

WINDOW on WINDSOR

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

Vol XLI No.05 May 2022

Next Neighborhood Association Meeting

Saturday, May 14th

Meeting at Gym of MUMC 6100 Berkman Drive and

STREAMING

facebook.com/ WindsorParkAustinTX or windsorpark.info/

Join early to visit!

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

Got something for the newsletter? Get it in by the 15th to newsletter@ windsorpark.info BECOME A WPNA MEMBER - WWW.WINDSORPARK.INFO/MEMBERSHIP

Great Neighbors, advocacy and community – raising our voices for next steps on Windsor Village

By Jackie Brooks, President, WPNA

The sun is out and the creek is clean! A whopping 55 bags of trash and recycling was picked up from the creek at Bartholomew Park during the Creek Cleanup and Scholarship Fundraiser Trasha-thon on April 9th. Our neighbor, Madison Madden, shared the news after the event with thanks to Keep Austin Beautiful, WPNA, Tso Chinese Delivery, and Ridwell. A special thankyou to Madison and Jeanette Swenson for bringing everyone together to make it happen!

In April, someone asked the question in our Facebook group "what do you love most about living in Windsor Park?" and I was delighted to read how many people called out their wonderful neighbors. I may be biased, but this is top for me too. I have been blessed beyond measure from neighbors that have been there for us in a time of need or have shared a friendly smile and wave.

We may be a little out of practice after the last two years, but I can see the joy it brings to our community when we can meet and connect with each other. That's why I'm so excited to share that we have a few fun opportunities for you to get out and meet your neighbors this spring! In this newsletter you'll find further details about these events, so mark your calendars and join us:

- 1. Piano Picnic (May 7th) @ WP Library
- 2. Brookside Jeanette's Birthday Bash & Benefit (May 21st)

We're also planning our annual WPNA Block Party for the Fall this year (date and location still TBD)— so more merrymaking moments to look forward to when the leaves start to turn!

In addition to these special events, we continue to meet monthly for our WPNA meetings – every second Saturday of the month at the MUMC

gym (6100 Berkman Dr). Meet your neighbors over coffee and donuts at 10am, then get settled into a seat as the meeting programming begins at 10:15am. You can also tune in virtually; a great option if you're not able to join in-person.



These consistent meetings allow for us to stay connected and stay on top of important business in our neighborhood. At our past meeting, we discussed the Windsor Village Shopping Center Redevelopment as it nears a pivotal moment-site plan approval. Almost 1 year since our previous vote to advocate for the project, WPNA members were asked how they would like to move forward. The vote resulted in support of both continued advocacy and an appeal. A full breakdown of the votes and voting language has been provided (below) for reference. The Windsor Park Neighborhood Plan Contact Team also voted on the issue on April 11th- garnering unanimous support for an appeal of the project.

WPNA Vote regarding the Windsor Village Shopping Center Redevelopment: 67totalvotes;65validvotes(2votedafterthedeadline).

- I support continued advocacy: 65 Yes (100% in support)
- I support an appeal: 64 Yes, 1 No (98.5% in support)
- I will support WPNA fundraising for the appeal: 57 (87.7%)
- I only support the appeal if fees are waived or covered by others: 8 (12.3%)

Our advocacy may not impact the Windsor Village project directly, but it could raise awareness about the concerns at Windsor Village and hopefully encourage future VMU development in the neighborhood to more closely align to the intent in which it was adopted (citing Windsor Village as a case study).

[President's Letter continues on page 2]

President's Letter, continued from page 1

Since the Site plan approval is an administrative process, the only remaining option we have, if we disagree with the staff's position, is to appeal the decision to the Board of Adjustment (subject to applicable requirements). While the intent can't be arguedthroughanappeal, the working group can outline the points in which we disagree with the interpretation of the VMU code.

Appeal Details: An appeal is required to be initiated within 20 days of the site plan approval. The fee associated with an appeal is estimated at \$3,218.72. We are confirming if an organization (the WPNA or the WPNPCT) can fill out the application, or if an individual is required to be recorded on the document. Members of the working group have volunteered to fill out the application and provide supporting documents to help communicate the case.

And last, but certainly not least, a shout-out to Windsor Park's very own, Ruby Taylor — Happy 100th Birthday! Learn more about Ruby's life and her ongoing legacy in Windsor Park from Martin's article.

Sackie

Transportation and Austin Studios highlight Mueller Update

Rick Krivoniak

While he has been the Director of Austin Studios at 1901 E. 51st Street since December 2019, Martin C. Jones, a film and television industry veteran with extensive experience in community media and nonprofits, finally gotto introduce himself to Mueller Commissioners at the April meeting. The Studios are currently fully occupied with various film, music and other media productions, including the renewed CW series "Walker."

Be on the lookout in the coming months as the Austin Transportation Department implements some changes to the Mueller Blvd. and Aldrich Street roundabout. One big change will be the creation of a double left-turn lane from Airport Blvd. onto Aldrich to help alleviate the occasional traffic backups. Note that the two lanes from Airport to the roundabout narrow down to one, and the roundabout itself will get more defined single-lane striping and sidewalk improvements.

At the April Commission meeting, AISD's Director of Real Estate Jeremy Striffler reported that the middle school at Mueller is on track to open for the fall 2023 semester. The next Advisory Commission meeting is Tuesday, May 10th at 6PM to be held at Austin Energy Headquarters, 4815 Mueller Blvd. Please utilize the parking garage entrance off Garcia Street. For RMMAPIAC agenda and other information, visit austintexas.gov/rmmapiac



Interest Rates & Tax Assessments

Mortgage interest rates have finally risen (and quicker than most expected). We're now in the 5.5-6% range for owner occupied homes, when we were in the 3% range just a few months ago. I expect this to slow the market (probably a good thing) and rates to continue to rise in the immediate future. If you are buying (or building) lock your rate in now. Many lenders can do a 6-12 month lock for a fee and it could be worth exploring. TCAD finally released the 2022 Tax Assessments and they were a doozie! Most areas saw an increase of 40-50%. This is why it's important to file your Homestead Exemption, which locks your property tax increases to 10% max per year (still not great, but it's better than 40-50%). If you need help or have questions about either, please reach out.

Meet Your Neighbor - Ruby Taylor turns 100!

Martin Luecke

Windsor Park's oldest continuous resident celebrated the century mark in April with many friends, neighbors and family at the house on Briarcliff she has occupied since LBJ was President. You may remember Ruby from a story I wrote back in 2014. Others will remember Ruby from WPNA meetings where she was always the wise voice in the room. And those with a long recall may remember her as a volunteer driver for seniors for 21 years. But I get the privilege of being her handyman since 2014, having a front row view of how she keeps going, despite the calendar.

Ruby is holding court at her party, with her son Craig, and many Windsor Park friends. Ruby is kind enough to introduce me to the room of well-wishers and then launches into a story about the quilt she is holding. Ruby always has a story, pertinent to the moment. Over the years we have had dozens of long conversations which include two or three stories each.



Ruby is now collecting some of those stories into a book she calls "Ruby's Moves". As an air force wife since 1941, Ruby has lived in many interesting places, including Japan, Hawaii, and Panama. But her first move was the most dramatic. Ruby was

born in Waco, and her father owned a grocery store. In 1927 Waco was rocked by several murders of men driving cars in the downtown area. Ruby's father started carrying a gun, and one early morning he tripped over a small barrel entering their dark garage and accidentally shot himself. Ruby's mother moved to Giddings with her three children to be with family and start over. Ruby graduated from Giddings High and married a boy from nearby Lexington six months before Pearl Harbor.

Husband Rusty was an aircraft mechanic, and the next move was to the new air base in Harlingen training crews for bombing missions, where they spent the entire war because the commanding officer would not let go of his ace mechanic, despite being called up for European duty several times. Ruby admits they felt guilty as they watched friends go to war and not return. Today she calls it luck.

This leads to another story about Rusty going up for a test flight with a new Lieutenant pilot, who forgot to lower the landing gear during approach, and Rusty has to yell from is back seat position in the open cockpit "You forgot the G-D landing gear!", saving them from possible death. After the war, those two became great friends while stationed in Panama. Ruby then tells a

classic air force tale: their son Craig would be conceived in Panama, born in New Jersey, and spend his first birthday in California.

It was the last move that brought the Taylors to Windsor Park in 1965. Rusty was getting close to retirement, so he put in for assignment at Berg-



strom Air Force Base. Many of the base staff lived in WP. Craig was 15 and wound up in the first graduating class of Reagan High School, where they were also state football champions. Ruby said much of Windsor Park was attending games in those days.

Ruby attended some of the first WPNA meetings in 1983 and is one of the very first newsletter delivery volunteers, keeping her route until 2017, which at 34 years might be the longest serving deliverer in WPNA history.

Along the way Ruby took up painting, and today her house is also her gallery, with many portraits and still lifes and scenes hanging about. I am the proud owner of three of her pieces. Lately Ruby is painting "recipe holders" because they are small and fun to do, and it puts art on your kitchen counter.

A few days after the party Ruby admits it was exhausting and she had to recover her voice, which was hoarse from talking all day. She counted more than 30 visitors and was trying to remember who brought two bottles of champagne. I suggested we drink them and then maybe remember!



After telling all those stories about all those moves, Ruby paused for a moment, deep in thought, remembering the early demise of her father, and then told me that the only way to explain how it is she has lived this long, and still be somewhat healthy, is because of good genes and a lot of luck along the way. I remind her that she is the one who is always putting out positive energy, and maybe that has a lot to do with getting lucky.

Contact me with story suggestions: mwluecke@hotmail.com 512.536.0465

Northeast Early College High School

The Northeast Boys Varsity Soccer Team competed in the UIL 5A Regional Finals Tournament and were one win away from competing in the state tournament! The final result, the team is the UIL 5A Regional Runner Up! This is a quite an accomplishment!

The Northeast Boys Varsity Soccer Team has many needs from small ticket items like game balls and socks, to big ticket items like funding for an end of the year banquet, team warm-ups, and field maintenance equipment. Any tax-deductible donation would be greatly appreciated. Use the link below to support the Northeast Boys Varsity Soccer Team. Thank you, Windsor Park Community!

https://give.livingtree.com/c/support-the-northeast-boys-soccer-team

Sadler Means YWLA

A CNN News team recently came to Sadler Means to tape a feature on Mikaila Ulmer, the teen CEO of Me & The Bees Lemonade. Our young leaders, chosen to participate in the audience, posed great questions about Ulmer's successful company. The segment is scheduled to air this month.

When Covid dashed our field trip plans to The Contemporary Austin for the "Deborah Roberts: I'm" exhibit, the museum came to us! Our student artists enjoyed an interactive virtual presentation about the internationally acclaimed artist and received a beautiful educational catalog from the exhibit.

Sadler Means young leaders were on program to help honor Joan Means Khabele at the City of Austin's Ceremonial Moment of Silence & Splash. Khabele's courageous act of swimming in Barton Springs to protest segregation at the pool sparked the civil rights era swim-ins that eventually led to the desegregation of Barton Springs Pool in 1960.

Andrews Elementary

During the month of April, Gators participated in Career Day, trips to UT with the Neighborhood Longhorns Program, and 5th grade visits to Gus Garcia and Bertha Sadler Means.

Andrews ES will host the annual Puestecitos event on Wednesday, May 18th. The Gator community will celebrate culture and diversity with a mix of foods and activities. If you would like to volunteer for the event, please reach out to Elizabeth Morales at 512-414-5654.

We thank our WPNA neighbors for their continued support of the Andrews community. We encourage neighbors to attend our PTA meetings, CAC, or stay connected with us on social media.

Harris Elementary School

Math & Science Night, April 7, was a great success! Over 100 students and parents came to engage in math and science activities. Students created models, made predictions, conducted experiments, and made calculations. They also had a chance to pet live animals from Tiny Tails who brought rabbits, guinea pigs, turtles, and lizards. Chicken Waffle Virtual Reality allowed students to experience life under water and travel through the Solar System. Students Science Fair projects were displayed in the library for all to view. Each grade level presented an engaging and fun activity for all ages to enjoy! Thank you STEM team for putting together such an amazing event.

Teacher Appreciation Week, May 2-6! Let's say Thank You to all our hard-working teachers – we appreciate you!



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Make an appointment with Dr. Shauna Butler or Dr. Ana Avalos at texaschildrenspediatricsaustin.org/location/windsor-park.

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2022 WPNA Scholarship → 20 inspiring applicants

Jeanette Swenson, Schools Committee

On my initial read-through, it thrilled and inspired me that WPNA Scholarship Committee has twenty (20) qualified, resilient applicants who give me hope for the future. They are leaders who have joined with existing organizations to work for change and support others in our community. They found personal reward and deeper learning as tutors for their peers. They are creative leaders who have seen a community need and created a structure to meet those needs. They are givers who work to provide safe havens and support for their families. They serve as family interpreters who bridge the gap between their recently arrived immigrant families and our social systems. They are artists who will use their creativity in engineering, science, social services, arts and education.

Giving back to their communities in their chosen field remains a priority goal as they continue their education. These resilient, generous, and creative leaders have led the way through two years of pandemic living and have already contributed much so much in addition to achieving personal academic excellence.

Please consider donating to the 2022 Windsor Park Neighborhood Association Scholarship Fund to support the next generation. We are in good hands with these aspiring educators, engineers, nurses, business people, computer scientists, neuroscientists, artists and psychologists. Truly, a worthy investment.

The Schools Committee committed to match up to \$2,400 in contributions. To contribute to the WPNA Scholarship fund, please go to the WPNA website: windsorpark.info/scholarship. Click on the SCHOLARSHIP DONATE button and donate via PayPal or Venmo. If you prefer, mail a check payable to WPNA with Scholarship in the subject line. Mail to: WPNA P.O. Box 16183, Austin, TX 78761. Remember, all donations are tax deductible. If you would like to honor or memorialize someone, enter that in the subject line. Thank you for your support of our 2022 college-bound seniors.



Parks and Open Spaces

On April 2 and 9, dedicated volunteers pulled 86 bags of trash from Tannehill Branch Creek in Bartholomew Park. Thanks to generous donors, WPNA credited 72 volunteers with \$10 per bag donations to the Scholarship Fund. On April 2, we welcomed a group of volunteers from Cameron Road Church of Christ. On April 9, WPNA partnered with KAB and Ridwell. Both partnerships led to new park volunteers who found us on Eventbrite and KAB website. Ridwell offered a month of free Ridwell pick-up and arranged for lunch from Tso Delivery. On April 9, the ACC Disc Golf Club and Waterloo Disc Golf cleaned the Creek at the East end of the Park. For the first time in my memory, volunteers were able to clean the entire length of the Creek from Berkman to East 51st Street. Thank you all.

On the radar: Apparently, Parks and Recreation and Watershed Protection are in the process of making big changes through the Park at Tilley and E 51st. Waterloo Disc Golf and ACC Disc Golf Club have been working with them to re-route and restore the historic disc golf course to either its original 18 holes or a super 9-hole course.

Pomerleau Pocket Park: Charles Mabry, Austin Parks and Recreation, and Katie Robillard, Austin Parks Foundation, met with the Contact Team about their requested re-zoning of Pomerleau Pocket Park from residential to park land. The Contact Team sent a letter of support to the Planning Commission. The zoning change was approved by the Planning Commission. Work on the delayed implementation of phase one at Pomerleau will possibly begin in the next few months.

Neighborhood Mobility Connections: WPNA is developing a graphic of our vision for two north-south bikeways east and west of Berkman. The Belfast Hike and Bike Trail that crosses Tannehill Branch Creek at Broadmoor and crosses a right of way to Mueller. The Westminster Hike and Bike Trail would connect Pomerleau Park at the north end, pass Harris and Blanton elementary schools, turn on to Greenbrook, then through Bartholomew Park to link to the Tilley Street bikeway and the new Northeast Middle School.

Hope Lutheran Church at Northeast and North Hampton Drives has been developing a community space with a crushed granite trail; soccer goals; baseball field with backstop; barbecue pit; playscape; and Pickles Place, a fenced gathering place for dogs. It is open to the community on an individual basis and for group events. Hope would be interested in hosting a future block party.

LIKE WALKING? LIKE THE NEWSLETTER?

BECOME A NEWSLETTER WALKER! TAKES APPROX

30 MIN EACH MONTH

SEVERAL ROUTES AVAILABLE

Brookside Block Party May 21 - Birthday Celebration and FUNdraiser

Brookside Drive invites everyone to a Block Party on Saturday, May 21st from 2-5pm to celebrate 40 years of Windsor Park Neighborhood Association (WPNA) activism and an 80th birthday for Jeanette Swenson! Help us put the FUN in FUNraiser to benefit one of Jeanette's favorite Causes—the WPNA Scholarship Program. For info or to donate, visit windsorpark.info/fundraising online.

Enjoy food trucks, music, Camp Gladiator workouts, an obstacle course, bouncy castle, fire truck visit, creation of a 1982-2022 Windsor Park timeline, chalk art project and more! Celebrate the best of Windsor Park with us in-person after the easing of two long years of pandemic restrictions.

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Piano Picnic - May 7th

Please join us Saturday, May 7th, from 10am-2pm at the Windsor Park Branch Library to welcome our very own street piano, donated by Austin Creative Reuse and decorated by the WPNA's Enlivenment Committee. The Piano Picnic will feature live performance from local musicians and poets plus tons of activities for the kids hosted by the Library, including face-painting, story time, chalk art, games, and more! Bring a picnic and a blanket to the grassy area between the Library and the Mennonite Church and enjoy the unveiling of our local free-to-play instrument. We hope to see you there!

		Hwy	/ 290	East	
	IH-35 North	Cameron		†	Berkman
		Briarcliff			

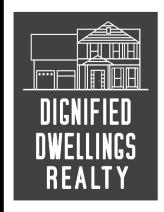


Memorial United Methodist Church

6100 Berkman Drive, Austin, TX • (512) 452-5796

Welcome to a place for everyone to meet new friends, find needed encouragement and discover God's plan for you! We would love to see you this Sunday.

Sunday School 9:15am • Worship 10:30am

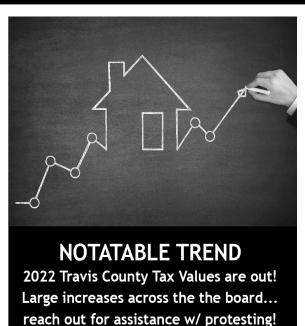


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WINDSOR PARK Market Statistics

March 2022

AVG SOLD PRICE/SQ FT \$419.93 (MARCH 2022)

OF HOMES SOLD IN 12 (MARCH 2022)

AVG SQ FT OF HOMES SOLD 1,709

AVG DAYS ON MKT OF SOLDS 25

ACTIVE LISTINGS ON MARKET 9*

*As of April 17th, 2022 - Single Family Homes. Request a Detailed Report for Your Section of Windsor Park

Yard of the Month: 5402 Wellington Drive

Sara Jane Lee



May's winners Gretchen Bettes and Eric Lawrence of 5402 Wellington Drive were nominated by their neighbor for Yard of the Month. Gretchen and Eric were inspired by the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, botanical gardens across the United States and the Texas landscape. Gretchen and Eric will get a \$50.00 gift certificate from Shoal Creek Nursery, where you can find great plants, resources and information from knowledgeable employees.

Water conservation is vital to Gretchen and Eric. They choose water-wise plants and have three rain tanks that together hold 550 gallons of water. The tanks are used to water their front and back yards. Before the rain tanks, they had installed soaker hoses in the beds. In case the tanks run dry, the soaker hoses will take over the job.

Their front yard contains both vegetables and ornamentals. Their two vegetable beds, one raised, contain Tomatoes, Hot Peppers, Eggplant, Malabar Spinach, Artichoke, Galia Melon, and several herbs and spices.

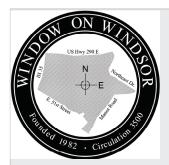
Gretchen and Eric got their three trees, a Chinquapin Oak, a Lacey Oak, and a Desert Willow, from TreeFolks. A Star Jasmine grows on a trellis that Eric built and adorned with Gretchen's sculptures of turkey vulture heads. Coral Honeysuckle twists around a steel pole topped by panther of Gretchen's sculptures.

Friends have given them Bearded Irises that they scattered throughout the yard. In the front bed, they have Four-Nerve Daisies, Cenizo (aka Texas Sage), Wooly Butterfly Bush, Ghost Plant, Flowering Senna, Red Ghost Plant, Red Yucca, Creeping Germander, Thryllis, White Sparkle Guara, Gopher Plant, Rosemary, two varieties of Winecup, Poppies, Mexican Feather Grass, and Henry Duelberg Salvia. The last got its name because it was discovered growing on Henry Duelberg's grave.

Their favorite area is "the Cactus Hump", a builtup oblong area filled with Cacti, Succulents, small found objects, and ceramic art. The combination of plants and art gives Gretchen and Eric great pleasure.

They had planned to spend about two years redoing their front yard, but the Pandemic shortened it to about six months. Except for the French drain, a steel retaining wall, and turfblock, they have done all the work themselves. Eric advises to first remove all the grass. Focus on your soil; plant drought-tolerant plants; don't be afraid to experiment and to edit.

Please send your nomination(s) to WPNA YOMC. P.O. Box 16183, Austin, Texas 78761, call 512-928-0681 and leave a message, or email wpna.yom@gmail.com.



WEB: http://www.Windsorpark.info NEWSGROUP:

https://groups.io/g/windsorparkatx FACEBOOK: WindsorParkAustinTx

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Become a Member! More members mean our voice makes more impact. Memberships range from \$5 to \$35. **Details on our website or use the form below**

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Make checks payable to WPNA and mail to:

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

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					
Name:					
Add'l Name :					
Address:					
Phone:					
F-mail:					

Referred by:

Attend a WPNA meeting online

- 1. Via facebook (https://www.facebook.com/WindsorParkAustinTX) where you can comment and ask questions.
- 2. Live stream from our website (http://www. windsorpark.info/) available during the meeting

Library Update

Windsor Park Library is now open 6 days a week!

- Monday-Thursday 9am-8pm
- Friday 9am-5pm
- Saturday 10am-5pm

Music & Movement Storytime - in-person/all ages, Mondays 9:30am All Ages Storytime - in-person/all ages, Fridays 10:30am

Lego Lab - Duplos and Legos available for challenges and free play! Inside Library Meeting Rooms. First Tuesday of the month @ 3:30pm

Youth Center Computer Lab - Ages 10-17, afterschool access to computers, homework help, and outdoor games. Monday-Thursday 3pm-5:30pm; Fridays 3pm-4:30pm

Piano Picnic @ the Library - Saturday, May 7 from 10am-2pm – see article for more details

BECOME A WPNA MEMBER

 $\frac{WWW.WINDSORPARK.INFO/}{MEMBERSHIP}$

Austin Police Department District Representative for Windsor Park

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