



WINDOW on WINDSOR

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

Vol XXXVIII No.10
Oct 2019

**Next
Neighborhood
Association
Meeting**

**Saturday, Oct
12th at 10am.**

**at Memorial
United Methodist
Church**

**Oct Meeting
Focus:**

**WPNA Officer
Nominations**

**Dell Children's
Alert System**

**Other Speakers
to be
confirmed.**

**We will get
updates out
via our online
venues.**

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

President's Letter – Join in!

By Dan Strub

The Windsor Park Neighborhood Association does so much, but if we are to continue, we need your help. We need members and volunteers. Are you up for it?

What does WPNA do? Sure, this newsletter shows up on your doorstep every month, but that is really a very small part of all we do. We have monthly meetings, where we have elected officials, experts on recycling, plants, and animals, our school principals, our librarians and other special guests come talk with us. We debate climate change, development, school closures and city proposals, and send our thoughts on to neighborhood and city decision makers.

Our committees work on a wide range of things to improve the neighborhood. The social committee puts together the annual block party and is setting up happy hours at local establishments so we can meet and get to know each other in an informal setting. Our schools committee drives our annual scholarships for graduating seniors to attend college and has pushed drives to help provide school uniforms for kids in need. Our parks committee is transforming Pommerleau Park from an empty, overgrown lot into a park that the whole neighborhood can use and enjoy, as well as sponsoring work days and pushing for improvements to Bartholomew Park, including sunshades over the playscapes. The beautification committee was behind the newly installed neighborhood sign at 51st and Berkman (which you should really see lit up at night!), landscaped the island at Berkman and 290, and holds cleanups along our major thoroughfares. The revitalization committee is promoting Windsor Park to new businesses that we would like to have and supporting those that we already do have with an interactive web map. The climate change committee has put together a model resolution that is spreading across the City's neighborhoods, urging our elected officials to act on climate change now, when we can make the most difference. The transportation committee is working to promote non-automotive transportation and to address some of the traffic issues on our major streets.

We held Neighborhood-wide Garage sale on Sept 21st, and had National Night Out parties on October 1. We have a web site, two Facebook pages, and an email list serve to promote communication across the neighborhood. And this newsletter has been going strong for over 35 years – for it, we recruit sponsors, write articles, edit and layout, have it printed and hand delivered to about 3500 homes every month.

So why am I tooting our horn? Because to be able to continue to do all of these things, we need you. We need members to increase our voice in local decisions. We need volunteers to help run the committees, to assist with the events, to provide thoughts and energy at our meetings.

[Continued on page 2]



Become a Window on Windsor Newsletter sponsor and publicize your business to over 3500 homes in Windsor Park. Our community loves to support local businesses, and we appreciate businesses that give back to their community. Help us find you! Multiple options to meet your needs. Find out more at windsorpark.info/sponsor or email sponsorship@windsorpark.info.

[President's Letter, continued from page 1]

Fall brings our annual officer elections, and while all positions are elected annually, we are in special need this year for people to serve as secretary and treasurer, as Emily Vitris and Meg Brooks are stepping down after this year. Elections are at the November meeting, so there is still time to throw your hat in the ring. Just let our nominations committee know of your interest or nominate yourself at the meeting.

Finally, we need you to step up as members and to join the neighborhood association. This newsletter costs about \$1000 a month to print, and is our largest expense, but without more memberships and more sponsors our ability to continue printing it is in doubt. So if you are an existing member, please renew now. If you are not a member, please join now – memberships started now will be good through 2020.

Come forward and join in – we'd love to have you and your neighborhood will be stronger for your involvement!

Climate Corner : GreenChoice

Barrett Sundberg

The easiest climate action you can take at home in Windsor Park is to sign up for Austin Energy's GreenChoice program, which allows you to get 100% of your home's energy from renewable energy. This means that Austin Energy can purchase wind energy to power your home instead of electricity produced from natural gas or coal-fired power plants.

To sign up, visit <https://austinenrg.com/ae/green-power/greenchoice/greenchoice-renewable-energy> or just search for "Austin Energy Green Choice". The first page has a signup form where you enter your address and your Austin Energy account number (find that at coautilities.com if you need it. It's also at the top right of your paper bill). You can also sign up by telephoning Austin Energy at 512-494-9400.

The cost .75 cents (three quarters of a cent) per kwh, roughly \$7.50 per month on a typical electric bill. On my own most recent bill, one reflecting summer prices, the total was just \$5.70. For a tiny fraction of the overall utility bill, we can have huge impact.

Already, over 20,000 customers, including Windsor Park neighbors, have signed up. AustinEnergy customers' investment in wind power had the effect in 2018 of removing 74,000 cars from the road according to the EPA's Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies calculator. That's why new customers also can receive a window sticker showing that they purchase energy from GreenChoice. It's also a big reason why Austin was able to get 33% of its power from renewables in 2018, a number that keeps increasing. Each new GreenChoice subscriber moves the city closer to our goal of 67% renewable energy by 2027 and is a big step toward fighting climate change.

For more details, such as how GreenChoice is independently certified to be 100% renewable, visit the additional information on GreenChoice in the Climate Committee section of windsorpark.info!

Biking News

Please keep those questions coming for Ask A Cyclist!

Smart Trips - Walk to Rock My Park Day – stay tuned for events around It's My Park day Oct 25th

Smart Trips – Bike Packing Grocery Trip - Smart Trips would like to do a trip to the grocery store and teach people how to shop via bike. We will give everyone gift cards to shop with. We are thinking this ride could leave from Windsor Park library to HEB Mueller and back – targeting last weekend of October.

Stay tuned to SmartTrips Austin for updates <https://smartripsaustin.org/events/>

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Stay tuned to SmartTrips Austin for updates <https://smartripsaustin.org/events/>

Mueller Update

Rick Krivoniak

Construction will soon start on Mueller's eighth park, located one block off Tilley on Philomena Street. Scheduled to open late in 2020, landscape architecture firm RVI's plans call for a multipurpose open space, nature-inspired playscape area, game tables, an outdoor dining area with space for a few food trucks, a live performance space, bike racks, restrooms, a shaded strolling path and a large octopus art feature by Dixie Friend Gay, who created "Nessy" across from the Thinkery.

Breaking ground later this year at the corner of Aldrich & McBee (adjacent to the Thinkery) is the 5-story, 128-room boutique Origin Hotel Mueller. Designed by San Antonio's renown Lake Flato Architects, the hotel will have a restaurant & patio, and 5,000 square feet of retail at street level, made possible by the hotel's parking being provided at the McBee Street Garage.

East of the McBee Garage and crossing Robert Browning Street, AMLI will soon break ground on a 406-unit apartment project, twenty percent of which be affordable, or twice the number usually found in market-rate complexes. Rising up to seven stories, it will include two parking garages and a number of amenities.

The Robert Mueller Municipal Airport Plan Implementation Advisory Commission will next meet at 6:00PM on Tuesday, October 8, 2019 at the Britton, Durst, Howard & Spence Building (Chestnut Community Center), 1183 Chestnut Avenue. For RMMAPIAC agendas, minutes, meeting recordings and other documents, visit austintexas.gov/rmmapiac

Garden Guide: Plant a colorful tree for fall

William Glenn

Crisp autumn air is upon us, and it beckons us back from our air-conditioned sanctuaries to work in our gardens and yards once again. Of utmost importance is planting more deciduous native trees. Those trees are cleaning our air, cooling our pavement, and keeping Windsor Park one of the most beautiful places in Austin. Get ready for the tawny-golds and ruby-reds that dance in the wind. Think of which colors you'd like in your fall tapestry...the time to plant is now!

I'm listing a few lesser-known, brilliantly colorful native trees for you to consider:

1) Bigtooth Maple (*Acer grandidentatum*)- This rare and slow-growing native, and namesake of Lost Maples State Park, is a showstopper in fall with red, orange and yellow leaves. Although I usually recommend planting younger trees, the rate of growth on this one might influence you to go bigger. Sometimes hard to find, but a real gem!

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2) Chalk Maple (*Acer leucoderme*)- This smaller, understory Maple is a fabulous choice for yards with a mature canopy overhead, as it likes a more shaded position. Fiery oranges will illuminate your yard, and this tree will stay a manageable size.

3) Lacey Oak (*Quercus laceyi*)- This small oak is criminally-underused. Its petite size and blue-green foliage during the growing season are lovely and delicate, but it reveals a luminescent gold for fall. A great companion for #1.

4) American Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*)- This tree attains a large size, so only use it if you have plenty of space. A star-pattern leaf adorns this lovely lady in the growing season, and after the green-pigmented chlorophyll retreats to roots, a blood red canopy is left perched on sturdy branches. Unrivaled red!

5) Cedar Elm (*Ulmus crassifolia*)- Cedar Elm is one of the most resilient and robust trees I've ever known. Slow and steady, the Cedar Elm has a golden crown for weeks until the leaves let go in a swirling, shimmering cascade of gold that is pure fairy-magic.

Help the planet & your neighborhood! Plant a tree!

Harris Elementary - Daniela Garcia, School Counselor

Students at Harris are doing great things – and we would love to share that with you. If you have questions or are new to the area and may need to enroll your students, please call our front office for a tour or to answer any questions. October is filled with lots of exciting activities. Every Thursday is college shirt day; every Friday is Brighter Bites. Brighter Bites is a program for families to take home a bag of vegetables and fruit.

Blanton Elementary – Karon Smutzer

Students are looking forward to our PTA BooFest Oct26, noon - 4pm. Please feel free to visit the school, ask questions and learn more about what Blanton Elementary can offer your student.

[Schools, cont. on page 4]

Northeast Highschool (formerly Reagan) - Katherine Wallach, LMSW

We began the year under a new name and are moving forward as the Northeast Early College High School Raiders. Our exterior signs are complete, new and fresh! Additional interior branding is ongoing.

Our Principal Anabel Garza has retired. We thank her for her leadership and the work she has done to ensure our students met their highest potential. The district has posted the Principal position, and there will be a process to permanently fill the position. Alisia Longoria has been appointed Interim Principal this year and will work very hard, along with our entire staff to ensure our students are offered the very best education filled with diverse learning opportunities.

Mark your calendars for HopeFest on Oct 26th!

Yard of the Month – Oct 2019

Sara Jane Lee

The October winner is Jenny Robertson of 5700 Westminster Drive. She has lived there since 2017. Jenny has maintained the yard since Rain Lily, a local company, designed and installed the landscaping. Jenny and Michelle Flores, the Rain Lily project manager, wanted green and grey plants to complement the mid-century modern lines and the colors of the house. The house is grey brick with white trim. Jenny's favorite part of the front yard is the grey gravel square bed in the middle of the yard with a Desert Museum Palo Verde Tree surrounded by Trailing Lantana, a large rock, and two small Agaves.

Near the house there are more grey gravel beds with a Mountain Laurel, Rock Roses, a Prickly Pear Cactus, Blackfoot Daisies, a Knockout Rose, Pride of Barbados, Fountain Grass, Silver Ponyfoot, Lindheimer Senna, and Texas Sage. This sage is not a true salvia. Jenny inherited a mature tree that neither she nor her neighbors can identify; I think that it's a Chinese Tallow. Jenny had a contractor install a smart irrigation system that responds to rain. This allows her to water wisely. She advises the new gardener to notice the good Texas-tolerant plants that your neighbors plant. Be willing to ask for professional advice. She is profoundly grateful that Rain Lily designed a landscape that does not take much time and that she can manage with her toddler and her dogs.

Jenny will receive \$50.00 gift certificate from Shoal Creek Nursery. Please patronize them, and tell them that you appreciate their sponsorship.

We love nominations - 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, or email wpna.yom@gmail.com



MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR - CLAIRE HODGIN

Martin Luecke

Our neighbor on Wheless since 2010, Claire is very happy to have a 23 zip code. Career school teachers can't afford this zip code these days, I am sad to report. Claire started teaching back before the testing age, and has a love for science and astronomy. She spent 18 years teaching every level of student from pre-K to grad school, including high school chemistry, physics, astronomy, and environmental systems. Claire is your classic science teacher geek.

Now, Claire is the Elementary Science Coordinator for Manor ISD. She works with teachers on curriculum, assessments, professional development and lots of special projects. She also writes grants for the school district to receive funding for special projects, which comes from places like Applied Materials and Samsung. The latest grant project is for a dual credit high school astronomy lab class where each student builds a 6-inch Dobsonian telescope which they get to keep. "It's always a matter of 'let's find the money'", reports Claire. Then, Claire pulls out 6" Dobsonian telescope which she built with the scientist who designed it. "Astronomy is my favorite subject" she admits.



This past summer Claire organized the Manor STEM Camps for 200 students from 2nd to 9th grades paid for by grants written by Claire. Camps included robotics, 3-D printing, maker space projects, field trips and of course Bubble Fest! Thanks to the D.O.D. for some of the funding.

At the end of the summer Claire ran the Manor Back to School Conference over 5 days with 250 sessions and 2 keynote speaker – 800 people attended. Think of it as "SXSM Manor". Keynote speaker Bill Dagette talked about his book on 'social emotional relationships' one finds in the school setting. The other keynote shared brain based instructional strategies which included movement and music, collaborative dialogue, and

using stories to retain information.

As an example, Claire launches into the tale of Tycho Brahe, a wealthy and flamboyant party animal from 16th century Denmark who was obsessed with the astronomy of the planets and particularly Mars. Tycho had the means to hire scientists to build him the best telescopes of the time. Johannes Kepler was a poor mathematician living in the same town and approached Tycho many times to get access to his astronomical data, but Tycho would only give small clues. When Tycho was on his death bed from an infection, Kepler stole all the documents and observations and left town. Later he would develop 'Kepler's Laws of Planetary Motion' from this data, which became crucial for Newton to develop his famous Law of Gravitation. What a story!

After telling the story, Claire changes the subject and points to her "rattlesnake limestone" patio, which she believes was installed by the previous owner, a rock hound. It's limestone with lots of fossils. "There are amazing rocks buried in the yard" she smiles. How appropriate, I think. Claire is the one person who would really appreciate the science. Claire then talks about how this area was a shallow ocean 100 million years ago during the Cretaceous period and this place is full of fossils.

In the future Claire will be working on informal science experiences for Austin residents. "We need a planetarium" she muses. Perhaps we could write a grant and put it in Mueller where there is still some land available? Now I'm asking for the moon! Let me know if you find any fossils in your yard - mwluecke@hotmail.com 512.536.0465



Windsor Park Book Club

Barbara Haefeli

It has been wonderful to see new people show up for the Windsor Park Book Club! If you haven't had a chance to come yet, please consider it. We meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 7 – 8:30 p.m. in the Windsor Park Library Meeting Room.

The next Windsor Park Book Club meeting is Tuesday, October 8th. The book for October is Moll Flanders by Daniel Defoe, the author of Robinson Crusoe. First published in 1722, it purports to be the true account of the life of the eponymous Moll, detailing her exploits from birth until old age.

Coming up are Orlando by Virginia Woolf and Born to Run by Bruce Springsteen. That gives you an idea of the books we will be reading. Hopefully, one of them will appeal to you and you will come and join us.

Each year at about this time we arrive at the list of books to read for the next year. If you have books you'd like to nominate for 2020, now's the time! We read a mix of books each year, ranging from classics to new books. We try to read books that can be found in the Austin Public Library system. Bring your ideas to the October meeting. We hope to see you soon!

Cockroaches

Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist

The common cockroaches found outside include the American and Smokybrown cockroaches. American cockroaches are about 1 ½ - 2 inches long, reddish-brown with yellow markings above the head. The adults have well-developed wings, but seldom fly; they do often glide. They are usually found outside near decayed trees and plants, in crawl spaces and sewers. Smokybrowns are about 1 inch long and dark brown to black, and adults have fully developed wings and are capable of flight. This species often inhabits leaf litter, compost piles and ground cover.

If you find cockroaches in your compost pile, in leaf litter or other outdoor locations, it isn't really necessary to kill them. You may want to make sure that your house is excluded to avoid having the outdoor cockroaches move indoors when the temperatures cool down.

The following tips may help:

- Prune back any vegetation touching or overhanging the home
- If you have a brick or stone façade, stuff weep holes with copper mesh
- Make sure screens are in good repair
- Replace weather stripping where doorways do not have a good seal
- Repair any water leaks
- Clean debris from gutters
- Place stainless steel screening over vent access in the attic
- Use sealant around pipe penetrations or other cracks or crevices into the home
-

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown at 512.854.9600. Blog www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com



SAIL

Seniors Active in Life

Come join us for 2 hours each Thursday at Hope Lutheran (6414 North Hampton Drive) for stimulating conversation and fun activities. Each Thursday has a different theme: October Themes: World Smile Day – Football- Oktoberfest – Pumpkin Patch Day When: 9:30 Devotional; SAIL 10 - noon Come to the building with a Lighthouse painted on the front.

For more info, please call 512-926-8574

DRINK WITH US!

Join the WPNA Social Committee and your fellow neighbors to meet and mingle during our quarterly happy hour!

**DRINKS AND FUN
FROM 5:30-7:30PM!**

Nov. 8th @ Hank's
Jan. 31st @ Cenote WP
May 8th @ Knomad Bar

See FB events for more info.



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With our Thanks!

The Neighborhood Association and newsletter rely on the participation of our neighbors and the support of our sponsors

Our neighbor members - your participation makes our voice stronger and increases WPNA's positive impact!

Our sponsors of the Window on Windsor- this newsletter is not possible without your support and we encourage all neighbors to visit sponsors and see what these great business and community resources offer. Tell them you saw their sponsorship here!

See our New Friends of Window On Windsor list for those individuals and business that support this publication.

Our Newsletter Printer: G&F Printing

Our Monthly Meeting Location Host: Memorial United Methodist Church

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August 2019 Windsor Park Market Statistics

AVG SOLD PRICE/SQ FT (Aug 2019)	\$270.87
# OF HOMES SOLD IN (Aug 2019)	14
AVG SQ FT OF HOMES SOLD	1,453
AVG DAYS ON MKT OF SOLDS	12
# ACTIVE LISTINGS ON MARKET *As of Sept 12th, 2019 - Single Family Homes	19*

Request a Detailed Report for Your Section of Windsor Park

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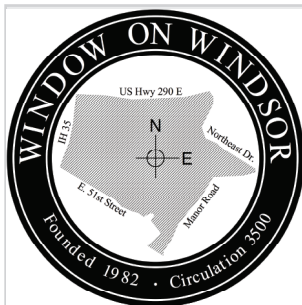
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Become a Member! More members mean our voice makes more impact. Memberships range from \$5 to \$35. **Details on our website or use the form below**

Become a Newsletter Sponsor! Sponsors get their message out to over 3500 recipients, and support the newsletter. Sponsorships available for various sizes and durations, starting at \$50. Graphics and payments required by the 15th to sponsorship@windsorpark.info

Make checks payable to WPNA and mail to:

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

WPNA is a 501(c)(3) organization, your dues and any other donations are tax deductible.

- ☐ Student/fixed income — \$5/person
☐ Standard / Individual — \$15/person
☐ Family — \$20
☐ Sustaining — \$35 or more
☐ Non-voting donations - gladly accepted

Name: _____

Add'l Name : _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Referred by: _____

Thanks to Friends of WOW:

- Dan Strub

Library Happenings

Windsor Park

- Thursday, Oct 3rd 10:30am Puppet Show "Mr. Tamarin's Trees"
- Saturday, Oct 5th 2:00pm Movie Matinee "Pokemon Detective Pikachu"
- Monday, Oct 7th 6:00pm Adult Graphic Novel Book Club "Hawkeye"
- Tuesday, Oct 8th 7:00pm Windsor Park Book Club "Moll Flanders"
- Thursday, Oct 10th 6:00pm Board With Books (Come play board games!)

University Hills

- Lotería at the Library, Saturday, Oct. 5, 1:00-3:00pm
- Resume and Job Searching Lab, Monday, Oct. 7, 11:00am-1:30pm
- Audiobook Club, Educated by Tara Westover, Wednesday, Oct. 16, 7:00-8:00pm
- Library Commission Meeting, Monday, Oct. 28, 6:30-8:00pm
- Dia de los Muertos: Art Smart 2019, Wednesday, Oct. 30, 11:00am

St. John Branch

- Mondays: Crafternoon for the whole family, 3:30-4:30pm; Yoga Classes, 6:30-7:30pm.
- Wednesdays: Intro to Computers/Computadoras para principiantes, 2:00-3:00pm.
- Thursdays: iPad Basics for Seniors, Taught by Austin Free-net, 10:00-11:00am; Chess Club, 4:00-5:00pm; Bilingual Computer Basics, Taught by Austin Free-net, 6:00-7:30pm.
- Saturdays: Talk Time: Hablemos Inglés, 11:30am.
- Let's Make Zines Workshop, Saturday, October 5, 1:30-3:00pm
- You are a Poet/Eres Poeta, Oct. 16 and 23, 5:00-6:30pm