



WINDOW on WINDSOR

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Sept 2020

**Next
Neighborhood
Association
Meeting**

**Saturday, Sept
12th**

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

**Sept Meeting
Focus:
BE WELL
EVERYONE
and SUPPORT
EACH OTHER!**

**Austin Water
Smart
Metering
&
WPNA
Nominations**

Got something for
the newsletter?
Get it in by the 15th
to [newsletter@
windsorpark.info](mailto:newsletter@windsorpark.info)

President's Letter – September 2020

By Dan Strub

Sometimes all it takes is someone to take notice. To put out a call. To make people aware. That is what one of our neighbors did a few weeks back, and it has resulted in positive changes.

Kevin Ludlow, who lives on Broadmoor, posted videos of the homeless camp that had grown along Little Tannehill Branch creek behind his house. Trash and human filth were piling up, and the people living there are in an area that has dangerous flooding with hard rains. The videos were uncomfortable to watch, and many took issue with them for showing the faces of the people living in the encampment and of some of the drug use that was taking place. There were several heated discussions on the neighborhood Facebook pages and the Windsor Park list serve, but while there was disagreement over the method of getting out the message, there has been near unanimity on the desire to help both the folks living in the encampment and those whose homes border the encampment.

While the site had been used as an encampment on and off for years, the number of people living there has grown over the last six months, and this change was unknown to most people not along that part of the creek. When the video was posted, it got picked up by the news media, and Councilmember Greg Casar's office and the City's Watershed Protection Department got involved. Watershed Protection engaged a non-profit contractor, The Other Ones Foundation (TOOF), to clean the creek area within a week after it was brought to their attention. TOOF hires folks who have been experiencing homelessness to perform clean-ups, and pays them \$15 an hour - work that can help them get off of the streets. The site has been added to their list for future monitoring and cleanups as needed. Meanwhile, Councilmember Casar's office worked to get mental health services to people living along the creek bed and managed to find housing for some of them.

Mr. Ludlow's work was not finished there. On August 15, he organized a cleanup further down the creek, behind the Speedy Stop. On short notice, a group of volunteers got together and collected 42 garbage bags of trash, which the Speedy Stop manager allowed them to deposit in his dumpster. This cleanup and the TOOF cleanup will result in much less trash washing downstream into Bartholomew Park.

Homelessness was also a topic of the August WPNA monthly meeting, where we had several folks from Texas Rio Grand Legal Aid speak on their experiences of homelessness and offer recommendations on how best to address our particular situation. One suggestion was to provide a dumpster and porta-potties for those living in the camp to use. Those could help in the short term, and will be part of the discussion as WPNA, the neighbors, and those living at the site move forward.

Not everything is resolved. People are still living in the camp, and it is not a safe environment. There have been reports of assaults between the people living there, and a heavy rain could flood the area with little notice. There is no silver bullet to solving homelessness. The most effective solutions like the Community First Village are overwhelmed by the amount of need and require long term planning, infrastructure, and funding commitments to make them work.

Mr. Ludlow started a discussion and took positive steps to help people in need and solve a neighborhood problem, and for that I think he deserves our thanks. Awareness is a first step and we have begun to take the next steps individually and together, but we cannot stop there. This is not an issue that is unique to Windsor Park, but it will likely get much worse as Covid-19 related evictions are allowed to begin. I have seen posts about others who have been evicted and are living on the street, and the response to provide some of the basics has been immediate with many neighbors volunteering to help. Perhaps the new City budget's emphasis on funding for those in greatest need will be able to provide some relief in form of more housing in the near future. [Continued on page 2]

[President's Letter, cont from page 1]

Just because someone is experiencing homelessness does not mean that they are not our neighbors. Smiling at them, saying hi when you see them, acknowledging their humanity can mean so much. What we do here matters.



In addition to speaking about homelessness at the August meeting, we also had a presentation on the 51st Street Mobility Project. Rick Krivoniak gives a great rundown on that project in his Mueller Update column.

In September, we will have Austin Water presenting on the Smart Meter project that they are kicking off, and will appoint a nominations committee to help us with the November elections. If you would like to help us find candidates to run for WPNA offices next year, email me at president@windsorpark.info. Join us for the monthly meeting on September 12 on the Windsor Park Neighborhood Association Facebook page or on our website WindsorPark.info.

WPNA Schools Committee Scholarship Spotlight on Mu Lwe Say

Alice Gaulty

This month the Schools Committee brings you an update from 2016 Windsor Park Scholarship Recipient, Mu Lwe Say. Mu Lwe is a graduate of Northeast HS (formerly, Reagan HS) where she was recognized for her involvement in a refugee support group there. Mu Lwe, herself, was born in a refugee camp in Thailand and moved to Austin when she was 16. She studied hard to get her English to college level, and it shows.

She has gone on to study in the Pharmacy program at Austin Community College where she received a Pharmacy Tech certificate and is working toward her associate's. She works while attending school, currently putting in 36 to 40 hours/week as a sales associate at Old Navy. Mu Lwe said that she's had a good college experience so far, but the pandemic has disrupted her learning and she's looking forward to the day it is over. While she took one course online this summer, she struggled with distance learning, and has decided to take the semester off. Of the Windsor Park Neighborhood Association scholarship, she added, "Thank you for reaching out to me and I'll [be] forever grateful."

If you have yet to donate to the scholarship fund, please consider making a difference in a student's education by visiting www.windsorpark.info/scholarship.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR IS ON VACATION THIS MONTH

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JULY 2020 Windsor Park Market Statistics

| | |
|--|----------|
| AVG SOLD PRICE/SQ FT (JULY 2020) | \$343.51 |
| # OF HOMES SOLD IN (JULY 2020) | 14 |
| AVG SQ FT OF HOMES SOLD | 1,362 |
| AVG DAYS ON MKT OF SOLDS | 4 |
| # ACTIVE LISTINGS ON MARKET | 6* |
| *As of August 14th, 2020 - Single Family Homes | |

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Climate Corner: The Plan to Save the Planet

Martin Luecke and Barrett Sundberg

Stop the presses! This just in: An actual way forward in solving our climate crisis has arrived, and not a moment too soon.

“Mobilizing for a zero carbon America: A Jobs and Employment Study” was published in July by MacArthur genius grant recipient engineer/physicist Saul Griffith, who asked two questions:

One: What is necessary for America to do its part in limiting global warming to between 1.5 and 2 degrees Celsius? And Two: What is physically possible, given the known capacity of the US economy?

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Griffith reached his conclusions by studying the biggest compilation of US energy data ever made, and then developed a physical plan to accomplish the goal, using known technologies, and calculated the costs. His conclusions:

1. America already has everything it needs to decarbonize 80% by 2035, and 100% by 2050.
2. It won't happen that fast by market means alone. We do need some government intervention.
3. It won't happen that fast by government alone. We need some market participation.
4. It can be done so that ordinary people make no sacrifices whatever!
5. The primary trigger would be a massive 3-5 year construction boom focused on kickstarting the electrification of the economy.
6. The government would only need to pay for a small fraction of this, the rest could be paid for by private means that save more money for the individual than they cost
7. No new technologies needed
8. The overall system would cost less than our current one
9. No one would need habit changes - everyone could have as many cars as now, houses as big as now, all electric
10. There would be a temporary increase of 25 million jobs and a permanent increase of 5 million jobs which cannot be out-sourced.

It's not clear that Griffith counted fossil fuel jobs that would be lost, but every other aspect seems logical. The step by step is laid out in reports on the new website “Rewiring America”, and is called the Rewiring America Plan. They're still working on the details of the financing side, but the underlying data and the physical implementation sequence are huge steps toward proving this is really feasible. (<https://www.rewiringamerica.org/jobs-report>)

The report also says that with the right regulatory environment “we can still predict significantly lower energy costs for consumers, with an average household saving of 1,000–2,000 dollars per year.” In the analysis summary Griffith suggests the maximum feasible transition involves two primary stages: (i) an aggressive WWII-style production ramp-up of 3–5 years, followed by (ii) an intensive deployment of decarbonized infrastructure and technology up to 2035. This includes supply-side generation technologies as well as demand-side technologies such as electric vehicles and building heat electrification.

The report closes by briefly pointing out that this is not the Green New Deal, even though GND had similar goals. Green New Deal was criticized for not really having a road map, a practical plan. Sunrise Movement director Varkini Prasash says: This IS the plan! Windsor Park is already on board.

Yard of the Month – September 2020

Sara Jane Lee

Japhia and Reid Mangan of 1414 Ridgemont Drive are the September winners. They have lived there 6 years.

They inherited a good landscape which they modified to suit their style. Their favorite part of the design is the succulents. They have Prickly Pear Cactus and Americana, Ferox, and Tequila Agaves. The remaining landscape is designed around these plants.

They have several varieties of Hybrid Lilies, Turk's Cap, Shrimp Plant, Plumbago, and Purple Heart – each is present in large banks, which heighten their impact in the yard. The yard also has three trees, one mature Arizona Ash, and two younger ones.

To control water the Mangans use a sprinkler controller with a moisture monitor; to control weeds they use landscape fabric. Even so weeding takes the most time. They advise buying good, local plants.

The Mangans will receive a \$50.00 gift certificate from Shoal Creek Nursery.

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 even if you do not think that it is perfect. People have won that way. Send your nomination(s) to WPNA YOMC. P.O. Box 16183, Austin, Texas 78761, call 512-928-0681, or email wpna.yom@gmail.com.

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September 2020 Mueller Update

Rick Krivoniak

A comprehensive update on the 51st Street Mobility Project was presented at the virtual August 14th Mueller Commission. Currently in the permitting stage, hopes are for construction to begin before the end of 2020. It will take roughly 18 months to complete, and though work on the Windsor Park side is anticipated be first, the contractor will be responsible for phasing. The north curb and right-of-way (r.o.w.) will remain the same, but the south curb and r.o.w. will move south to accommodate the improvements. Two vehicular traffic lanes in each direction remain, but protected bicycle lanes, wider sidewalks, some landscaped medians, and areas of parallel parking are all designed to calm traffic and make a safer, more pedestrian and bike friendly corridor.

Bus stops will be relocated to be near the signalized intersections for pedestrian safety. The project also includes small rain gardens and water quality enhancements that are integrated with the new landscaping. Trees closest to the curb a between Lancaster and Mueller Boulevard will be relocated just south of a new sidewalk along that block, recreating the double-row walkway that currently exists. At January's WPNA meeting, artist AKIRASH presented his metal chairs that are the Arts in Public Places project for the 51st improvements. He will coordinate with the contractor and Capital Metro for placement of his objects towards the end of construction.

H-E-B has finally opened Café Mueller's replacement, now called Main Street (street/eat) Food Hall. It includes Austin's second True Texas BBQ location, Roots Chicken Shak, Calle Taqueria, Yumai Japanese Grill, and The Meltery, a gourmet grilled cheese shop. The Bar at Mueller offers a full menu of cocktails, wines and draft beers, along with small plates and snacks.

The Aldrich Street Fair is going virtual this year with an online Aldrich's Got Talent event to find some of Austin's best talents. Prizes will be awarded to finalists on September 24th. Tune into Mueller's Facebook event page for more details.

While Mueller's parks are open, the park facilities remain closed following the City's protocol. The Robert Mueller Municipal Airport Plan Implementation Advisory Commission currently meets virtually, during City business hours. September's meeting date is TBD. For information on how to address commissioners via telephone, call 512-974-2499 or 912-974-2210 in advance, or visit the Board & Commissions section under Government at AustinTexas.gov. RMMAPIAC agendas, minutes, meeting recordings and other documents, are available at austintexas.gov/rmmapiac

Neighborhood Trash & Recycling tips

Gloria Neunaber

A big shout-out to our essential Austin Resource Recovery workers! The city has been picking up much more residential trash since Stay at Home Orders made remote learning and work much more prevalent.

The city is also offering clothing and housewares collections through an on-call service. City-wide Bulk pick-ups have been suspended, but you can call 311 to schedule a specific bulky item pickups..

One thing we can do to help is to pay attention to what can and can't go in recycling and compost. Please remember - No foam or plastic bags of any kind should be placed in the city's blue recycling carts. Doing so can break the equipment that separates items.

Details can be found at:

www.austintexas.gov/departments/austin-resource-recovery-0



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Blanton Elementary

Victoria O'Neal, Interim Principal, Annie Webb Blanton Elementary

Hello from Blanton! I am extremely proud to announce that I am the new Interim Principal. I grew up in Chicago, started my teaching career in New Orleans, and have been a part of AISD since 2006. I've also been a Blanton neighbor, residing in 78723 since 2008. I am very excited to join the team and family and look forward to working with everyone.

Some key facts:

- AISD Reopening Plan - shortlink: <https://rb.gy/8mjz2l>
- Blanton emails updates on a regular basis, so visit the parent cloud tile Student Registration and update your email address!
- The first day of school is now Sept. 8.
- The first four weeks, from Sept. 8 to Oct. 5, will be remote learning. After October 5th, families that wish to learn on campus will be phased in over the month of October.
- Remote learning will continue to be an option for all families throughout the year.
- Families will have a opportunities to switch the mode of learning if circumstances change.
- If you are a Blanton family and need help getting a district iPad or Chromebook, please visit the parent cloud "Technology Distribution" tile or call the office at 512 414 2026.
- Food service will continue at Blanton, though the hours will change to 10:30-12:30 starting August 17. Beginning September 4th, please bring your student ID number for food pick up.

Northeast Early College High School

Katherine Wallach, LMSW, Social Service Specialist

Hello Northeast Raider community!

We want to stay connected to you! We know things are changing quickly, and will post all of the most up to date information on our Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/NortheastECHS>) and Instagram (@northeastchsaustinisd) pages.

District information can be found here: <https://www.austinisd.org/covid19>

Our theme this year is **Raiders Rise Up**. Classes begin on September 8.

A note from AISD: "The calendar begins with four weeks of remote learning and an opportunity for on-campus instruction during the first four weeks for students who do not have access to reliable technology or internet connectivity. Pending approval from the TEA, there will be an additional four weeks that will serve as a period where students who selected on-campus instruction may return to on-campus learning in phased-in smaller groups. These plans are subject to change based on the guidance of local, state and federal health authorities and the TEA."

Students and families, please stay safe and stay in touch! Talk to your teachers, counselors, and the Family Resource Center to get the help you need.



Jef Hahl
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Windsor Park July 2020 Market Statistics


\$460,143
AVERAGE
SALES PRICE


\$434.51
AVERAGE
PRICE / SQFT


4
DAYS
AVERAGE DAYS
ON MARKET


14
NUMBER OF
HOMES SOLD


MOST
EXPENSIVE
HOME SOLD
\$650,000


\$349,500
LEAST EXPENSIVE
HOME SOLD

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

Austin's real estate market continues to hold strong during COVID-19. Sellers are still experiencing multiple offers and quick sales. Buyers are experiencing record low interest rates, some seeing UNDER 3% on 30 year conventional loans!

If you haven't looked into refinancing your current loan, my preferred lender would be happy to run some numbers for you. You can really come out ahead, especially if you have the equity to remove mortgage insurance.

Always happy to answer any questions, concerns, or fears you might have about your home, the state of the market, or real estate in general. (Or if you're just looking to be distracted, I'm happy to send you more photos of our puppy.)

Harris Elementary

Zoila Cardenas, Principal and Mrs. Tomlinson, Librarian and

We hope that you are as eager as we are to start the school year! School starts on September 8 and we realize that you may have questions about what that will look like. Austin ISD released the most comprehensive overview of our reopening plans at austinisd.org, and we encourage you to review the document that addresses specific areas. We are keeping up with new guidance as it is released and will be updating parents and students. The district takes into consideration local guidelines along with guidance from TEA and the CDC.

Harris has some upgraded facilities. The gym has a brand-new floor. The library has been re-carpeted and tiled, and has received some new modern library seating from the 2013 school bond. The school also has two new playgrounds areas.

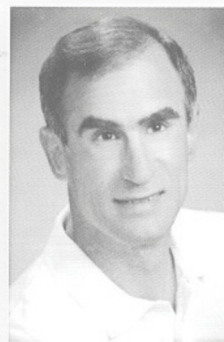
See below for school opening details in **Spanish** (see Harris Elementary website for **English**).

Espero que están de igual de orgullosos para el comienzo de la escuela como nosotros.

Las clases comienzan el 8 de septiembre y reconocemos que ustedes pueden tener preguntas sobre cómo serán las clases. El Austin ISD publicó y les recomendamos que revisen el documento que aborda áreas específicas y se encuentra en el sitio web austinisd.org.

Mientras tanto, aquí hay un resumen de la información básica que necesitan saber sobre el inicio de las clases:

- El primer día de clases es, ahora, el 8 de septiembre.
- Las primeras cuatro semanas, del 8 de septiembre al 5 de octubre, serán remotas. Si su hijo necesita acceso a la tecnología, comuníquese con nosotros al (512) 414-2085 lo antes posible.



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- Las próximas cuatro semanas serán un período de transición. Las familias elegirán si prefieren el aprendizaje presencial o virtual para este período y las familias que elijan el aprendizaje presencial participarán en un periodo de transición por fases. Continuaremos con las operaciones de los planteles y el distrito con base en las recomendaciones de las autoridades de salud. Es importante tener en cuenta que incluso los estudiantes que eligen la instrucción presencial pueden tener algunos días en los que tengan aprendizaje remoto durante este período.
- Las familias elegirán si prefieren instrucción presencial o remota dentro de las dos semanas de regreso a los planteles, el 5 de octubre, a través de un formulario que se enviará a su correo electrónico.
- Las familias del Austin ISD pueden elegir volver al aprendizaje remoto con base en su nivel de comodidad individual.

Siempre pueden comunicarse con nosotros al (512) 414-2085 si tienen alguna pregunta. Gracias por formar parte de la comunidad de Harris Elementary.

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Mission: to assist the community in solving neighborhood problems as well as facilitating open communication and partnerships

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Library Resources

The Austin Public Library continues to provide Curbside Service at some branches in our region: Windsor Park, University Hills, and Carver. You can place up to 7 holds using the APL website, or you can call your local branch and ask them to place holds for you. If your card has expired, you can renew it online. Books borrowed before the libraries closed can now be returned at the book drops. Check library.austintexas.gov for current information.

The Austin Public Library has resumed issuing NEW library cards to Austin residents. You can fill out an application online, or you can call 512-974-7400 for assistance. Once you have completed the application, you can pick up the card at any curbside location. You will need your ID and proof of address (if your ID doesn't have your current address on it). See the website for details, or call any of your local branches with questions.

Austin residents can obtain a free E-card on the APL website. You can access many online resources using your E-card.

The Library also has a COVID-19 resource page that includes general information, financial resources, a job portal that provides numerous resources for those needing employment, and more.

If you have any questions, you can call your local branch or the reference department at Central (512-974-7400). You can also email or "chat" with a librarian online by selecting "ask us" on the website.

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