



WINDOW on WINDSOR

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Nov 2019

Next Neighborhood Association Meeting

**Saturday, Nov
9th at 10am.**

**at Memorial
United Methodist
Church**

Nov Meeting Focus:

**Council
Members
Natasha Harper-
Madison &
Greg Casar**

**Two (2)
Resolutions**

**Officer
Elections**

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

President's Letter

Dan Strub

As the holidays come screaming at us, we have a full plate of goodies at the WPNA this month too. Natasha Harper-Madison, our Councilmember from District 1, will come to talk with us. We do not have a fixed topic that we have invited her to speak on, so she may speak on homelessness, the latest proposed version of the development code, or how glad she is to see our shining faces. She will also be taking questions, so come ask about your burning City issues.

We will also have two resolutions to discuss. The first will be on the AISD school closure proposals, about which there is more in this newsletter. We will also be discussing our position on the changes to the Mueller PUD that Catellus presented to us at our October meeting. On both, we will issue letters stating our neighborhood's position. Come add your voice to our deliberations.

Oh yes, we will also be having officer elections and adopting the 2020 budget. If you want to serve the neighborhood, or want to draft someone else to do so, this is your chance. All positions are always open to nominations.

Current Nominations:

- Dan Strub – President
- Jackie Brooks – Vice-President
- Charlene Ansley – Secretary
- Barrett Sundberg -- Treasurer
- Josh Pitts – Intra-Neighborhood Organization Delegate

EAST 2019

The East Austin Studio Tour (E.A.S.T.) is once again upon us: Local artists across East Austin will open their studios to the public on the weekends of November 16-17 and 23-24, from 12 pm to 6 pm. 78723 has a good representation of artists. The following are just a sample of what our neighborhood has to offer:

- University Hills Library- Carl Smith 4721 Loyola Ln Acrylic on canvas
- Windsor Park Library- Daniel Rivera 5833 Westminster Dr Wood, cardboard, mixed media
- Scott Rolfe 1305 Glencrest Dr Assemblage
- Greta Olivas 1305 Glencrest Dr Acrylic, collage
- The Parish House 1618 Ashberry Dr Various Artists
- PANGOLIN 1417 Ridgehaven Dr Various Artists
- Thomas Allison 1600 Westmoor Dr Digital fine art prints
- A.N.W. McDougle 1605 Cloverleaf Dr Graphite, charcoal, watercolor, gouache
- Shawn Camp 1605 Larkwood Dr Oil, acrylic, sound/video media
- Cement Loop 5811 Berkman Dr, #140 Various Artists
- Chaos Woods 5335 Westminster Dr Wooden Curiosities
- Katy David 2204 Palo Pinto Dr Modern Pysanky/Batik Eggshells

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.



Yard of the Month

Sara Jane Lee

The November winners are Tommy and Erika Newton of 1421 Hillcrest Drive. They have lived there for 5 years. Tommy grew up in East Texas, but he is trying to adjust to the drier climate in Central Texas. The result is a St Augustine lawn with many Agave and Yucca plants. He especially likes the tall yucca plants. They also have Purple Heart and Sago Palms. These plants are in white rock beds near the house and in a corner of the property.

Their favorite part of the lawn is the contrast between the green St. Augustine and the more xeric plants in their white beds. By the way, the word for a landscape adapted to a dry climate is xeriscape, not zero scape. Xeric is the adjective for such a landscape or the plants in it. Tommy and Erika also like the sidewalk leading to the house. It is made of concrete blocks resting in a bed of dark grey rocks. To water economically, they have an irrigation system, and highly recommend such a system.

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

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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WPNA School Committee – School Closure Resolution

The Windsor Park Neighborhood Association School Committee has been attending AISD meetings and discussing our priorities regarding reinvention and school closures. The AISD Board of Trustees is scheduled to vote on their proposed scenarios on November 18th. We are proposing the following recommendations to be voted on at our Windsor Park November 9th meeting in order to inform the trustees and superintendent our thoughts.

We acknowledge the importance of community in preparing students to be independent, lifelong learners, with schools being central to that effort. Our schools are crucial to community building that supports preparation of all students to be independent learners and participants in the larger community. Proposed school closures, while some may be necessary, negatively affect community building and do not always result in cost savings.

If the district is going to insist on concentrating need, we must insist on concentrating resources. The focus on modernizing schools by the District assumes that modernization and new programming are the most crucial components of student success, contrary to what educators, parents, and students themselves are saying.

Our recommendations include:

- Slow down the review process and delay the November vote.
- Expand the scope of the closure process to include boundary changes and avoid the good school/bad school designation. Start with the radical idea that all schools contribute to strong schools throughout AISD.
- Expand the closure review process to re-assess the vertical alignment to avoid fragmentation of those communities without strong, clear teams.
- Prioritize strategic staffing initiatives that recruit, support, empower, and value teachers, give additional resources, and reduce staff turnover to incentivize their work in schools with large numbers of low-income and high mobility students.
- We recognize the fact that conversations about consolidating and modernizing some schools started before this summer and may have to go forward. We ask for reconsideration of Pecan Springs closure which will fragment a vibrant community and Bertha Sadler Means YLWA which has had no long-range assessment during their promised time.
- Avoid opt-in options for East Austin that attract a small number of students and make it difficult to achieve community and continuity as our students matriculate through our AISD schools.
- Demand radical transparency across the board, and especially when it comes to how the 2017 bond dollars will

be allocated once schools close.

- Include special education in every discussion of equity.
- Fidelity audit on Dual Language programs , especially to ensure they are serving ESL students in the best way possible.

Community forums are complete, but you can still reach out to all the AISD Board of Trustees trustees@austinisd.org. Our Windsor Park reps at AISD are specifically: LaTisha Anderson – district1trustee@outlook.com, Cindy Anderson (at large) – cindyandersonford8@gmail.com & Arati Singh (at large) – aratisingh2@gmail.com



Parks Update

Jeanette Swenson

Pomerleau Park: Jordan Shade says WPNA will hear in late October about the grant that Austin Parks Foundation submitted to St. David's Foundation. St. David's is committed to wellness efforts in the community, so the grant, if successful, will fund the trail in Pomerleau as laid out in the Master Plan.

Bartholomew Park: WPNA does not have a project for It's My Park Day on November 2. However, Disc Golf often has a project and the WP Beautification Committee may be organizing a landscaping project around the awesome new sign. The splashpad to pool trail over the bridge has been completed on the south side of the creek. The north side of the creek is currently under construction, so much of play area and shelters remain inaccessible. The trail, disappointingly, ends at the east end of the basketball court, so you are on your own crossing parking lots and there is not a trail to a designated crosswalk at Berkman.

Eastlink is working with Austin Parks Foundation to develop a culturally rich hike and bike path to the south side of Bartholomew. Nadia Khan and I attended the first meeting in June, and voiced our concerns that the trail did not safely cross 51st Street into Windsor Park.

In Sept, Austin Parks Foundation hosted a second roundtable discussion about possibilities for historic and cultural sites that should be included.

[cont. on page 4]

Meet Your Neighbor - Lisa Chavarria

Martin Luecke

Lisa, husband Chuck Stephens, and son John have lived on Northridge since 2004. John is in third grade at Blanton and Chuck is the manager of Witchbrew in Mueller. It's Monarch migration time right now and their yard is a Monarch butterfly waystation. This past spring, they hatched and released 60 Monarchs. That is one way they are helping the environment. The other way is through Lisa's work at a local law firm which specializes in utility scale renewable energy projects.

Renewable energy is a hot topic right now in the investment



world. The global hedge fund

industry is scouring the countryside for projects to build. A recent project Lisa is working on in California just raised \$1.8 billion, .6 billion more than they needed. "It's proof that people want to build renewables" Lisa observes. "Maybe they could build one when Fayette Coal Plant is shut down" I suggest.



In classic irony, Lisa's first job out of UT law school was doing property law and PUC regulatory work for the oil and gas industry. In 2003 she landed the opportunity to work on the very first wind energy leases in Texas. Lisa saw her future and left oil and gas. These days Texas is the leading wind producing state of the US, thanks in part to the work of Lisa. "I'm surprised Texas politicians never take credit for being number one. Why don't they ever talk about it?" Lisa exclaims, knowing quite well that Texas is still run by oil and gas.

If you have recently driven through the wind turbine fields near Sweetwater then you understand how big this industry has become. And Lisa points out a very important component of these

projects: they are built out in the middle of nowhere and generate a great deal of tax dollars for neighboring small towns and school districts that have nothing. Lisa says "Texas should be very proud of the wind program we built. It supports the local economy." Which is a great reason for building more of these projects. But Lisa points out that building the 'renewable energy grid' is "politically complicated".

Lisa says "we need energy storage on site of the renewable projects. We know how to solve that problem, we just need the courage to build a utility scale compressed air system, which has not yet been tried. No one wants to go first." The energy storage industry doubled in 2018 and will double again in 2019. Lisa's firm has helped clients build 14 gigawatts of renewable energy projects so far, with lots of work on the way. "It's exciting" she smiles. It's almost as cool as hatching Monarch butterflies.

Please send story suggestions to mwluecke@hotmail.com or call 512.536.0465

[PARKS, continued from page 3]

Eastlink would like to do oral interviews with long-time Windsor Park residents. **What do you value, want to preserve, visit in Windsor Park?**

WPNA Committees are looking for partners and participation in the planning of a trail from Tilley Street bike trail through Bartholomew. Goal: to provide safe commuter and family access from the north end of Windsor Park to parts south. **Let us know if you know of possible partners!**

ARMSTRONG COMMUNITY Music School

November Early Childhood Classes at ACMS East, Studio A are FREE and open to the public!

Ages 6 weeks-5 years
Also offering Group Ukulele for ages 7 years-adult

Register Today!
512.474.2331
www.ACMSAustin.org

November 2019 Mueller Update

Rick Krivoniak

Please put Tuesday, December 3rd on your calendars for the Mueller NOEL lighting event.

PARKING AT MUELLER: In mid-October, the City Council raised the cost for all on-street parking at metered/pay-station regulated spaces from \$1/hour to \$2/hour - with a 3-hour maximum, effective Monday & Tuesday - 8 AM to 6 PM, Wednesday through Friday - 8 AM to midnight, and Saturday - 11 AM to midnight. Sundays are free.

It was noted at WPNA's October meeting that there few on-street handicapped-accessible parking spaces at Mueller. The City may require that more be added as new development occurs, however, a disabled placard or disabled-veteran license plate allows the holder to park for free in any metered space with no time limit. The Thinkery and most Aldrich Street retailers offer up three-hour validation in the McBee Street District Garage, located behind the Alamo Cinema. However, Kerbey Lane and Rebel Cheese, located in the Texas Mutual Insurance building, only provide validation in the TMI garage, accessed from Garcia Street. A few handicapped parking spaces are available in each of those garages, subject to the same validation rules as other parking. The current rates in these two garages are \$1/

hour beyond the validation period, or without validation, with a \$10/day maximum.

Patrons of L'Oca d'Oro, Lady Quacks and WhichCraft Tap Room, located on Simond Avenue in the AMLI at Mueller complex, may park in the un-gated area of the AMLI garage, accessed from McBee Street. Interestingly, motorcycles are not allowed in the garages, but may park for free on the street. Also, remember to keep an eye out for signs designating Residential Permit Parking spaces, which require a resident or guest hanger at certain times. Detailed information about parking in the Aldrich Street District is available at www.aldrichstreet.com/parking/

Catellus has updated information on the PUD (Planned Unit Development) amendment they are seeking for Mueller. It will allow up to 1340 more residential units, with the potential for 335 more affordable units, and up to an additional 550,000 square feet of institutional/commercial space. It is highly unlikely that both of those limits will be reached, but the amendment will allow flexibility to meet market demands. The amendment is scheduled for presentation at the Planning Commission on October 22nd, and WPNA plans a vote on whether to support the PUD amendment at its November 9th meeting before it goes to the City Council on December 5th.

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Every house in Windsor Park has a story. I have lived and invested in Windsor Park for nearly 10 years. I love being an active member of the neighborhood and that makes all the difference. Whether you are buying or selling I will help you with unparalleled experience that goes beyond the transaction.

Karen Pagani, Ph.D, CNE

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Climate Corner

Martin Luecke

The latest issue of The Economist is a first for the conservative magazine: focusing the entire issue on the question of climate. Time magazine gave climate the cover story. The New York Times put it on the front page. And CNN made climate change their longest town hall meeting ever. In steady succession we are witnessing in real time our mass media waking up to the Climate Crisis. This makes Windsor Park's Climate Change Resolution even more important. That is why our committee is reaching out to our neighboring associations, including Mueller, Hyde Park, Wooten Park, Pecan Springs, Cherrywood, University Hills, North Loop, Eastwoods, JJ Seabrook, St. John's, and many more.

At each of these meetings we take five minutes to explain our Resolution, how we made it, and our plan to deliver it to every elected official who represents Windsor Park. This idea is met with applause and enthusiastic participation. Climate Crisis Committees are starting up all around us.



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

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In the past month our committee has delivered WPNA's Climate Change Resolution to the offices of US Congressman Roger Williams and State Senator Kirk Watson, where we received warm welcomes. We were told that Congressman Williams has changed his approach to climate change from disbelief to "listening". This is a big step. Watson's Director of Legislation said our timing was fortuitous: The Lieutenant Governor was asking for new legislative ideas for the next session and they were looking at our climate change legislation ideas. It is clear to me the tide has turned politically towards talking about climate change policy for real. The Congressman admits to concern about climate change, and the Senator's Chief Policy Person was open to our ideas. In both meetings it felt like we had pushed a button on the elephant in the room. The Climate Crisis is real and no one wants to be caught on the wrong side of history, so all the publications and media makers and politicians are jumping onto the bandwagon. Even stalwart anti-climate-change Texas Senator John Cornyn is now pitching his own bill aimed at making natural gas the go-to answer for climate change problems.

I will point out that these same people have known about the threat since 1988, when NASA's director of Climate Science James Hansen reported to Congress of the impending danger. Thus began the world's climate policy conversation and led to the first international agreement at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, which was ratified by President Bush I.

We have posted the WPNA Resolution on our website: <http://www.windsorpark.info/climate-crisis-committee/>, along with all of our data, to-do lists, legislation ideas, and newsletter articles. Our neighbors are

using WPNA's website to put together their own resolutions. Our next objective is to get on the Austin Neighborhood Council agenda and pitch the Resolution to 80 neighborhoods. The problem is: WPNA renounced its membership in the ANC last year and we no longer have a seat in the room. But not to worry, we are making fast friends with multiple members of the ANC. It appears from all our meetings that everyone gets it now, and it's time to take action. Contact me at mwluecke@hotmail.com

Pancake Breakfast raises \$1000 for the Scholarship Fund

Thank you to everyone who came out for the Pancakes for Scholarships Breakfast at the Austin Mennonite Church on Saturday, October 5. It was a beautiful, sunny morning. We made 150 pancakes, served about 75 people and accepted donations for the Windsor Park Neighborhood Scholarship Fund. In keeping with the WPNA emphasis on care of the environment, this year we did not use any paper or plastic products except for cold drink cups which were compostable. Folks from the neighborhood came by and visited over pancakes and coffee. Sgt. Nixon and Deputy Hatch from the Constable's Office came by and helped us out as well. People were generous and we raised \$1000 dollars! We are looking forward to the 6th Annual Pancakes for Scholarships Breakfast in 2020 on the first Saturday of October.

turner

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Harris Elementary

Harris Elementary currently has 536 students enrolled this year. Our school is dual-language (English and Spanish) campus that welcomes children from ages 3 through 5th grade. We have students who have lived here all their lives as well as those who are new to the United States from Honduras, Guatemala, Mexico, Dominican Republic, and other nations. Our teachers are committed to creating a learning environment that empowers excellence from everyone. On November 19, author Chad Sell will visit Harris Elementary. If we sell 25 books, then we do not have to pay for the author, who is sponsored by Book People. Neighbors, you might want to buy one of the books for your family or buy one for a Harris student!

Blanton Elementary

The October PTA BooFest was a huge success and enjoyed by students, parents, and staff. Please see below for upcoming activities and feel free to visit the school, ask questions and learn more about what Blanton Elementary can offer your student.

5 and 19th: Dual Language Tour, 9:00 a.m. 9th: School Beautification, 8:00 a.m.-noon
14th: Literacy Night, 4:30 p.m. 16th: East Austin Studio Tour @ Blanton, 12:00-6:00 p.m.
22nd: Coffee with the Principal, 8:30 a.m. 25th: Thanksgiving Break; classes resume Dec 2nd

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SEPT 2019 Windsor Park Market Statistics

AVG SOLD PRICE/SQ FT (Sept 2019)	\$278.82
# OF HOMES SOLD IN (Sept 2019)	13
AVG SQ FT OF HOMES SOLD	1,544
AVG DAYS ON MKT OF SOLDS	12
# ACTIVE LISTINGS ON MARKET *As of Oct 14th, 2019 - Single Family Homes	14*

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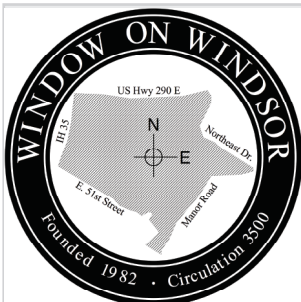
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Become a Member! More members mean our voice makes more impact. Memberships range from \$5 to \$35. **Details on our website or use the form below**

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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

- Sat, 11/2 - 2pm Saturday Movie Matinee “Mary Poppins Returns”
- Mon, 11/5 - 6pm Adult Graphic Novel Book Club “Moon Face”
- Tues. 11/12 - 8pm Book Club - “Orlando”
- Thurs, 11/14 - 6pm Board With Books (Board games!)
- Mon, 11/18 - 6pm Craft Night (Crafting adventure!)

University Hills

- Resume and Job Search Lab 11/4, 11:00am
- Know Your District History: District 1, 11/9. Austin History Center Pop Up Museum.
- Audiobook Club: “There, There” by Tommy Orange, 11/20, 7:00pm
- Resume and Job Search Lab, 12/2, 11:00am

St. John Branch

- Talk Time, Hablemos Inglés: Saturdays, 11:30am
- Yoga: Monday, 11/4, 18, 25, 6:30pm
- Chess Club: 11/7, 14, 21, 4:00pm
- Let’s Make Zines, make your own tiny book: 11/9, 1:30-3:00pm
- E.A.S.T. Kick-Off Showcase: “Chalk of the Town,” 11/16, 10:00am-1:00pm



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