



# WINDOW on WINDSOR

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## WPNA President's Letter – April 2020

*Dan Strub*

**Next  
Neighborhood  
Association  
Meeting**

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

**perhaps streaming  
to a screen near  
you soon...**

**Apr Focus:**

**STAY HOME  
AND BE WELL  
EVERYONE**

**See PAGE 7 for  
some helpful  
tips and links**

**We will post  
any updates to  
our website or  
social media  
outlets**

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

As I write this, the City seems to be on the verge of shutdown. Things are moving very quickly, so I will try to avoid giving specific advice on the Coronavirus as it will all be out of date by the time you get this.

The neighborhood association is following the guidelines set out by the City for public gatherings, and will continue to do so. We are making decisions as they need to be made, and will keep the neighborhood advised through our social media outlets and our website. We will be cancelling all in-person committee meetings and the monthly Association meeting, although we are looking into options to conduct meetings by streaming them online.

The annual block party will not be held this April. This is not a decision taken lightly, as we very much enjoy gathering with our neighbors, but having a large gathering in April is obviously out of the question. We are planning to postpone until fall. Finding a weekend that is open from conflicts with other major events, and deciding if we keep it as a fall festival are all considerations. We will keep you updated as the Social Committee makes the decision.

There are many opportunities that have been made available online. Libraries have made their collections available, museums are sharing all of their works for free, exercise classes are streaming free, and teaching and learning resources are there for people with kids who need lessons and adults who want to explore. I encourage you to make the most of this time for enrichment.

In the meantime, be kind and thoughtful with your neighbors. We are all under stress, and I encourage you to lend a helping hand where you can. Talk with your neighbors, particularly those who are living alone, and make sure that everybody is doing OK. There is much good going on, and everybody seems interested in helping those in need. I just got back from an evening walk, and I have never seen so many people out walking, alone, in pairs, with their kids, with their dogs. Everyone had a smile and a kind word. We can get through this easier together (though with social distancing and sanitary precautions) than alone.

### Windsor Park Block Party - postponed

Neighbors, given the ban on public gatherings and the concern for our community health, we've decided to postpone the WPNA Block Party which had been scheduled for April. We will be deciding on our path forward in the coming weeks, so continue to watch the Window on Windsor and our social media channels for details. Thank you for your patience and wishing our community the best as we respond to current conditions!

### Windsor Park Scholarship deadline extended

High School seniors who live in the WP neighborhood are encouraged to apply for the WPNA Annual Scholarship. Our deadline has been extended to **APRIL 15TH**. Scholarship application and guidelines can be found on our website: <http://www.windsorpark.info/scholarship/>

If you know a WP high school senior who attends Northeast, LBJ, LASA or Clifton please encourage them to apply. These annual \$1000 scholarships are an important tradition for our organization. If you'd like to contribute or get more involved in the Schools Committee, we welcome you!  
Email [schools@windsorpark.info](mailto:schools@windsorpark.info) for more information.

## Yard of the Month, April 2020 - 2200 Bristol Drive

*Sara Jane Lee*

The April winners are Peter and Jennifer Hobbs of 2200 Bristol Drive. Theirs is a front yard garden with a combination of vegetables and flowers. They have lived on Bristol for nine years and do all the work themselves. They got many of their ideas from YouTube videos of urban gardens.

Their plants and trees include Desert Willow, Chilean Mesquite, Anacacho Orchid, Texas Persimmon, Arroyo Sweetwood, Mountain Laurel, Santa Rosa Plum, Kidneywood, White Mistflower, Flameleaf Sumac, Poppies, and Bluebonnets - lots of healthy, vigorous bluebonnets.

They have maximized their space for vegetables, and have 10 vegetable beds. When we looked in early March, some beds had vigorous Leafy Greens, Onions and Garlic. Peter and Jennifer have their own spring mix. They also have plenty of cooking greens. Some others had nothing poking through the mulch yet. By April many good vegetables, like tomatoes should be poking through this mulch. Later, Okra may come.

As well as adding mulch, Peter advises using native plants, using as much of your yard for vegetables as you can, and planting what you like. He also loves to improve the soil, making his own compost, and planting seeds. Remember that patience is a virtue.

Do not be shy. If you like a certain yard, or more than one, tell us. We cannot visit every yard in the neighborhood each month. We may not have seen your yard, or your neighbor's yard. Feel free to nominate your own yard. People have won that way. We are looking for interesting yards, not perfect yards. 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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## Windsor Park Community Garden - plots available

Windsor Park Community Garden (WPCG) is a non-profit entity located at 5801 Westminster Drive at the back of the property of Austin Mennonite Church (AMC). WPCG, formed 15 years ago, is an organic garden with individual raised beds for rent. Currently, there are several fruit trees and bluebonnets in bloom and lots of lettuce growing in individuals' plots. If you are interested in renting a raised bed, please contact Pat at [wpgardeners@gmail.com](mailto:wpgardeners@gmail.com)

## April 2020 Mueller Update

*Rick Krivoniak*

The Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS) has been in the news lately for questions about the costs of some downtown lease space for their investment offices, though they have been looking to relocate their 11th & Red River headquarters since sometime last year. They have chosen Mueller for the new location, where they will ultimately consolidate all 1,100 of their Austin employees. The proposed location is in the block bounded by E. 51st, Berkman Drive and Barbara Jordan Blvd. At the March 10th Mueller Commission meeting, much discussion about removing 3.5 more acres of Mueller from property tax rolls (Mueller is doing exceptionally well financially), ground-floor uses providing activity beyond 8-to-5 hours, and some questions about the seemingly rushed process, Commissioners - in a rare non-unanimous vote and two recusals - sent a resolution to the City Council in support of the project. Per the Master Developer

Agreement, the Council must approve sales of Mueller land to other governmental authorities, like TRS. It was scheduled for the March 23rd Council meeting, but late word indicated that may be delayed. Though Catellus will buy the land from the City and construct the new building, it will be sold to TRS sometime after it's occupied.

Ground has broken on the eleven Habitat for Humanity row-houses in the 2600 block of Philomena, next door to the new Jordan affordable apartment complex. With hopes to be completed by year's end, the nine 1350 sf, 3-bedroom units will sell for about \$180K, and the two 1480 sf, 4-bedroom units for about \$200K. These will be deed-restricted as affordable for 99 years, and require potential owners to perform 300 sweat-equity hours to qualify.

With daily changes due to the evolving public health situation, Mueller Central is closed until further notice. Mueller's pools at Ella Wooten and John Gaines parks may not open as originally scheduled. Mueller's parks remain open for now, including the Branch Park waterscape unless additional information warrants its closure, though all public restrooms are locked. The Browning Hangar port-a-potties remain open and the Sunday Farmers' Market will continue as planned - without chef demos or sampling - until they are advised otherwise.

The Robert Mueller Municipal Airport Plan Implementation Advisory Commission will next meet at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, April 14, 2020 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)

*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  
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[karenpagani.alluretx.com](http://karenpagani.alluretx.com)  
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## Newsletter Routes available - a great reason to go for a walk!

*Amanda Rose*

There are more than 10 open routes for newsletter deliverers. Areas of the neighborhood that need walkers to get the newsletter out range from close to I-35 to the corner of Northeast and Manor. From Wellington, to Betty Cook, to Sheridan - we have a route for you! Please contact us on the WPNA FB page or via email to [newsletter@windsorpark.info](mailto:newsletter@windsorpark.info) to volunteer!



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## MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR - REFUGEE UPDATE III

*Martin Luecke*

One year ago, Matt Nelson and Sandra Guardado, our neighbors on Delwood Drive, donated their seven-passenger van to the Joas and Jaqueline refugee family. This was a fantastic gift, except for the fact that no one in the family could drive. At that time, the focus was on learning English; I had a hard time imagining anyone passing a driving test. “Uncle Martin’s Driving School” gave weekly lessons, while the car maintenance training program began in earnest. A year later we have come full circle, and Elisa the 18-year-old is proficient in English, has earned a driver’s license and in March became the official owner of the van.

In December, I asked Windsor Park for donations to raise money for car insurance and in February the family had insurance, which they are now paying for themselves. Thanks to our help, the family is now independent of the bus system, which allows them more flexibility, and able to do simple things like go to the grocery store.



Elisa now drives to school in the morning and he was driving to work in the afternoon until his job was cancelled. He says he is searching for a new job. His older brother Muhire is currently living in San Marcos at the Job Corp training center, learning English and working on employment skills. The other boys are in various Austin schools, and Joas and Jaqueline are both working. The virus situation is negatively affecting everyone’s work and I am trying to keep the family educated.

Thanks again Windsor Park for helping make this family independent.

Contact me with any new story ideas at [mwluecke@hotmail.com](mailto:mwluecke@hotmail.com) 512.536.0465



## Blanton Elementary

*Karon Smutzer*

We entered Spring Break having had a successful and learning-filled winter term and are now in an extended situation where creativity and resilience are required of our entire school and wider community. We are communicating actively with our students and teachers on the on-going situation. We do look forward to the calendar of up-coming events, but events are subject to change due to the COVID-19 outbreak and national response.

April 10	Student Holiday & Staff Professional Development
April 14	School Tour, 9 a.m.
April 24	Principal's Coffee, 7:40 a.m.
April 27-May 1	Library Book Fair

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

## Harris Elementary

*Laura Tomlinson*

Harris **Read Across America** event had readers from Univision, Austin Fire Station #18, Ms. Lu (student teacher), and Windsor Park neighbors Alice Gaulty and Gloria Neunaber come and read to the students. The annual book character parade followed in the afternoon.

### Upcoming Dates - events subject to current school closures

April 15	National School Librarian's Day
April 16	Multicultural Night 5:30 - 7pm
April 19-25	National Library Week
April 20-24	Public School Volunteer Week
April 22	Administrative Professional's Day
April 30	Dia de Los Niños. Book Spring Book Give Away Event!



## Northeast High School

*Katherine Wallach, LMSW, Social Service Specialist*

The Northeast Nightline Dance Team competed at Vista Ridge High School and took home 1st place for all 3 routines in the small team category! They also earned an Outstanding Precision award for their pom routine and an Outstanding Technique award for their contemporary routine. To place an ad in the dance team's spring show program, please contact [jenna.swonke@austinisd.org](mailto:jenna.swonke@austinisd.org).

Thirteen Raider Artists traveled to San Marcos High School to present their various artworks. They were interviewed individually for 8 minutes and their artwork was among thousands of pieces from all over the Region. They earned medals in Division 1, 2, 3 and 4 and two artists will continue to State.

### Save the dates - subject to current school closures

April 9	Spring Fashion Show and Silent Auction, 6:30pm
April 23-24	Nightline Spring Show
April 25	Unity Walk and Spring Fest
May 26	Graduation

## Pollinators

*Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist*

There are many animal pollinators with most of those being insects. Probably the most well-known of pollinator insects are bees and more specifically, honey bees. Honey bees are pollinators, but only make up a small portion of the bee population around the world. Most bees are solitary and nest in the ground. Solitary bees are not aggressive and many are stingless, so people should not be afraid of them.



Butterflies and moths are also important pollinators. Unfortunately, due to habitat destruction and other factors, their populations are on the decline. If you want to provide habitat for butterflies and moths, you need to ensure to fulfill the requirements of all life stages. Host plants are needed for egg laying and caterpillar feeding; nectar plants are needed for adult feeding; and overwintering sites are needed for various stages.

Flies are an often-overlooked pollinator. With their poor reputation for carrying diseases, many people consider flies to be pests. Flies can be beneficial by fitting into food webs, breaking down waste material, feeding on other insects (some species), and pollinating plants (including some food crops such as apples and peppers).

Ideas to help conserve pollinators:

- Plant native plants that provide nectar blooms spring, summer, and fall. Provide a variety of colors and flower / bloom shapes. Provide multiple levels of plantings (groundcover, shrubs, trees). Plant clumps of the same plant to make it easy for pollinators to find.
- Reduce turf and replace with flowering plants. Plant native bunch grasses to provide food and shelter for insects
- Allow fallen leaves to remain on property to provide shelter. Create areas of bare soil for ground nesting bees (choose sunny areas that will provide dry soil)
- Use IPM (integrated pest management) to reduce pesticide use. Provide water in a SAFE manner for insects - Use shallow dishes with rocks, stones, sand, or some substrate to allow insects to drink without drowning.



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## FEB 2020 Windsor Park Market Statistics

AVG SOLD PRICE/SQ FT (FEB 2020)	\$283.79
# OF HOMES SOLD IN (FEB 2020)	8
AVG SQ FT OF HOMES SOLD	1,577
AVG DAYS ON MKT OF SOLDS	48
# ACTIVE LISTINGS ON MARKET	9*
*As of March 19th, 2020 - Single Family Homes	
Request a Detailed Report for Your Section of Windsor Park	

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## Helpful Links and Tips for Keeping Our Community Strong, Supportive and Safely Connected

We at your WindsorPark Neighborhood Association realize that we are in an unexpected and difficult time as our world struggles to contain and respond to the Coronavirus epidemic. We know that we will all face hardships, and we are committed to paying attention and assisting neighbors by getting good information out to you, looking for ways to help and connecting you with supportive resources.

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

FACEBOOK BUY NOTHING GROUP - hyper-local groups for neighbors to support each other

NEXTDOOR Help Map: You can indicate that you CAN Help or you NEED Help

LOCAL RESTAURANTS are providing take-out and delivery services. Call your local favorites to find out more!

SCHOOL MEALS are being provided to students -- [www.austinisd.org/student-health/coronavirus/meals](http://www.austinisd.org/student-health/coronavirus/meals)

Greg Casar's Coronavirus resource guide—live, up to date, y en ingles y español. [English](#) [Spanish](#)

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## Windsor Park February 2020 Market Statistics



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Realtor®

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Hey neighbor! I've lived in Windsor Park for almost 10 years and have specialized in 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.



**\$398,833**

AVERAGE  
SALES PRICE



**\$284.47**

AVERAGE  
PRICE / SQFT



**5  
DAYS**

AVERAGE DAYS  
ON MARKET



NUMBER OF  
HOMES SOLD



MOST  
EXPENSIVE  
HOME SOLD

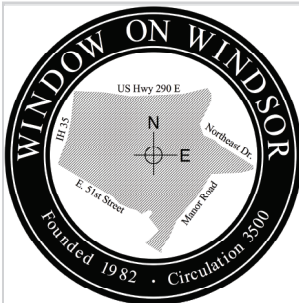
**\$605,000**



**\$280,000**

LEAST EXPENSIVE  
HOME SOLD

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



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

## Contact Us

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Or dues may be paid by Paypal through the WPNA website!

## 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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

## Library News

All Austin Public Library branches are closed.

- Due dates for checked out items have been extended and will be modified as needed while the Library remains closed.
- Book drops will remain open during the closure should you wish to return items.
- Library Cards that are set to expire during the closure have been extended.
- Customers wanting to renew their library card can use the Card Renewal Form on the Library's website.

## HOLDS

- Holds that are currently ready for pickup will be available when the library reopens.
- Customers will not receive hold notification emails during the closure.
- NO new holds may be placed during the closure period.

## ONLINE RESOURCES

From Austin Public Library's homepage, access the Virtual Library to find e-books, audiobooks, e-learning, entertainment, magazines and newspapers, homework help, and research and databases.

The following service extensions have been added to virtual resources:

- KANOPY – play credits extended to 5 per month
- CLOUDLIBRARY – checkouts extended to 10 days
- HOOPLA – checkouts extended to 5 per month

If you don't have a library card, you can take advantage of the library's eCard for digital materials. Free for Austin residents; \$22 for non-residents. To apply visit: <https://library.austintexas.gov/mylibrarycard>