just neighbors talking with each other.

## Mueller Update

*Rick Krivoniak*

At the January Mueller Commission meeting, AISD, LPA Architects & Joeris General Contractors, presented an update on the 800-student middle school coming to Mueller. Like many civic and institutional buildings these days, the school is a design-build project, a process proven to lower costs and speed construction time. The school, planned to open for the fall of 2022, will have a 3-story classroom wing with one floor each for 6th, 7th and 8th grades. A second, tall wing will house food services, arts and sports. The third wing faces Tilley Street with a large entry portal on axis with the Simond Avenue median, and it houses offices, the library and a meeting space that will be available to the community in the evenings. The three wings surround a large courtyard for outdoor activities. Most of the remainder of the 10-acre AISD site will be taken up by a football field, and a parking area for staff with queuing space for about 15 buses plus a separate visitor parking lot also serving as the off-street drop-off & pick-up area. AISD will hold community meetings regarding the school in the coming months. On a total of 10 acres adjacent to the school, some yet-to-be-determined public uses will complement the school.

With plans to open in 2021, construction is well underway on the four-story Pediatric Ambulatory Center of Excellent (PACE) medical office building at the Dell Children's Medical Center. PACE will house specialties in cardiology, neurology and hematology/oncology. Two new parking garages will also provide parking capacity of 1,205 spaces to support the needs of the new PACE Building and the Dell Children's campus.

The Robert Mueller Municipal Airport Plan Implementation Advisory Commission will next meet at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, February 11, 2020 at the Chestnut Community Center, 1183 Chestnut Avenue. For RMMAPIAC agendas, minutes, meeting recordings and other documents, visit <http://austintexas.gov/rmmapiac>

## Block Party Planners needed

The Windsor Park Social Committee is starting to plan the Windsor Park Block Party for 2020 and we need additional volunteer help. We especially need people who are willing and able to:

- Contact and coordinate with sponsors to fund the block party
- Plan and provide material for the party (e.g. shade structures, garbage cans, tables, booths)
- Create promotional materials
- Book and coordinate entertainment
- Any other “fill-in-the-gap” type activities that are needed!

If you enjoyed last year’s Block Party, and would like to keep it going, please consider volunteering. For more information, or to volunteer, please contact Joe Marotta ([joe@windsorpark.info](mailto:joe@windsorpark.info)).

## Guidance about Coyotes

*Sarah Whitson, Wildlife Officer with City of Austin Animal Services*

Windsor Park and neighboring communities have recently experienced an increase in coyote activity. This is in line with the time of the year when juvenile coyotes are pushed out of the den and become independent. The City of Austin has a lot of greenspace and dense habitat that support coyotes and other native wildlife. Coyotes can be seen traveling and hunting during the day, but are most active during dawn and dusk hours. The more comfortable coyotes are around people, the more they will be active during the day. **We want to share space with coyotes, but NOT time.** The City of Austin has a coyote management policy that uses science and research to manage coyote-human interactions. Hazing is the most effective management tool that encourages coyotes to avoid contact with people and pets. **You can haze coyotes by shouting, waving arms, stomping feet, clapping hands, and throwing non-edible objects, such as rocks or tennis balls in their direction.** The more the community efficiently hazes coyotes, the more coyotes will associate people with a negative consequence.

Report sightings, encounters, incidents and/or concerning behavior to 311. *The City of Austin does not remove or relocate native wildlife.* Animal Protection Wildlife Officer monitors activity and can help mitigate issues and provide information about living with wild neighbors.



### A MATTER OF BALANCE

Falls can cause broken bones, loss of mobility, hospitalization and even death. Most falls can be prevented & should not be accepted as a natural part of growing old. Hope Lutheran Church is offering a **FREE** workshop with information about the causes of falls and how to prevent them including exercises to strengthen bones and joints, safety in the home, and proper precautions to take inside and outside the home. *The workshop is sponsored by the Age of Central Texas and partly funded by the St. David’s foundation.*

The classes are taught by trained leaders and will include a visit from a physical therapist who can provide additional info and answer questions. The classes are on Thursdays for 8 weeks.

- Thurs. March 5 – April 23, 2-4pm Building 400 (Hope Harbor)
- Hope Lutheran Church, 6414 North Hampton Dr., Austin, TX 78723
- To register, call or email: [steague@hopelutheranaustin.org](mailto:steague@hopelutheranaustin.org) 512-926-8574

Help keep your community safe by following these steps:

Always keep pets on a leash and bring them indoors at night. Outdoor cats and small dogs are an easy food source for coyotes, so protect your pets.

Haze coyotes seen during the day by shouting, clapping, stomping, waving your arms or throwing rocks.

Limit attractants around your home such as pet food, outdoor pets or items that would invite rodents and wildlife.



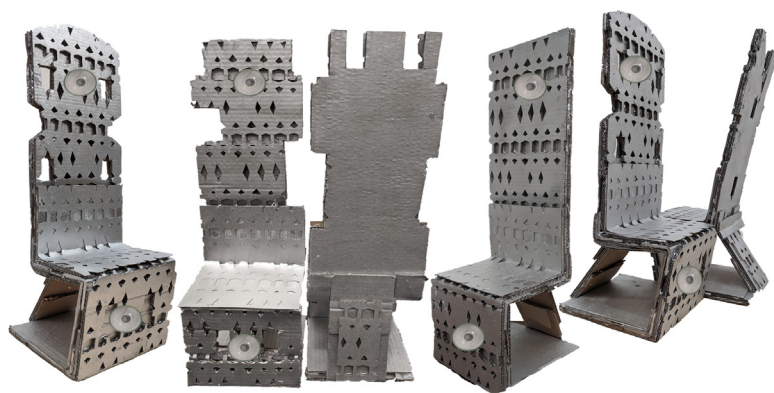
## MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR - AKIRASH

*Martin Luecke*

There's a new art project coming to Windsor Park. It's called the East 51st Streetscape, brought to us by the 2012 Bond Election and the City of Austin Art in Public Places, which uses two percent of the overall budget to bring art to public space. In this case, the space is from I35 to Berkman on the north and south sides of the street. Windsor Park shares this project with Mueller. The Streetscape began a year ago with the call for entries by the city, and in August, the artist Akirash was chosen from 50 applications. His original idea was making paintings on the street at certain intersections, which the city transportation department immediately quashed. Akirash came to the WPNA and Mueller meetings in October asking for public input as he went back to the drawing board to create a new idea, and now he has one. He calls it "Conversation Starter."

Originally from Lagos, Nigeria, Akirash has been on a long and winding road. His first degree was in biochemistry. But the call of creation found him back in university getting a second degree in Fine and Applied Art from the Institute of Textile Art and Design in Lagos. One look at his website ([www.artwithakirash.com](http://www.artwithakirash.com)) and you will find amazingly large pieces employing fabrics, textiles, mixed media, found objects, and installations from Africa to Brazil, Australia to Austin. He has won grants, residencies, fellowships and awards in New York, St. Louis, Santa Fe, Memphis, Dallas, Johannesburg, Toronto, Amsterdam, and Chicago. He has been creating art for 20 years, and these days he lives in Pflugerville and Lagos. His guiding principal: "Art is an instrument to question and search for solutions - to dig out the truth without violence."

In his digging of the soul of East 51st Street, Akirash found two things: a sense of shared community and a lack of places to sit down. This second part was a surprise and turns out to be the real driver of the mock piece he presented to last month's WPNA meeting. It consists of two high-backed metal chairs facing each other, ornately carved, and connected in a way that two people sitting down could have an intimate conversation. Technically it's a sculpture made of quarter inch metal covered in galvanized zinc which will reflect like a mirror. At the meeting he brought a cardboard version of the chairs, and a



sample of the metal, which was very heavy and full of intricate sharp angle holes carved by water jets. But he's not making just one of these: he's making a bunch of them, and they will be found in various places along 51st Street. Most of those places will be at bus stops, but he also wants to put three of them in Bartholomew Park at the corner of 51st and Berkman, creating what I call a Conversation Corner.



It is a lucky coincidence that the new Windsor Park sign is also in that corner, and that new sidewalks have been installed nearby. Akirash wants to put a gravel walkway to the center of the three pieces and get our help with planting trees to eventually create shade for the chairs and those who might occupy them. "My work is designed to create comfort, peace and solace" he writes in his artist statement. "I believe that art can be a balm to the soul, revealing a quiet inner truth. My art is a reflection." His mirror reflective chairs will come to Windsor Park by the end of the year, right after Cap-Metro moves the bus stops to new locations.

Contact me with suggestions for stories: [mwluecke@hotmail.com](mailto:mwluecke@hotmail.com) or 512.536.0465



## Yard of the Month

*Sara Jane Lee*

The February winners are Laurel Chesky and Eric Leversen of 5306 Halwill Place. When we drove up to Halwill to ask if they would accept, Eric came to the door. He said “just a minute”, and called Laurel to the door. She celebrated like she had just won Publisher’s Clearinghouse.

When they moved to Windsor Park in 2013, they observed what thrived in their neighbors’ yards and what appealed to them. They used “Go Green, Native and Adapted Landscape Plants for Central Texas,” as a blueprint for their yard. Rather than liking particular plants, Laurel and Eric like the variety in the landscape. Once Laurel read that good garden design uses contrasting leaf shapes and colors. They like the way the delicate leave of a Salvia or a Flame Acanthus contrast with the sturdiness of an Agave or a Cactus.

Laurel’s favorite is the two mature Texas sages that anchor the yard. They inherited them and planted Big Muhly, Bamboo Muhly, Flame Acanthus, Bulbine, Texas Milkweed, Gregg’s Mistflower, White Lantana, Dwarf Palmetto, Mexican Sage, Jerusalem Sage, and Purple Heart. Near the house there are Pineapple Guava, Vitex, and Bougainvillea. The bougainvillea was blooming when we visited in late December. It is the only plant not mentioned in “Go Green” and reminds Eric of the time he spent in the Peace Corps in Jamaica. They have herbs in a stock tank.

To kill the Bermuda Grass in the yard, they solarized it under plastic for several months. That way the grass did not pop up through the rocks and the mulch. Eric and Laurel have five water barrels, two in the front yard.



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## Blanton Elementary

Karon Smutzer

January is behind us, so spring feels like it is just around the corner. Students and staff are busy with studying, homework and more learning. We invite the community to become a part of the events at Blanton Elementary, see below for some upcoming dates:

February dates to remember:

- Feb 11: School Tour, 9 a.m.
- Feb 14: Student Holiday
- Feb 17: Parent-Teacher Conference---Student Holiday
- Feb 21: Coffee with the Principal, 8:30 a.m.
- Feb 27: Multicultural Celebration, 6:00 p.m.

We encourage the Windsor Park community to join us for the fun and enjoyment of any special events whenever they have the opportunity. For more information about BASE or Blanton Elementary please feel free to contact Ms. Karon, [karonsmutzer@gmail.com](mailto:karonsmutzer@gmail.com)

## Harris Elementary

Laura Tomlinson, Librarian

Are your kids future Harris Bulldogs? Do you have questions about the school or want to connect with other parents whose kids are coming to Harris? Like the Future Harris Bulldogs Facebook page and stay connected!

**VOLUNTEER AT OUR Book Fair Feb 21 – 28<sup>th</sup> 2020** We need volunteers...we need YOU! Volunteering at the Book Fair is the perfect way to stay connected to students and help them find the books they can't wait to read. Sign up now for a fun and rewarding volunteer experience. Please contact Harris Librarian, Laura Tomlinson at 512-414-4649 or [laura.tomlinson@Austinisd.org](mailto:laura.tomlinson@Austinisd.org).

- Friday 2/21 2:30-4pm Help Decorate and Set up.
- Thurs 2/27 5:30-7pm Literacy Night, community event. All are welcome.
- Friday 2/28 4-6pm Break down and clean up after Book Fair

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## DEC 2019 Windsor Park Market Statistics

AVG SOLD PRICE/SQ FT (DEC 2019)	\$271.21
# OF HOMES SOLD IN (DEC 2019)	7
AVG SQ FT OF HOMES SOLD	1,452
AVG DAYS ON MKT OF SOLDS	8
# ACTIVE LISTINGS ON MARKET	7*
*As of Jan 12th, 2019 - Single Family Homes	

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## Schools Committee: AISD Equity Audit Resolution

After meeting with Dr. Stephanie Hawley, the new Equity Officer with AISD, the WP School Committee would like the neighborhood to pass this resolution at the February meeting. "The Windsor Park Neighborhood Association urges AISD to make arrangements for an equity audit from an outside source in order to truly start addressing the disparity that continues to exist within our schools." Questions or comments, please contact us at [schools@windsorpark.info](mailto:schools@windsorpark.info)

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## Northeast High School

*Katherine Wallach, LMSW, Social Service Specialist*

Northeast Early College High School earned a 4-star plaque from TEA for Academic Achievements under the 2019 State Accountability system, for academic achievement for reading and English Language Arts, Academic Achievement in Social Studies, Top 25% Closing Performance Gaps, and Postsecondary Readiness.

Nine of our student athletes were selected for 10 district awards for the performances on the field. We would like to congratulate these students and our coaching staff for their hard work!

Upcoming events:

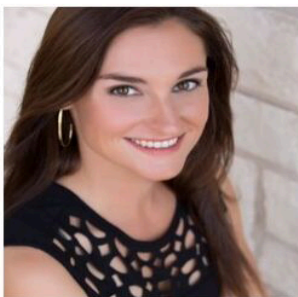
- Feb 5 - Girls' Soccer – Northeast vs McCallum @ Nelson Field
- Feb 11 - Principal's Coffee
- Feb 14 & Feb 17 - student holidays
- Feb 18 - CAC Meeting
- Feb 28 - Boys' Soccer - Northeast vs McCallum @ Nelson Field

February 29, Northeast Early College High School will be the base for the headquarters site for The Project 2020. The Project is the University of Texas' largest community service day. Mark your calendars now for the Unity Walk and Festival on April 25! More information to come on this exciting event.

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](mailto:Karen@alluretx.com)

[karenpagani.alluretx.com](http://karenpagani.alluretx.com)

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## Climate Corner – Native Plants

Barrett Sundberg

Planting native plants in our Windsor Park yards helps the climate by sequestering more carbon than typical lawn grasses, while also reducing water use and the carbon emissions associated with pumping extra water around. What can we plant in late winter and early spring?

Here are some suggestions from the almighty internet – but also view previous editions of this newsletter (available online at [www.windsorpark.info](http://www.windsorpark.info)) for Yards of the Month featuring native plants and advice from the Parks Committee as well as our Garden Guide column. The City of Austin's Native and Adapted Plants Guide has detailed info on hundreds of excellent options at <http://www.hcuwcd.org/plantguide.pdf>.

- Texas Sage – this shrub provides “massive amounts of purple flowers”, grows 4 to 5 feet tall, can be planted in early spring, and lives as far south as the Rio Grande Valley ([nativelanddesign.com](http://nativelanddesign.com)). I'm guessing that means it will survive the next 40 years of climate change quite nicely!
- Mexican Oregano - For aromatic foliage; attracts butterflies and hummingbirds ([nativelanddesign.com](http://nativelanddesign.com)). Plant as soon as the danger of frost has passed.
- Mexican plum – Ornamental tree with beautiful fall leaves, edible fruit; develops attractive bark when older. Native from Oklahoma to Mexico; increasingly popular; can be planted in spring ([dirtdoctor.com](http://dirtdoctor.com)).

## Fruit flies

Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist

Fruit flies can become a nuisance problem at any time of year. They can enter homes from ripe fruits or vegetables picked from the garden or purchased at the grocery store. Adult fruit flies are small (about 1/8 of an inch) and often have red eyes. Larvae are surface feeders on fermenting foods or other organic matter, which means that you can cut off the overripe parts of the fruit or vegetable and eat the rest.

To prevent bringing fruit flies into your home, do not purchase over ripened fruit and vegetables. Eat fresh produce in a timely manner and store items in the refrigerator or a paper bag that is clipped closed. All recyclables should be rinsed thoroughly before placing them into the recycling bin. Recycling and garbage bins should be cleaned on a regular basis with soapy water to eliminate any spilled material.

If your home already has fruit flies, locate all sources of infestation (where the larvae are living) and eliminate them. Insecticides only target adults and will not control the problem. While searching and eliminating breeding sources, a trap can be constructed to capture adult flies. Create a paper funnel by rolling paper and taping it closed. Place the funnel into a jar that has a small amount of apple cider vinegar in the bottom. Check out my blog at [www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com](http://www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com).

## Windsor Park December 2019 Market Statistics



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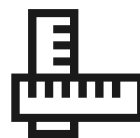


Hey neighbor! I've lived in Windsor Park for almost 10 years and have helped neighbors like you get the most for their homes, often over market value. Happy to help whether you just have a real estate question or if you're ready to buy, sell, rent, or invest in our neighborhood.



**\$369,000**

AVERAGE  
SALES PRICE



**\$271.21**

AVERAGE  
PRICE / SQFT



**8**  
DAYS

AVERAGE DAYS  
ON MARKET



**7**  
NUMBER OF  
HOMES SOLD



MOST  
EXPENSIVE  
HOME SOLD

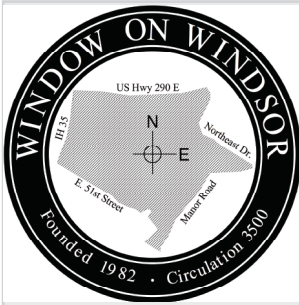
**\$503,500**



**\$227,500**

LEAST EXPENSIVE  
HOME SOLD

\*SINGLE FAMILY HOME STATISTICS COLLECTED FROM AUSTIN BOARD OF REALTORS MLS



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☐ Family — \$20  
☐ Sustaining — \$35 or more  
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Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Referred by: \_\_\_\_\_

## Thanks to Friends of WOW:

- Dan Strub
- Anonymous Friend of WOW

## Library Events

### Windsor Park

Feb 3rd Monday 6pm Adult Graphic Novel Book Club “Doom Patrol”

Feb 5th Wednesday 6pm Resume and Job Search Help

Feb 11<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 7pm Windsor Park Book Club “A Gentleman in Moscow”

Feb 13<sup>th</sup> Thursday 6pm Board With Books (Come play board games!)

Feb 15<sup>th</sup> Saturday 12pm Black History Month Event “Preserving Family Photos”

Feb 19th Wednesday 6pm Resume and Job Search Help

Feb 25<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 3:30pm Crafternoon (Come by and craft with us)

Plus weekly Dual Language, All ages, Toddler, and Pajama Story Times (check the website for dates and times)

### University Hills Branch

Resume Workshop, Mondays, Feb. 3, March 2, 11:30-1:30

Perler Bead Saturday, Valentine’s Edition, Sat., Feb. 8, 12:00-4:00

Audiobook Club: Bluebird, Bluebird by Attica Locke, Wed., Feb. 19, 7:00

Black History Month Craft: Family History Locketts (bring photos), Sat., 12:00-3:00



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