



WINDOW on WINDSOR

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

Vol XXXX No.04

Apr 2021

**Next
Neighborhood
Association
Meeting**

**Saturday, Apr
10th**

**STREAMING
starts at 10:15
but connect
early for some
visiting!**

**Please see
instructions on
the back page
for attending a
meeting online**

**We have 2
streaming
options**

**See you at our
April meeting!**

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

President's Letter – The next right thing or carpe diem

By Jackie Brooks

We can all rejoice - spring is finally here! I was filled with hope after seeing trees around our neighborhood transform into fluffy shades of pink and purple (good riddance ice storms). One of my greatest joys this season is seeing the little bits of bright green that seemingly appear overnight- decorating the outer edges of grey twiggy limbs with cheerful color. They grow and grow, filling our shady canopies and preparing to offer shelter from the summer heat that we know is just around the corner.

It's hard to take our gaze off the horizon sometimes and be present in the moment to enjoy the cool breeze on a sunny day while we still can. Especially when that horizon is full of things that are begging for our attention. We have a lot going on in our own lives, in our neighborhood, in our city, and in our country. Many of which are important to us and impact others we care about. It's tempting to want to tackle all the things at once, so what do we do with this overwhelming pull in different directions?

"The next right thing" is one strategy to help us achieve focus and begin to address these important things. Our online communities are a great forum to discuss what is important to you, and our committees dive even deeper on focused topics and work together to prioritize and plan the next right thing to make an impact. The next right thing can help outline tasks and opens up opportunities for being able to engage no matter what your time constraints (we understand that overwhelming pull in different directions).

The other strategy is *"carpe diem,"* seize the day! Sometimes timing works out and when you have a list of what is important, you can seize the opportunity to make it happen when things align. I've seen both of these strategies alive and well in our association and especially through the actions of our committees.

For the schools committee, one of these *next right things* was a conversation with our Trustees at our last [WPNA virtual monthly meeting](#). The insights gathered from addressing thoughtful questions will likely inform the next right things- like how equity is in the details and nuanced conversations are necessary to get the details right.

In our neighborhood, we have several important things needing our attention:

- **Neighborhood Safety Conversation** – We need a concerted effort from interested individuals to re-activate this committee to help the neighborhood prioritize the areas of focus for safety in our neighborhood. This is such an important time with the City of Austin reimagining public safety, as a neighborhood we need to *carpe diem* this discussion- what does safety look like in Windsor Park? Next right step: email president@windsorpark.info if you are interested in being a part of this conversation.
- **Neighborhood Development and associated impacts** - Windsor Village is one of many projects that are coming our way. We can all agree new development will have an impact, though opinions range the spectrum of excitement to concern. While things are moving quickly, how do we *carpe diem* to help support the most positive impact? Next right step: continue partnering with The Windsor Park Neighborhood Plan Contact Team to remain engaged and informed through surveys, information sharing on social media, and participating in good dialogue throughout our available forums.

[continues on page 2]

[President's letter, from page 1]

- **City of Austin growing pains- infrastructure** (including power, water, and transportation) & affordability – these are all complex consequences of a growing city. Let's carpe diem getting involved in forums for public conversation and feedback.

The benefit of addressing these things through the Windsor Park Neighborhood Association and our committees? -the power of working as a team. We can't all focus on everything, but by combining our efforts, we can accomplish many important things together.

Pick something you're passionate about and dive in- start by sending an email to president@windsorpark.info or directly to one of our [committee chairs](#).



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National Week of the Young Child – April 10-16

Gloria Neunaber

The Week of the Young Child, an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) is April 10-16, 2021.

For years, child care providers have known that most of the child care system in the US is not working. Parents have been unable to find or afford quality child care and teachers are unable to support themselves because of unfair compensation. Hopefully, because of this pandemic, legislators have begun to see that the child care system has been and continues to be in desperate need of support.

Windsor Park alone has over 12 licensed child care centers and homes who care daily for over 400 young children while parents work. Please join the nation and our neighborhood in remembering and celebrating all children ages 0 through 8, their parents and guardians, their caregivers and teachers.

Dignified Dwellings Realty, LLC



FEB 2021 Windsor Park Market Statistics

AVG SOLD PRICE/SQ FT (FEB 2021)	\$370.80
# OF HOMES SOLD IN (FEB 2021)	8
AVG SQ FT OF HOMES SOLD	1,517
AVG DAYS ON MKT OF SOLDS	14
# ACTIVE LISTINGS ON MARKET	7*

*As of March 13th, 2021 - Single Family Homes.
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get your "I LIVE WP" sticker today!**

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR – Bonnie, Gary and the Catio

Martin Luecke

A couple years ago Bonnie and Gary, neighbors on Cloverleaf, attended an Audubon Society tour of Austin houses with exterior cat enclosures. For years they had been feeding birds in their “back yard bird sanctuary”, but had been thinking about adopting a cat. They viewed the cat patio as a way to have both. “On the tour I saw how they were attaching a structure to the outside of a house and I began to make mental notes on how to do it at our house” Gary recalls.

The idea is simple: build an enclosure outside of a window that allows your cats to go outside without being free to roam about the neighborhood. Some of the examples on the tour were beautiful but were complex structures. There is a carpenter in Austin who specializes in the trade, but Gary knew he could build it, so he set about his yard looking for materials. He wanted their catio to be open air, so his stack of dog fencing once used to corral chickens was the answer. Gary modified the pieces, wired them together, and attached them to their house. Now they were ready to adopt.

They then discovered a local volunteer group called Shadow Cats, which monitors our feral cat population. Their trap-neuter-return program puts an end to the cycle of exploding feral cat populations, and their adoption program takes wild cats off the street. Sherlock and Emma were soon in their new home and the catio was a success.

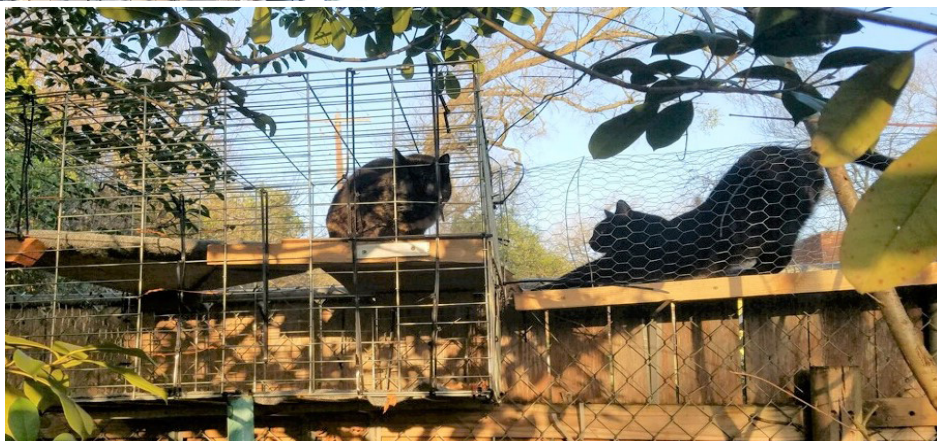


Then Gary got creative and built the Skywalk: a cat sidewalk that reached from the back porch to the top of the privacy fence and 40 feet into the back yard. Made of fence pickets and chicken wire, the Skywalk allows the cats to sunbathe, and watch the bird feeder. “Cat TV” Gary laughs. “The squirrels and birds are used to the cats being out there and now they just look at each other and go about their business” says Bonnie.

As with any adoption, you take on the health and safety of your new family member, and sometimes healthcare can get expensive. Gary adds one final piece of advice: “If you adopt a cat, buy cat insurance. It has saved us thousands of dollars at the vet.”

Based upon what I see next door, not only are the birds safe from the cats, but the cats are also safe from predation by dogs and coyotes. “Our catio has a societal contribution” Bonnie notes. I think it’s just fun to watch the cats hang out.

Send me story suggestions: mwluecke@hotmail.com 512.536.0465



Harris Elementary School

Laura Tomlinson, Librarian

Have you ever wondered what a typical school day is like in an elementary school during this COVID season? Our school counselor, Daniela Garcia, was interviewed on Austin ISD's Professional Learning podcast, *Lessons from the Field*. It's a podcast of interviews staff members from the district discussing the impact distance learning has had on teachers and students. Ms. Garcia describes some of the challenges of servicing students during this past year. While she mainly teaches Social Emotional Learning (SEL) to students, she also does a variety of functions around the school. The positive outcomes that she has seen are deeper connections between students and teachers as well as parents learning the technology to help their child succeed in school online. You can listen to the podcast on <https://anchor.fm/austinisdpl> Episode #31, February 2, 2021.

Thank you to Mr. Castillo (Parent Support Specialist), Mrs. Herrera (4th), Ms. Olivares (SPED), Mr. & Mrs. Napoles (Music teacher), Delia Vera (Custodian), Ms. Cardenas (Principal) and her husband Mr. Bates who gave out 268 cases of water to our families on March 6th.

On Thursday March 11, the Harris STEM Committee presented the first ever virtual Math & Science Night. Families engaged in hands-on science activities via Zoom. A materials list for each of the six experiments was distributed prior to the event. GirlStart presented the first lesson as our guests to encourage more girls to participate in the STEM fields.

Harris Elementary continued its annual Read Across America event on Friday, March 12. Univision provided the school with recordings of their staff reading books for the students. Additionally, Ms. Alice Gaulty, one of our parents, read live via Zoom to her daughter's kindergarten class. In the afternoon, the students participated in a book character parade to celebrate National Reading Month.

Blanton Elementary

Karon Smutzer, BASE Project Director

Blanton continues to grow! If any families with 3, 4, or 5 year olds have questions about enrolling at Blanton, please contact the office at 512 414 2026. Early registration is open for all students, new and returning. Parents can register their students for next year at <http://portal.austinisd.org>.

Next year, our PK3 program will continue to be a half day dual language program. At PK4 and up we have both Spanish-English Dual Language and monolingual English classrooms. Starting in the 21-22 school year, PK4 will be a full day program with the same school schedule as K-5. All students PK4-5th grade will attend from 7:30-3:08. Additionally, the PK4 program is adding TAs to the classrooms for greater student support. Dual language program applications can be found in the parent cloud at <http://my.austinisd.org> and general transfer applications are in the parent portal at <http://portal.austinisd.org>.

BASE will be returning to Blanton in the Summer of 2021! Stay tuned for more information. Please join the PTA at <https://ptablanton.ptboard.com/> and follow us on social media.



Neighborhood Handyman
**Sometimes you just need a room painted,
a fence repaired, a faucet changed or a fan hung.**

That's what I do.

Gary 512 294 3268

Andrews Elementary

Elizabeth Morales, Community School Facilitator

The entire Andrews Elementary community extends a big thank you to our neighbors from the Windsor Park Neighborhood Association for their support during the winter storm. Because of your generosity, we were able to help families in need by providing them with food and other necessities.

Enroll at Andrews Elementary for 2021-2022 and join the Gator Family! Andrews Elementary offers all-day Dual Language Pre-K3 and Pre-K4, free breakfast and lunch for all students, after-school enrichment activities, outdoor education opportunities, and more. Register at austinisd.org/enroll, stop by one of our Curbside Registration Support events, or call us at 512-414-1770 for more information.

We are continuing our SEL Parent Conversation Series, Curbside Coffee for Caregivers, Virtual Family Game Night, and other events throughout the spring semester. Please visit <https://andrews.austinschools.org/> for a full list of events.

All neighbors are invited to join our CAC meetings, held on the last Thursday of the month at 5:30 pm. PTA membership is also open online at www.joinpta.org

Betha Sadler Means Middle School

Rosalind Oliphant, PhD, Mentor Teacher | Community Partnerships

Our 6th Annual Girl's Conference (Drive Thru Edition) featuring Grammy-nominated musician SaulPaul was a success! We distributed 189 Central Texas Food Boxes and special Success Bags to each young leader. Thanks to all our community partners who helped make it happen!

Principal DeSean Roby shared during WP Neighborhood March meeting that "Our sixth-grade enrollment is already higher than last year with 131 new students! Our new Media, Visual, and Performing Arts Academy has been a real draw, and we are also working to bolster our Dual Language Program." Interested students can still opt in and buses will be provided.

With so many lush Windsor Park yards, our Campus Beautification Committee is hoping to get some much-needed assistance/donations to upgrade our front flower beds. We have a few supplies, but need soil, mulch, pea gravel, plants, and guidance. Please email rosalind.oliphant@austinisd.org if you can assist. Thank you!

Northeast Early College High School

Katherine Wallach

2021 Graduation will be June 2. Also, we are still looking for community members to join our CAC - let us know if you are interested. You can contact katherine.frazerwallach@austinisd.org



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Clean the Creek = Scholarships for High School Seniors

Jeanette Swenson

Take advantage of an opportunity to meet your Windsor Park neighbors as we clean our creek AND support our high school seniors. On **SATURDAY, APRIL 3rd from 9-12**, the Parks and Schools Committees are sponsoring a **Trash-athon** along Tannehill Branch Creek (which runs in Windsor Park from Cameron Road through Bartholomew Park). For each bag of trash collected, sponsors will donate \$5.00 to the Scholarship Committee.

How can you help? Email Jeanette@windsorpark.info to volunteer. We will provide you with trash bags and suggest a particular area of the creek for you. We are still masking and social distancing, so there will be minimal contact. Turn in your bags at collection points, give us your name and number of bags collected, and we'll donate \$5.00 per bag in your name.

Currently, the Scholarship fund has about \$4,000.00 to award in 2021. We have seven applicants and would like to fund every eligible applicant with a \$1,000 scholarship as we have done for the past six years.

Can't volunteer on April 3rd? You can still participate:

- Sponsor others to clean up. (A \$50 sponsorship is a donation from you and donation credit to volunteers.)
- Donate directly to the Scholarship Fund. Send a check to WPNA, P.O. Box 16183, Austin, TX 78761. Or, donate by Paypal through the Donate button for Scholarships at the WPNA website.

April 2021 Mueller Update

Rick Krivoniak

Mueller's Southeast Greenway is worth a trip to see if you haven't yet, and more improvements begin construction this month. Go south on Tilley Street from E. 51st 0.8 miles down to Tom Miller, where you'll encounter ponds that are part of Mueller's stormwater management system, and a haven for several species of waterfowl. A trail leads to a curved overlook deck between the two ponds, then continues along the curve of Manor Road across from the Morris Williams Golf Course up to the area where some parking, a skate park and pump track will be added over the next year. A **pump track** is a looped sequence of swoopy, banked turns, designed to maximize your momentum on anything from skates or wheelchairs to bikes.

Construction is expected to be complete on Austin Energy's new headquarters in May, though due to COVID-19, move in of the anticipated 1000 employees will be phased in over the summer.

The Mueller Commission continues to meet virtually. Contact Program Manager Matthew Schmidt at (512) 974-6415 or Matt.Schmidt@austintexas.gov at least 24 hours prior to the second Tuesday of the month to learn about participation or listening opportunities. More information is available at austintexas.gov/rmmapiac



It was an odd year for real estate in an already crazy market.

Since April, we saw a steady decrease in the number of available listings, causing prices to jump exponentially at the end of the year. We normally see offers around 2-4% over list price, but have been seeing many offers 10-20% over in recent weeks.

What does that mean? Buyers are currently bringing tens of thousands in cash to the table, but it's a great time to sell.

Windsor Park saw a median home price jump to \$450k, up from \$395k in 2019. As always, stay safe out there and I'll be here to answer all of your real estate questions whether you're looking to buy, sell, invest, or rent.

April 2021 – Yard of the Month – recovery month!

Sara Jane Lee

After much discussion, we decided not to present an award for April. The February storm wreaked havoc on Austin. Many people had damage to their houses and their landscapes. Plants that had been loved for years looked dead. Prickly pear cacti looked awful; agave like weapons from a scientific fiction movie; palm fronds like ladies' skirts for a nineteenth century ball. Rosemary just looked dead.

Among all this mess, there were some pleasant surprises. When I was on a walk recently, I saw a clump of agaves that looked quite healthy. When I knocked, the woman who answered said that they had done nothing. There are probably other mini climates that survived the freeze. As I write in the middle of March, shrubs and small trees, like redbuds, are budding out. Many householders have begun to plant anew. Their work is beginning to make Windsor Park yards look pretty again.

Shoal Creek nursery, the long-time sponsor for Yard of the Month, can be a partner as you consider what you need to help your yard and landscape recover. Their employees can answer your questions and provide advice.

We look forward to bringing a new Yard of the Month winner to your attention in May. We always need yard nominations - do not be shy. If you like a certain yard, or more than one, tell us. Send your nomination(s) to WPNA YOMC. P.O. Box 16183, Austin, Texas 78761, call 512-928-0681, or email wpna.yom@gmail.com.

WP Community Garden News

Windsor Park Community Garden is located behind Austin Mennonite Church (next to the WP library), and we had a very successful work day in March and our April work day will be on April 3rd. The garden has come back nicely after being buried under snow during the Feb big freeze.

Thank you to everyone who helped in the garden on March 6 and/or March 7th! Much was accomplished!

- Started reclaiming the Free Food garden
- Planted and mulched 7 new fruit trees
- Mulched pathways
- Built or repaired 3 garden beds
- Cut down some unwanted “volunteer” scrub trees

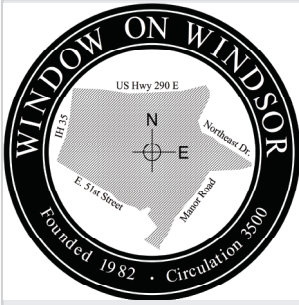
The next garden work day: Saturday, April 3, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

- We are planning to continue to work on reclaiming the Free Food Garden, plant seeds and new plants, care for the Fruit trees, and weed.
- If you want to join us, please consider bringing water, sunscreen, a hat and gloves, and wear closed-toe shoes for your comfort. In terms of tools, the following would be useful to bring: garden shovel or spading fork, any of your favorite weeding tools.

Hope to see you in the garden! Pat (512-461-2936) and Martin (916-947-1227), on behalf of all WP Community Gardeners



Photo credit: Mary Aleshire



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

Contact Us

President..... Jackie Brooks..... president@windsorpark.info
 Vice President vicepresident@windsorpark.info
 Secretary..... Alice Gaulty..... secretary@windsorpark.info
 Treasurer..... Josh Pitts..... treasurer@windsorpark.info
 Inter-Neighborhood.... Peter Struble... ancdelegate@windsorpark.info
 WoW Editor..... Amanda Rose..... newsletter@windsorpark.info
 Sponsorships..... Meghan Dougherty sponsorship@windsorpark.info

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WPNA, P.O. Box 16183, Austin, TX 78761

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

WPNA MEMBERSHIP FORM - CUT OUT AND SEND IN

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- ☐ Student/fixed income — \$5/person
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- ☐ Sustaining — \$35 or more
- ☐ Non-voting donations - gladly accepted

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Add'l Name : _____

Address: _____

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Referred by: _____

How to attend a meeting online

1. streaming live via facebook
 (<https://www.facebook.com/WindsorParkAustinTX>) where you can comment and ask questions.

2. watch the live stream from our website (<http://www.windsorpark.info/>) a link will be updated at the top of the page to access the live meeting.

Library Update

Library services - including many reading groups- continue. Please check out the calendar at your local library.

Austin Police Department District Representative for Windsor Park

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