



WINDOW on WINDSOR

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BECOME A WPNA MEMBER - WWW.WINDSORPARK.INFO/MEMBERSHIP

**Next
Neighborhood
Association
Meeting**

**Saturday, May-
11th , 10am**

**Come join us at
the back of**

**Memorial
United**

**Methodist
Church**

**Membership
Drive on now -
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form on back
page or join
online

Got something for
the newsletter?
Get it in by the 15th
to newsletter@
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WPNA BY THE NUMBERS

by *Jeanette Swenson*

Sometimes numbers just have more impact. If you ever doubted that WPNA is an active advocate and involved in the community, the numbers don't lie. Here's a quick summary of some recent Windsor Park activities, committees and impacts. Look over the list – maybe you'll see something that sparks your interest where you can join and add your energy, enthusiasm and commitment to the future of Windsor Park and our community. We cannot wait to hear from you. Contact me to learn more about how to get involved Jeanette@windsorpark.info Thank you all for your tireless contributions to Windsor Park.

Parks in WP: 2

Pomerleau Park Development: \$992,897 +
Years to development: 10
Organizations involved: 6

April 13, 2024 General Meeting – focus Earth Month

Committees Involved: 7 (ExCom, Climate, Zero Waste, Yard of the Month / Plant Share;

Transportation, Enlivenment)

WPNA Unrestricted Funds: \$12,600

2024 Members: 243

New Members: 4

In-person member attendance: 37

Number of volunteers to act as secretary: 4

Arrived by Non-car / Alternative

Transportation: 16

HEB Gift Card drawing pool arrived by

alternative transportation: 2 (Emily

Frery and Alex Greenwald)

Styrofoam for Ridwell (2 bags)

Eclipse Glasses for Astronomers

Without Borders (12)

Gently used Running Shoes (2 pair)

Vegetable Starts: 78 plants; \$100

donation to Clifton School

Plants shared: 2 tables (Est. 175

plants)

Austin Creative Reuse papermaking

using recycled Wows: 9

WPNA Scholarships awarded to qualifying Windsor Park resident graduates of any high school, and/or qualifying graduates of Windsor Park's three AISD High Schools (NE, LBJ or McCallum):

2024 Scholarship Applicants: 14

Number of Years of Scholarships: 11

Number of Recipients: 98

Donations: \$102,000

Number of Donors: Windsor Park Residents 200+

Outreach / Advocacy:

Transportation Committee City Council testimony for bike routes in Windsor Park:

1

Inter Neighborhood Activity: 3

Safety Committee: 2

Support for adopted City Council Green

Resolution: 5+

Large Brush Pick up in May & June

Austin Resource Recovery will pick up Large Brush from residents in our Windsor Park neighborhood either the week of May 7th east of Berkman or the week of June 10th west of Berkman. Then they will pick up their regular bulky pick up items such as tires, furniture, etc. east of Berkman the week of May 27 or west of Berkman the week of July 8th. For more information on these semi-annual dates, check out <https://www.austintexas.gov/myschedule>

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May 2024 Mueller Update

Rick Krivoniak

You may have already heard... Chuy's Tex-Mex at 2027 Aldrich (across the corner from Kerby Lane Cafe) was scheduled to open on April 30th. Hours are 11am to 9pm Sunday through Thursday and until 10pm on Friday & Saturday. A weekday happy hour will be offered from 3 to 6pm.

A mid-April call to Michaels (craft store) at 1201 Barbara Jordan Blvd. #200 revealed staff is present! Occupying the former Bed Bath & Beyond space, they indicated the store is scheduled to open Friday, May 3rd. Hours are not yet posted, but other Austin area Michaels are open Mon-Sat from 9am - 9pm, and Sunday from 10am - 7pm.

Development of the Roger Lavon Taylor Sr. Plaza at the Mueller Tower's base along Berkman, named for the late president of the JJ Seabrook N.A. who advocated for keeping the Tower, is in a bit of limbo. We hope that will be resolved soon.

However, on the same block, Rivette Tower apartments are nearing completion, offering 345 units with a mix of studio, 1, 2 & 3 bedroom apartments, 52 of which will be affordable to those earning less than 60% of Austin's median family income. Move-ins are anticipated to begin in June. If you're interested in affordable housing at Mueller, contact HomeBase, the

nonprofit organization that helps administer the Affordable Homes Program, at info@homebasetexas.org.

The Robert Mueller Municipal Airport Plan Implementation Advisory Commission next meets on Tuesday, May 14th at 6pm, Austin Energy Building at 4815 Mueller Boulevard. Access the AE parking garage via Garcia Street. Commission agendas and other information is available at austintexas.gov/rmmapiac.

Longing for connection? Seeking community? Wanting a place to explore faith in God and ask hard questions? There is a gathering every week right here in the Windsor Park Neighborhood where you can find all these things and more! You are invited to come see for yourself. We are Austin Mennonite Church, located at 5801 Westminster Drive. We meet together for worship at 11AM. We also have Faith Formation classes at 9:30AM. Want to check us out online? Go to our website at austinnennonitechurch.com. (The site is being updated at this time, but it will give you an idea of what we are about.)


Wondering if you are *really* welcome here? You are! All are invited: We affirm that people of any racial or ethnic identity, sexual orientation, gender identity, ability, age, and economic status are welcome to full participation in our congregation. In all that we do, all that we are, we seek to serve Christ *simply, peacefully, together*.



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REAL ESTATE



Windsor Park March 2024 Market Report

 \$512,000 <small>MEDIAN SALES PRICE</small>	 \$363.48 <small>MEDIAN PRICE / SQFT</small>	 13 <small>DAYS</small> <small>MEDIAN CUMULATIVE DAYS ON MARKET</small>
 9 <small>NUMBER OF HOMES SOLD</small>	 \$922,000 <small>MOST EXPENSIVE HOME SOLD</small>	 \$330,000 <small>LEAST EXPENSIVE HOME SOLD</small>

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

Fed Interest Rates Holding Strong

At the beginning of the year, the Fed was expected to lower rates four or five times throughout the year. By the time you read this, they will have had their April/May meeting, but there isn't a cut expected then. They are now predicting two or three smaller cuts later in the year, which means prices will probably be mostly flat this year. The good news is more buyers are getting off the fence and entering the market. Most buyers I meet are saying they've finally accepted the current rates and they're okay with it.

Dont' forget to files those property tax protests! Especially if the county thinks your home went up, but even if your assessed value went down. You can do it yourself online or feel free to shoot me an email or text for recommendations of companies that can do it for you.

May 2024 Yard of the Month - 1904 Rogge Lane

Sara Jane Lee

The May winners are Stephanie and Jon Holmsten of 1904 Rogge Lane. They have lived there 20 years.

The native plants and flowers of the Hill Country inspired Stephanie and Jon to create a habitat that would attract butterflies and birds. Prickly Pear cacti, Indian Feather grasses, and Inland Seaots surround the front yard. Within are Cedar Sage, Texas Lantana, Firebush, Hibiscus, Gregg Mistflower, and Esperanza. When I looked at their yard in mid-April, Evening Primroses were abundant and Winecups were beginning to appear.



To save water, Jon and Stephanie have a 240-gallon rain barrel at the side of their house. Ecoitopes.com installed an underground irrigation system connected to the rain barrel. The Holmstens also mulch their beds which cuts down on their weeding.

They advise the novice gardener to see what plants are in attractive yards. Try those plants, or at least some of them. Try to make a welcoming space to share. Enjoy it.

The Holmstens will receive a \$50.00 gift certificate from Shoal Creek Nursery on Hancock Drive. It has great collections of plants, seeds, pots, and garden paraphernalia. While you are there, be sure to greet their cats and admire the waterfall. Please send us nominations for Yard of the Month - do not be shy. If you like a certain yard, or more than one, tell us. Feel free to nominate your own yard. 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



Meet Your Neighborhood Garden Coordinator - May 2024

Martin Luecke

Pat Hochstetler has been involved with the WP Community Garden almost two decades, and yet she is not a resident of Windsor Park. However, she is a member of the Mennonite Church on Westminster Drive next to our library.

Back at the turn of the century there was a parcel of land behind the church that was doing nothing. Several WP residents, including Mohan Rao and Elizabeth Kubala, approached the church with the idea of building a community garden.

It was an ambitious project that required a great deal of work, and in those early years there was the task of inventing this thing from scratch. The Windsor Park Community Garden was created in 2005, and eventually the members built four pods of nine beds each. The fee was \$40 annually, due January 31. Gardeners were required to complete one growing season (Spring, Fall and/or Winter).

According to Pat, “the garden had a long-range design of which portions have been implemented as the years passed. Fruit Trees were planted for peaches, pecans, persimmons, plums, figs, and loquats. Raspberries were planted along the baseball diamond backdrop. An herb spiral was added which included rosemary, chives, oregano and others. Additional features of the garden included compost bins, picnic benches and rainwater barrels. Gardeners had watering assignments to help the trees and other shared plants become established.”

“Around 2009, an award-winning artistic fence was designed by architectural students from UT. The sections consisted of a framed area in which gardeners, artists and children constructed designs by repurposing items gathered by the gardeners. The wood was donated by a neighbor replacing a wood deck.”

“The idea for a ‘free food’ garden at the back of the property developed into an approximately 25-foot square space with tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers as the first crops. The area was spiral shaped to capture more water and prevent run-off.”

“In 2015, a group of 12 students from the University of Pennsylvania spent their spring break in Austin and assisted the garden by establishing mulched paths to help avoid spreading sticker burr grass. The ‘free food’ community space was transformed into four long rows with fresh compost on top. A large crop of tomatoes, squash and melons were grown. That was the year of much rainfall which was great for the garden and peaches. The student’s work gave the garden another boost of freshness. Several new gardeners joined that year.”

Over time, “weather has become more extreme. Since 2019 the freezes have been bad enough to ruin the Loquat fruit production. In 2021 there was the devastating storm that ruined the winter crops. The summers seem to keep getting hotter with less rain.”

“The rainwater catchment system was expanded in 2019 to include eight 225-gallon IBCs (intermediate bulk containers). Four were placed near the church building and one was placed in each of the four garden pods. When the containers near the building are full, water is transferred to each of the garden pod IBCs. The three remaining 100-gallon rain barrels were moved closer to the free food garden.”

This summer Pat is moving out of state. **She is looking for a replacement, or a team of replacements.** She doesn’t want the garden to fall into disrepair. There are five gardeners using the space at this time, with room for twenty more.

This could be a sad story, if no one cared. But I am confident that one or two or twelve WP residents are going to answer the call to lead. As an old friend once said: you get ten times return on volunteer work. Here is a chance for you, dear reader, to do something bigger than yourself. **Contact Pat to learn more: pat.hochstetler@gmail.com**

Got a great neighbor? Send me story ideas: martin@windsorpark.info



Earl J. Pomerleau Park Official Opening

Jeanette Swenson, Chair, WPNA Parks Committee

Shelly Pomerleau spoke for three generations of Pomerleaus and the Windsor Park community at the April 10th ribbon cutting at the official opening of Pomerleau Park, “What a perfect day! And what a perfect park to be in together!”

She added, “It’s been a long, long time coming.” Earl J. Pomerleau brought his family to northeast Austin in the early 1970s where both in his work and in his family life, he “...was all about creating community and loved watching his children and their friends forming a neighborhood community.”

“Mr. Pomerleau’s work in Austin was creative and innovative as he worked with the Texas State Commission on Alcoholism to establish Alcoholics Anonymous chapters in Austin and across Texas where people could gather to help each other become their best selves. In addition to piloting a non-smoking meeting format (this was the 70s!), he introduced discussion-based meetings, which relied on a supportive community rather than outside experts. “There is no better way to memorialize my dad than with a neighborhood park where families can run and play together for decades to come.” (From Shelly Pomerleau’s remarks)

Flash forward to Malena Pomerleau-Petersen’s decision to purchase her home at 1906 Patton Lane and live there for twenty years. Little did she know that the plot would carry out and acknowledge her father’s commitment to community building. In 2013, Malena Pomerleau negotiated with Austin Parks and Recreation (PAR) to sell the 1.9 acre plot to the city of Austin for a park to commemorate community-oriented vision of Earl J. Pomerleau. The acquisition supported the City Council’s vision of a park within a quarter mile of every Austin resident. Both PAR and Malena were remarkably foresighted as most large tracts of land in Windsor Park have been purchased for housing developments.

Little action occurred until 2017. Windsor Park resident Cesar Benavides suggested that WPNA Parks Committee begin to advocate for the opening of the park. WPNA formally adopted Pomerleau Park in May 2017, then the Parks Committee met with Austin Parks Foundation Katie Robillard to search out options for funding the park. In the fall of 2017, the Parks Committee drafted a grant proposal to fund a grant to develop a master plan for Pomerleau. Austin Parks Foundation awarded a Master Plan Grant to WPNA. The design committee, which included Windsor Park residents, held community meetings, and input was used by Austin Parks Foundation for a Master Plan, which was approved by PAR in 2019.

Construction began in late 2022 with both phases of the plan funded by Austin Parks and Recreation, Austin Parks Foundation, and Parkland Dedication Fees. An additional grant from the Rao family funded the recently completed

pavilion. Pomerleau has been enjoyed by all ages since its soft opening in July 2023.

Through expanded community engagement and funding sources, Pomerleau Park demonstrates the power of community engagement, which begins with individuals and moves to the immediate and larger community.

Thank you to all who worked together to create and celebrate our new community space: Earl J. Pomerleau; Austin City Council, especially Districts 1 and 4 (Chito Vela); Malena Pomerleau-Petersen and three generations of the Pomerleau family; Windsor Park Neighborhood Association and community members; Austin Parks and Recreation; Austin Parks Foundation; Urban Forestry; Liana and Arjun Rao. It truly does take all of us working together to create welcoming public spaces.

Top Photo ID: l to r: Malena Pomerleau-Petersen, twin Hale (Michelle’s son) Kiki Corry, Michelle Pomerleau, Antonio Pomerleau, Shelly Pomerleau

Bottom Photo: Courtesy of Chito Vela. FRONT:L to R:Malena Pomerleau-Peterson, (Malena’s daughter) Afton Pomerleau, Kiki Pomerleau Corry, Shelly Pomerleau Back row: Jeanette Swenson, Cesar Benavides, Michelle Pomerleau, Chito Vela







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WINDSOR PARK

Market Statistics

LAST 90 DAYS

AVG SOLD PRICE/SQ FT (Over Last 90 Days)	\$363.31
# OF HOMES SOLD IN (Over Last 90 Days)	26
AVG SQ FT OF HOMES SOLD	1,723
AVG DAYS ON MKT OF SOLDS	50
# ACTIVE LISTINGS ON MARKET	32*

Trends to Note

Days on Market :: Down 24%
Active Listings :: Up 33%
Number of SOLDS :: Up 18%
Average Price Per Sq :: Up 7.7%

*As of April 11, 2024 - Single Family Homes.
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WP's Go-To Source For Market Statistics since 2010

Ten Garden Activities for May

Chris Winslow

1. Plant flowers: This is a perfect time for flowering annuals and perennials. Begonias, zinnias, marigolds, moss-roses, purslanes, and vinca are all good choices. Perennials might include lantanas, salvias, and verbenas.

2. Vegetable garden care: Remember to water deeply to encourage a deep, drought-tolerant root system. Still time to add a few warm season crops: sweet and hot peppers, green beans, okra, eggplant, and black-eyed peas. Fertilize tomatoes.

3. Mulch: Place around all plants to conserve water and keep the temperature around the plant roots comfortable. Mixing some compost with the mulch will help replace nutrients as the plants grow.

4. Care of roses: Dead-head spring flowering roses to encourage a new flush of flowers. Apply fertilizer to produce new flowers. Watch for powdery mildew, black spot and western flower thrip. Treat with organic sprays: Neem oil and wettable-sulphur.

5. Move houseplants outside: Put them out for a spring breather. Move them slowly towards their new light exposure. Too much sun too fast will burn the leaves. This is also a good time for trans-planting.

6. Insect control: All this new spring growth is attractive to every kind of critter imaginable. Be nice to the environment (and to yourself) and only use organic sprays. If you have larvae (caterpillars) eating holes in your plants and trees, look for products that have B.T. as the main ingredient. If sucking insects like aphids, spider mites, whitefly, scale, and mealy bug are the problem, use Neem oil or Spinosad.

7. Maintain irrigation: If you own an automatic sprinkler system, it would save water and money to have it tuned up. Set the controller for deep, infrequent watering to encourage a deep, drought-resistant root system. Install rain sensor.

8. Fertilize lawn: Use an organic blend with a 3-1-2 ratio. Ten pounds per 1,000 square feet of turf area should be adequate.

9. Feed the birds: With lots of new birds in the area, keep those feeders full.

10. Grow basil: The top herb for the summer months is basil. With the nights getting warmer, this wonderful herb should finally have the temperatures it needs to take off. Happy Gardening Everyone!

This article provided by the Austin Garden, a free newsletter published twice a month. To sign up, please visit austingarden.org.

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Especially when it comes to hiring contractors.

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 Windsor Park Neighborhood
 Association AND
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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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Address: _____

Phone(s): _____



Memorial United Methodist Church loves Windsor Park!
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 After School: 5 - 12 years
 - Sunday Worship at 11 AM
 6100 Berkman Drive
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**Windsor Park Library
 5833 Westminster Dr.**

Upcoming events:
[https://library.austintexas.gov/
 events?loc=184&date=](https://library.austintexas.gov/events?loc=184&date=)

Highlights:
 Tues, May 7th 3:30-6:30 Get Crafty: Mother's Day Card-making
 Weds, May 8st 10-2pm / May 29st 3-7pm Mini Make IT Lab: Bring us your Cricut and Sewing Projects!

Friday, May 10th @ 3pm All Ages: Chess Club!

Tuesday, May 14th @ 6:30 Windsor Park Book Club - Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus

Weds, May 15 @ 3pm Family Naturalist: Come learn about worms and bugs!

Saturday, May 18 @ 10am Mexican-American Cultural Center's Gentle Yoga, Ages 8+ and ArtSmart presents: Asian Dragons – puppets

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

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