



# WINDOW on WINDSOR

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**BECOME A WPNA MEMBER** - [WWW.WINDSORPARK.INFO/MEMBERSHIP](http://WWW.WINDSORPARK.INFO/MEMBERSHIP)

**Next  
Neighborhood  
Association  
Meeting**

**Saturday, Feb  
10th, 10am**

**Come join us at  
the back of**

**Memorial  
United  
Methodist  
Church**

**Come meet  
your neighbors**

**Scholarship  
applications  
NOW OPEN**

We look forward  
to seeing you at  
the meeting and  
at neighborhood  
events!

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

## President's Message - Feb 2024

*By Jeanette Swenson*

Maybe you currently are or have been a member of the Windsor Park Neighborhood Association in the past. Or, maybe you are new to Windsor Park and want to participate in a vibrant community. We would love to have you join again for 2024 and bring us your ideas. Your membership means a lot to us; we advocate on behalf of all our neighbors. Your membership demonstrates your commitment to working with us to build a strong community and lets public officials know that Windsor Park is actively engaged in shaping our rapidly changing community.

Please see our membership page at [www.windsorpark.info/membership/](http://www.windsorpark.info/membership/) to fill out an information form and submit your payment. Or simply fill out and mail the form on page 8 of this newsletter. Let us know if you'd like to participate in any of our areas of activity. Annual memberships run from January through December. To be a voting member, you need to join 30 days prior to a vote. As a further enticement, WPNA is a 501-3c, so your dues and any contributions are tax deductible if you itemize your federal tax returns. We can't wait to hear from you and hear your ideas!

Do you have an idea or project that will benefit our community? For example, neighbor Pam Hammond has initiated a Little Free Pantry on Westminster near the library. Please consider donating directly to the Little Free Pantry to provide for the food insecure and houseless in our community. Donations of canned foods and packaged foods can be brought directly to the pantry. There will be a box at WPNA meetings for your donations to add to the Little Free Pantry.

If you have other ideas about building and strengthening our community, please let me know, and we can support your project. Current projects in the works that have originated with individuals include: Linda Lane up-grade adjacent to Harris elementary; Belfast Bridge and Bike Trail; Westminster Bike Trail linking our parks, elementary schools, and middle schools; and an experiment in community building. If you have an idea that you'd like to see become reality, please contact me. [president@windsorpark.info](mailto:president@windsorpark.info)

The Texas Department of Transportation Team, led by Nic Barbera, presented the current state of the I-35 Capital Expansion Project with a focus on the impact on Windsor Park from 51st Street to 290. They responded to pre-submitted questions and took questions from the audience. They are preparing written responses to all questions, and I will post them as soon as they are available. Currently, although some changes have been made, the Airport interchange and 51st Street crossing remain problematic for cyclists and pedestrians as do east-west crossings. Another area of concern is the City Council and City of Austin's interfacing with the project, which I believe will impact Windsor Park even more. Hopefully, someone from City of Austin Public Works will be at a future meeting to discuss their emerging plan.

See the following links provided during the meeting:

Provided by TxDot: <https://my35capex.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/FEIS-ROD-Appendix-B-Design-Schematics-2023-08-14-1.pdf> (Schematic #1 is roughly 51st to the south side of 290.

Provided by Timothy Bray of Council Member Vela's office, the Department of Public Works <https://services.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=418654>

## Yard of the Month – 1413 Ridgemont Drive

*Sara Jane Lee*

The February 2024 winner is Maureen Hahn of 1413 Ridgemont Drive. When she moved there in 2019, she began thinking about landscaping that would survive the hot summers and cut down on the need for mowing.

She got some ideas from her walks around the neighborhood. In 2022, she and Yarrow Landscaping worked out a plan, and they installed it for her. Since then, she has made a few changes.

The front yard has gravel near the street and close to the house with grass in between. Maureen has three trees; Live Oak, Chinquapin Oak, and Kidneywood. She also has Variegated Mound Lily, Dwarf Sage, Germander Sage, Dwarf Yaupon Holly, Prostrate Rosemary, California Bay Laurel, and Green Santolina. Some of these are small plants, others are shrubs.

Her grasses include Blue Gamma, Sideoats Gamma, Bamboo Muhly, Mondo, Purple Fountain, and Mexican Feather. She likes the way the Bamboo Muhly and the Purple Fountain grasses grow fast and change throughout the year. She also likes the way they sway in the wind.

To save water, she has many drought tolerant plants and has a “smart” irrigation system that adjusts its output depending on the rainfall and the time of the year.

Maureen spends most of her time weeding the gravel areas and raking leaves. She advises novice landscapers and gardeners to be honest about how much time they are willing to spend on their yards and to observe what works well in their neighbors’ yards.

Maureen will receive a \$50.00 gift certificate from Shoal Creek Nursery, 2710 W. Hancock Dr. By February, the nursery will begin to show their spring plants.

Please send your nomination(s) for Yard of the Month to WPNA YOMC. P.O. Box 16183, Austin, Texas 78761, call 512-928-0681 and leave a message, or email [wpna.yom@gmail.com](mailto:wpna.yom@gmail.com)



## The Exoskeleton... the part of an insect that goes crunch

Wizzie Brown, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist

Insects and other arthropods have an exoskeleton, which means their “bones” are on the outside of their body. The exoskeleton serves as a protective covering, helps prevent desiccation, allows muscles to attach to it from the inside for movement, and provides sensory information.

The exoskeleton is made up of four layers: epicuticle, procuticle, epidermis and basement membrane. The most outer layer, the epicuticle, serves as a barrier to the outside environment and helps the insect avoid desiccation. If you have ever used diatomaceous earth for insect management, you are hoping to abrade the epicuticle of the insect with the diatomaceous earth and cause enough water loss for the insect to die.

The next layer, the procuticle, is for strength. The procuticle is made of chitin, which is secreted by the underlying third layer, the epidermis. The cuticle is soft when it is first secreted, but undergoes a process called sclerotization, which allows for hardening and darkening of the exoskeleton. The procuticle is divided into two components, the exocuticle and endocuticle. The endocuticle is tough, but flexible while the exocuticle is where thickening occurs to provide a more rigid, armored structure. With soft-bodied insects, such as termites, aphids, or caterpillars, the exocuticle layer is greatly reduced.

The epidermis is a layer of living cells that secrete chitin that is used to create the layer above, the procuticle. Any sensory hairs, called setae, that an insect has on its body originate in the epidermis and sensory information travels through the hair on the outside of the insect’s body to nerves found in the epidermis.

The innermost layer is the basement membrane which is a support for the epidermis and a separation from the insect body cavity.

All these layers together make up the insect exoskeleton. The exoskeleton is comprised of hardened plates called sclerites. The composition of plate structure allows the insect to have segmented joints and bodies which allows for movement. Each segment has various thickness of sclerites related to the movement and/ or protection required in that given area of the body. Furthermore, the exoskeleton has various areas that are folded inward, called apodemes, allowing for more surface area of the exoskeleton in that particular region and creating a strengthened area where muscles can attach on the inside of the body.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600.

## February 2024 Mueller Update

Rick Krivoniak

Immediately south of the Austin Energy HQ building, and occupying the entire block bordered by Aldrich, Philomena, Mueller and Robert Browning streets, AMLI will soon start on a 650-unit apartment community designed by Lake|Flato architects, reaching up to seven stories high. It will provide approximately 10,000 square feet of ground-floor retail fronting on Aldrich Street. Ninety-eight units (15%) will be available to renters who earn up to 60% of Austin’s Median Family Income, currently at \$49,080 for a household of one, and \$56,100 for two.

For those wondering why AMLI has so many projects in Mueller, I recently asked that question of Catellus’ Greg Weaver. His answer: They are willing and know how to do ground-floor retail.

Looking in my Mueller Update archives, I started them regularly partway through 2004, when we were talking about “the jughandle” access to Windsor Park via Barbara Jordan Blvd. & 51st, and it was still about three years till anyone lived at Mueller. More trips down memory lane the rest of this year.

The Robert Mueller Municipal Airport Plan Implementation Advisory Commission next meets on Tuesday, February 13th at 6PM in the Shudde Fath Conference Room, Austin Energy Building, 4815 Mueller Blvd. Enter the parking garage via Garcia Street. For the RMMAPIAC agenda and other information, visit [austintexas.gov/rmmapiac](http://austintexas.gov/rmmapiac)



## Tiger moth caterpillars

Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist

Tiger moth caterpillars have been a common sight lately in the Central Texas area. These insects are native to the United States and are sometimes called “woollybear caterpillars”. “Woollybear caterpillar” is a more general term that refers to various species of caterpillars that are densely covered in hairs, called setae, and tend to wander.

While these caterpillars can be highly variable for individual species, the common ones seen lately are woollybear (Isabella tiger moth), saltmarsh caterpillar (saltmarsh moth), and garden tiger moth caterpillar, also known as the great tiger moth caterpillar. Woollybear caterpillars are usually black on each end with brown in the middle. Saltmarsh caterpillars are variable and can be a creamy yellow to brown to black in color. Garden/ great tiger moth caterpillars tend to be black on the top part of the body and brown on the bottom.



Garden/ great tiger moth caterpillar



Saltmarsh caterpillar

All three of these caterpillars feed on a wide variety of herbaceous and woody plants, but only sometimes considered to be pests when they feed on field crops.

Tiger moths have a complete life cycle with four life stages-egg, larva, pupa, adult. Eggs are laid in clusters on the leaves of host plants. Larvae go through several instars before they pupate in soil. Larvae tend to actively disperse and may be seen in groups moving over turf, roads, sidewalks, or other locations. Adults usually emerge in the spring to mate and begin the cycle again. Moths can be active year-round in South Texas, but for most parts of Texas, larvae overwinter in the last larval instar in protected locations.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600.



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## HS Seniors: apply for the WPNA Scholarship

*Emily Vitris, WPNA Schools Committee*

WPNA residents, we need your help in spreading the word about the WPNA Annual Scholarship!

Calling all Windsor Park Neighborhood & High School Seniors! The WPNA Annual Scholarship application is now open. Seniors have an opportunity to receive a \$1,000 scholarship to support their financial needs as they embark on their college career.

This opportunity is for you IF you:

- 1) Are a high school senior at Northeast and LBJ (regardless of where you live) and/or
- 2) Are an AISD high school senior living in Windsor Park (regardless of which AISD school you attend)

Find the guidelines and application by going to: <https://www.windsorpark.info/scholarship/>

The application is due March 31, 2024. Start today! Questions? Please reach out to the WPNA Schools Committee via email at [schools@windsorpark.info](mailto:schools@windsorpark.info)

## No bags in recycling, please

*Gloria Neunaber*

Plastic bags cannot go in the blue recycling cans in the city of Austin. This poses a risk to the workers at the recycling facilities as they do not know what is in them. If it is obvious that the street cart is filled with bags, the cart may not be picked up with recycling and operators may leave a tag on the cart providing education on why it was not collected. This can also result in an extra trash fee for the resident, though our priority is education.

If the operators do not see the bag and it makes it to the recycling facility, the bag will be pulled out and sent to a landfill but the rest of the cart that is not in a bag will be recycled. Clear bags sometimes can be pulled and opened, but if they are not caught, they can cause problems with the machines. Windsor Park – let's keep doing better → Only put loose items in the blue recycling can.

## Cheers, Thanks and Welcome!

The congregation at the Austin Mennonite Church (AMC) was delighted that we could participate again in collecting money for the **WPNA Scholarship** by hosting our 9th annual Rebecca Lowe Pancake Breakfast in October. The more than \$4000 funds that were raised this year will make it possible for 4 current graduating high school seniors to further their education. And we always enjoy having an opportunity to talk with our neighbors!

Do you or someone you know like to garden? The **Windsor Park Community Garden** is an organic garden with raised beds sized 4' x 10'. The beds rent for \$40 dollars for the first bed for the calendar year. There is a volunteer component of spending 12 hours working in the garden with upkeep and working on new projects. If you are interested in finding out more, please email [wpgardeners@gmail.com](mailto:wpgardeners@gmail.com) for more information. This garden is located behind AMC at 5801 Westminster Drive (next to the WP library).

All are welcome and invited to attend Austin Mennonite Church where classes for children, youth, and adults are held from 9:30 to 10:30, and the worship gathering takes place from 11:00 to 12:00 every Sunday.



# Neighbors should watch out for each other

Especially when it comes to hiring contractors.



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# WINDSOR PARK Monthly Market Statistics

## December 2023



AVG SOLD PRICE/SQ FT (December 2023) **\$326.39**

# OF HOMES SOLD IN (December 2023) **8**

AVG SQ FT OF HOMES SOLD **1,707**

AVG DAYS ON MKT OF SOLDS **56**

# ACTIVE LISTINGS ON MARKET **22\***

\*As of Jan 8th, 2024 - Single Family Homes. Request a Detailed Report for Your Section of Windsor Park

### NOTABLE REAL ESTATE INFO


**If you purchased a home in 2023 as a primary residence...  
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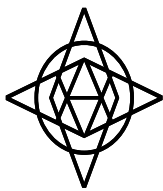
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**Windsor Park December 2023 Market Report**

 <b>\$541,250</b> <small>MEDIAN SALES PRICE</small>	 <b>\$345.87</b> <small>MEDIAN PRICE / SQFT</small>	 <b>50 DAYS</b> <small>MEDIAN DAYS ON MARKET</small>
 <b>8</b> <small>NUMBER OF HOMES SOLD</small>	 <small>MOST EXPENSIVE HOME SOLD</small> <b>\$683,000</b>	 <b>\$425,000</b> <small>LEAST EXPENSIVE HOME SOLD</small>

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

**2024 Predictions**

The last major market correction we experienced was in 2008 and it lasted around 2 years. This is a fairly normal trend for real estate, we tend to experience corrections every 10 or so. We're 1.5 years into the current correction and the Fed is expected to drop rates 3 times over the next 12 months. Following the historic 10 year trend, this means the market is about the heat back up for us. I think the window for buyers getting a good deal is shrinking and sellers are about to be happy again.

When rates hit 5%+ a year ago, people panicked, and pulled out of the market. When they dropped to 6.6% this past week, people celebrated, and started jumping back in. Perspective is everything.



WEB: <http://www.Windsorpark.info>  
 NEWSGROUP: <https://groups.io/g/windsorparkatx>  
 FACEBOOK: WindsorParkAustinTx

**Contact Us**

President..... Jeanette Swenson.....president@windsorpark.info  
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**Make checks payable to WPNA and mail to:**

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Or dues may be paid by Paypal or Venmo

**WPNA MEMBERSHIP FORM - CUT OUT AND SEND IN**

WPNA is a 501(c)(3) organization, your dues and any other donations are tax deductible.

- Student/fixed income — \$5/person
- Standard / Individual — \$15/person
- Family — \$20
- Sustaining — \$35 or more
- Non-voting donations - gladly accepted

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Add'l Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Austin Police Department  
 District Representative for  
 Windsor Park**

Officer Andre Black:  
 (512) 974-6875  
[andre.black@austintexas.gov](mailto:andre.black@austintexas.gov)

**Library Update – Feb 2024**

All Ages Storytime – Tuesdays 10:30-11:00 am

Get Crafty: Valentine’s DIY Cards - Wednesday, February 7 - 3:30 PM to 6:00 PM

Lunar New Year Celebration - Year of the Dragon! - Saturday, February 10 - 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

The Crafty Adult: DIY Valentine’s Mugs (18+) - Wednesday, February 14 - 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM

Get Crafty: Perler Beads - Wednesday, February 14 - 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM

The Astrology of Now: Free Monthly Meet-up - Thursday, February 15 - 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM

Bilingual Gentle Yoga - Saturday, February 17 - 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Elizabeth Kahura, African Storyteller and Drummer - Tuesday, February 20 - 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM

All Ages Lego Lab - Wednesday, February 28 - 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM