



WINDOW on WINDSOR

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Vol XXXVII No.12
Dec 2018

Next Neighborhood Association Meeting

**Saturday, Dec-
8th at 10am.**

**at Knomad Bar,
Corona**

**Dec Meeting
Focus:**

**Annual Holiday
Party**

**Come join your
neighbors**

**See invites on
page 1 and 7**

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

New Year, New Roles

By Meghan Dougherty

This is my last month as president of the Windsor Park Neighborhood Association. Our president is limited to two one-year terms and, believe it or not, my two years have flown by. Occasionally, in making small talk, people will ask me, "Isn't it tough being president? So much work!" I will admit, it has been a fair amount of work, but working with the people in this association has been the highlight of my time as president. Albert Schweitzer said, "At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us." I am grateful for all the people I have worked with in the last two years who have rekindled my flame. The people who give their time and talents to this organization are amazing, gracious, and generous people, and I am lucky to have gotten to know them and work with them.

You're invited to the
**Windsor Park Neighborhood
Holiday Party/ Fiesta de la Vecindad**

**Potluck Breakfast
Alcoholic Beverages
available for purchase**

Saturday, December 8, 2018 10 am -12 pm
Knomad Bar, Corona Drive
10-11 Sugar Cookie decorating & music
11 Sing-a-long and recognitions
11:30 Piñata!

**Get in the holiday
spirit with neighbors
and friends!**

**Renew your membership
for 2019!**

I'm proud of so many things this neighborhood has accomplished. As we wrap up 2018, here are a few of our accomplishments:

- We have organized an Annual Neighborhood Block Party two years in a row.
- We won a Neighborhood Partnering Program grant to fund landscaping along Berkman Drive.
- We advocated and communicated with the City and Greg Casar to implement improvements along Berkman Drive.
- We organized an inter-neighborhood candidate forum for both the Texas House District 25 primary race in the spring and the City Council District 1 race this fall.
- We began a master planning process with Austin Parks Foundation to develop the Pomerleau Pocket Park on Patton Lane.
- We won a grant from the Austin Parks Foundation to remove invasive plants and poison ivy from Pomerleau Park.

[Continues on page 2]

[President's Letter, continued from page 1]

- We awarded \$5000 in scholarships this year to 5 deserving high school seniors from our neighborhood who headed off to college this fall.
- We advocated for a co-ed middle school to be included as part of the 2017 AISD Bond package.

This list really just hits the highlights - in addition to these larger projects, there are regular clean ups and landscaping projects going on throughout the year, as well as happy hours and, of course, this monthly newsletter.

While we have accomplished a lot, there's always more to do, and we need your help! We have Schools, Transportation, Beautification, Revitalization, Safety, and Social Committees. And if we don't have a committee for your passion or concern, talk with us and we'll see what we can do! Join us during our annual holiday party, December 8 at 10 am at the Knomad Bar, and tell us what you'd like to see happen in our community in 2019.

So, thank you all for your support, dedication, and positivity over the last 2 years. I have felt privileged to work with everyone in this neighborhood and to have had the opportunity to make a difference for our community. Here's to a fantastic 2019!

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OCT 2018 Windsor Park Market Statistics

AVG SOLD PRICE/SQ FT (October 2018) \$232.03

OF HOMES SOLD IN (October 2018) 11

AVG SQ FT OF HOMES SOLD 1,726

AVG DAYS ON MKT OF SOLDS 19

ACTIVE LISTINGS ON MARKET 20*
*As of Nov. 14th, 2018 - Single Family Homes

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December 2018 Yard of the Month

Sara Jane Lee

The December winner is Alan Coy of 5108 Waterbrook Drive. He has lived in his house for 37 years. Several yards in the neighborhood have inspired him. When I visited with him, he talked a lot about one of his neighbors who had won a few years ago.

He has a large Oak, a Catalpa Tree, Mountain Laurel, and Crape Myrtles. Both the catalpa and the mountain laurel are Texas natives. Though the crape myrtles are not blooming now, their trunks are beautiful. He also has several Sago Palms.

His smaller plants include Foxtail Fern, light blue Plumbago, Ruellia, and pink and rose colored Salvia Coccinea. He manages to keep the ruellia corralled so that it does not take over the yard. Alan also has many plants of that popular variety, "I knew what it was when I planted it." One of those is a groundcover with yellow flowers. No, it is not horseherb; both the leaves and the flowers are larger than horseherb. He also uses Monkey Grass as a groundcover. He has no grass, just plantings, some large,

some small, and groundcover with mulched trails dividing them.

It took him the last five years to develop the current design. He uses collected rain water to water his plants. Alan much prefers trimming trees and shrubs to mowing lawns. He suggests paying great attention to light. See if the plant is happy with the light that it receives. If not, move it.

Under his mailbox at the street, he has a fascinating wooden owl. He said that it is about 50 years old, but told me no more about it.

Alan will receive a \$50.00 gift certificate from our sponsor, Shoal Creek Nursery. Please support them. When you shop there, tell them that you live in Windsor Park.

Do you like a certain yard, or yards, in the neighborhood? Tell us. We cannot visit every yard in the neighborhood every month. We may not have seen your great yard. Feel free to nominate your own yard. People have won that way. Send your nomination(s) to WPNA YOMC, P O Box 16183, Austin, Texas 78761, call 512 928-0681, or e-mail wpna.yom@gmail.com.





SAVVY CAREGIVER CLASSES

For caregivers whose loved one has dementia

Jan 9 – Feb 13, 2019 – each Wed. 5:30 – 7:30pm

Caring for a person with dementia is a role like no other, and that role requires training. The Savvy Caregiver classes are led by a pair of trained facilitators to provide proven professional-level skills for non-professional, family caregivers. This **FREE** program with a light supper is sponsored by AGE of Central Texas and funded by St. David's Foundation.

The small group discussion classes address the progressive impact of the illness and the skill needed to manage daily caregiver responsibilities with your loved one. The six class sessions will help develop effective care management tools through group discussion, skill building, problem solving, assertiveness training and brainstorming.

Hope Lutheran Church, 6414 North Hampton Dr., Austin, TX 78723

To register contact: Sharon Teague 512-926-8574 or

steague@hopelutheranaustin.org

A LIGHT SUPPER WILL BE SERVED AT 5:30; CLASS BEGINS AT 6 PM

WPNA Schools Committee

Gloria Neunaber

The Windsor Park Neighborhood Association's School Committee has been operating since the 1980s. We are currently looking for additional members to join us in our conversations, actions, and meetings. If you are interested in learning more about us, please contact Emily@windsorpark.info.

Our current goals are

- To support the 6 public schools to which students within our neighborhood boundaries are assigned
- To offer assistance as needed and as possible in the individual schools
- To have a say in what happens to the future of our schools
- To continue to raise funds and award scholarships to high school students who live within our boundaries and attend Reagan, LBJ, and LASA
- To increase communication between our schools and everyone in the neighborhood.

The neighborhood association was fortunate this fall to have principals from most of our public schools attend a monthly meeting. In November, the LBJ and Bertha Sadler Means' principals told us how much they appreciate our involvement and that they also want their students to be involved in the community. So let's continue to work together for the good of all!

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: Mac McKaskle

Martin Luecke

Our neighbor in Windsor Park on and off since the Reagan Administration, Mac McKaskle is currently living on Wellington Drive, but has fond memories of living on Ridgheaven and Patton back in the day when he was chef around town. These days Mac is retired and donating his time as Street Youth Director for a homeless outreach coalition of churches in the University area called Micah 6, headquartered in University Baptist Church, and providing meals on Sundays to the homeless kids in the area.

What started out as choosing a place for Mac to worship, ultimately became a second calling. “The church had this dinner program set up, and when I retired as a chef I took over the chef duties for the homeless program.” That was four years ago. Mac is now an expert on our city’s homeless situation. “The homeless are scattered all over the city because they keep being moved by the police. The University Administration has put a lot of pressure on the city to get rid of the homeless on west campus. Police crackdown creates a circle of hardship for the homeless that the city perpetuates.”



After many decades of helping the homeless, a dozen churches, synagogues and mosques got together to make a new program that has a specific goal in fighting homelessness. “My organization deals with the 25 to 30 year old homeless kids. It’s a lot easier to get them off the drugs and the street after turning 25 because their brains have developed and they can make more rational decisions. We can reach them.”

One way to do that is to provide a Sunday evening meal, every Sunday, that homeless kids can rely upon. “It’s a myth that these kids choose the street. Most of them come out of the foster system, which is bad, with the beatings and abuse and rape. These kids have bad childhoods and when they are released by the state at 18 they have almost no skills on how things work in life. They just need help in normal things like how to get an apartment and set up utilities.”

Mac says instead of his team trying to be buddies, they are instead being a grandparent, which is an interesting phenomenon I think, with the retired generation giving their wisdom and knowledge to young people, with sometimes inspiring results. “There are about 80 homeless youth on the street right now today. As we find them and work with them we are getting 85% off the street. They go from dirty, half dressed, and angry to good jobs making a living. It happens all the time. It’s a major accomplishment to get off the street.”

The Micah 6 program began 15 years ago as a one day a week food pantry at University Baptist. In 2012 the pantry moved to University Presbyterian and the Youth Drop In Center was opened in U. Baptist, open every Sunday from 2 to 6, with access to computers, games, and social networking. “We don’t preach to them. We only talk about spirituality in a non-religious way.”

That’s because there are three religions working together on this project and no one wants to be competing with the other. Micah 6 had a special pre-Thanksgiving dinner bringing together all the faiths in one room. “There’s something about an Imam giving a call to prayer in a Baptist Church. His beautiful voice filling the room. It was awe inspiring.” They fed 250 people on that night. The prep cooks came from Agudas Acheem Synagogue, the volunteer waiters came from several mosques, and Mac was in charge of the kitchen. [Continues on page 8]

Blanton Elementary

Karon Smutzer

Thanksgiving break is barely over, students are hard at school work, teachers planning lessons and then it is December. The holiday season of December has everyone looking forward to the upcoming winter break.

December dates to remember:

- December 5 - Dual Language School Tour
- December 14 - Drop-in Child Care Night- 6-10 p.m.-hosted by BASE
 - *(maximum of 30 school-aged students accepted, prior registration a must)*
- December 20 - BASE ends fall session
- December 21-January 7 - Student Winter Break
- January 7, 2019 - Classes Resume and BASE begins spring session

The Blanton After School Enrichment program (BASE) will continue to enroll students until we reach our cap of 100 students. BASE is the first self-sustaining after school program to develop in Austin as a result of being part of a 21st Century grant, we are always looking for people willing to share special activities with our after school students. If you have any talent you would like to share, please contact Ms. Karon at the email below. For more information about BASE or Blanton Elementary please feel free to contact Ms. Karon, baseblantonpta@gmail.com

We invite the community to become a part of the events at Blanton Elementary, please check our calendar monthly for the different activities.

Harris Elementary

Daniela Garcia, School Counselor

We are looking forward to a busy and joyful month of December, which includes multicultural night, various PTA activities, 3rd grade to the Nutcracker show, and a well-deserved winter break. The month of December is a time of excitement, as we wrap up the semester and rejoice in our many triumphs. We take time to reflect on the progress and growth of our students and campus. As always, we strive to be Honest, Achievers, Respectful, Responsible, Inspirational, and Successful bulldogs.

Here are a few dates to keep in mind.


- 12/6 - Multicultural night
- 12/7 - Fall picture retakes
- 12/11 - PTA Santa pictures
- 12/13 - PTA staff Christmas lunch and ARF family night
- 12/14 - 5th grade choir, caroling tour
- 12/20 - Holiday sing along
- 12/21 - 1/4 - Winter break

Happy Holidays from your local BULLDOGS!

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Office # 452-5796

We would love to see you this Sunday
WELCOME ...A PLACE FOR EVERYONE
A great place to meet new friends, find needed
encouragement and discover God's plan for you.

December 2018 Mueller Update

Rick Krivoniak

As 2018 ends and the 20th anniversary of aviation ceasing at Mueller nears, here's a brief look back at the redevelopment's financial history, and also what's to come in the not too distant future.

Mueller has been quite successful for the City of Austin. The joint venture with Catellus minimized risk to the City, and the project managed to weather the economic downturn of 2008-2010 without major setbacks. Mueller's infrastructure construction is funded by land sales to Catellus and re-sales to developers, and by Tax Increment Financing (TIF) using property and sales taxes generated at Mueller. All Mueller bonds will be repaid by 2032, and as of 2017, Mueller's assessed value was \$1.15 billion, already exceeding the 2004 full build-out estimate of \$1 billion.

Several entities and many Mueller residents are beginning to anticipate the transition process as the project approaches build-out. With numerous mixed-use properties yet to be come, Catellus anticipates it will be around for at least another three years. Once they leave, plans call for the Mueller Commission to be replaced by a Mueller contact team, and the Property Owner's Association, which includes both residential and commercial owners, will take over many of Catellus' functions. Though the 2017 AISD bonds included a Mueller school, the District has yet to begin planning for it, and it is highly unlikely a school will open before 2023. With Mueller's population growth, redistricting after the 2020 census, from congressional districts to voting precincts, will likely impact Mueller and some adjacent areas. As in any other Austin neighborhood, the City will manage transportation issues and maintain all publicly owned streets.

Due to issues with overhead utilities, neither Zach Scott Street at Manor Road nor Tilley Street at E. 51st Street will open by the end of 2018, but should do so in early 2019. Visit the Mueller Austin Facebook page for more information about Mueller.

Newly-elected City Council Members will take office in January and begin making their appointments to City boards and commissions. If you're interested in serving, submit an application to the City Clerk in person or online. Then inform City Council Members of your interests and availability. There is no requirement to live in a Council Member's district for appointment.

With no December meeting, the Robert Mueller Municipal Airport Plan Implementation Advisory Commission will next meet at 6PM, Tuesday January 8, 2019 at the Britton, Durst, Howard & Spence Building (Chestnut Community Center), 1183 Chestnut Avenue. Visit <https://austintexas.gov/rmmapiac> to see Commission agendas, minutes and other documents. RMMAPIAC agendas, minutes and other documents are available at <https://austintexas.gov/rmmapiac>

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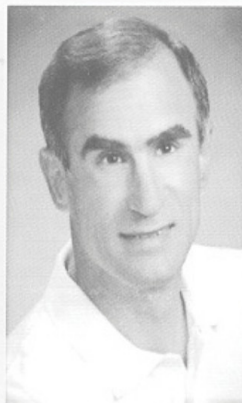
**Renew your membership
for 2019!**

[Meet Your Neighbor, continued from page 5]

Homelessness is complicated. It's not just driven by addiction and mental health. Mac thinks the spiraling cost of housing is a major contributor. "There is a huge need out there" he laments. Micah 6 opens a Freeze Shelter on any night that temperatures drop below freezing. "One of the kids told me that no one will starve to death in Austin, but you can freeze to death." It's all about helping where it is most needed. "We try to meet the kids where they are. They really respect us, and appreciate what we are doing for them. I am very impressed with the character it takes for these kids to survive and then succeed."

Micah 6 is always working on something and donations and volunteers are appreciated. Contact them at Micah6austin.org

Please send me suggestions for stories: mwluecke@hotmail.com or call 512.536.0465



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PARKS update

Jeanette Swenson

POMERLEAU

Progress! Texas Conservation Corps/American Youthworks spent the week of November 5 clearing the park of Ligustrum, Chinaberry, Poison Ivy, and 80% of the Johnson Grass. There will be a workday (and opportunity to experience the park from the inside) soon to remove the remaining Johnson Grass by hand-pulling while the ground is still wet. Park is now safer and can be opened for events as the Park Design Committee works to develop the Master Plan. Join the Design Committee headed by Austin Parks Foundation at the Windsor Park Library for the second public input meeting on Wednesday, January 16 from 6-8 to add your voice and ideas.



American Youth workers ready to go clear Pomerleau



4' pile of Johnson Grass cleared from Pomerleau

BARTHOLOMEW

Thanks to the It's My Park Day mulch crew for mulching trees near the parking lot on Greenbrook, cleaning up the entry beds, clearing the butterfly garden, and re-painting the Learning Trail. Meg Brooks not only led the Saturday projects, but she also gathered a crew to finish the job. It's bright and colorful - see the photos on page 11.

Several interested Windsor Park volunteers from Parks, Revitalization, and Beautification Committees met with Scott Sinn, Parks and Recreation Park Designer to review the plans for the long-anticipated trail between the splash pad and the pool and a branch to the corner of 51st and Berkman. Trail building will begin in mid-2019 and hopefully be completed by fall 2019. This is a long-anticipated trail and will make trips between the pool and splashpad safer and more pleasant.

Parks Committee is beginning to think about new projects that will enhance and make Bartholomew more user-friendly. One suggestion is a trail through the park from Sunnybrook to new 51st and Tilley Street intersection. Also, Central Northeast Austin Kiwanis will be making a significant donation to the playscape shades from their successful Butterfly Festival. That may be the impetus that we need to re-start fundraising to complete shades for playscape and swings. WPNA voted not to join Amplify Austin for 2019, so we'll be turning again to neighborhood residents. More than 100 of us have donated to the first phase, which covered the toddler swings and playscape. [Cont. on page 11]

Excluding Pests from your Home

Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist

When the weather turns towards autumn and leads into winter, many pests start looking for a cozy place which can often lead them inside your home. By performing a thorough inspection, you can locate areas where these pests may enter and stop them before they become a problem.

Inside the home, look around doors and windows when there is light outside; if you see light around roods or windows, then there isn't a good seal and weather stripping should be replaced. The attic should be inspected for holes or entry points for small mammals such as rats, mice, and squirrels. Attic vents should be covered with stainless steel screening to block animals from entering. Outside, inspect the perimeter of the home for any cracks and crevices in the foundation that should be sealed. Locate pipe and wire penetrations that enter the structure and repair any areas that allow pests to enter the home.

Ideas on how to exclude pests from your home:

- Trim back or prune any trees and shrubs that touch or overhang the home
- Seal pipe & wire penetrations with copper mesh, sealant, or expanding foam
- Replace weather stripping around doors and windows if there is not a good seal
- Repair or replace any window screens with holes
- For homes with brick or stone facades, stuff weep holes with steel wool* or copper mesh
*steel wool will rust if it gets wet, so do not use on light colored façades
- Inspect all furniture, boxes, and bags for pests before carrying them into the home
- Inspect all plants for insect pests before bringing them into the home
- Do not store firewood inside the home, against the outside walls, or near doors
- Use sheet metal, hardware cloth, or steel wool to seal any areas where animals have chewed to enter the home**
**make sure animal is not in the home or you'll seal it inside!

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com

This work is supported by Crops Protection and Pest Management Competitive Grants Program [grant no. 2017-70006-27188 /project accession no. 1013905] from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

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**HAVE YOU COMPLETED THE
NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION
SURVEY
YET?**

**CHECK IT OUT ON
PAGE 11
AND MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD**

NEIGHBORHOD REVITALIZATION ONLINE SURVEY NOW OPEN

The Windsor Park Neighborhood Association's Revitalization Committee is looking for your feedback! We have created an online survey to help guide our committee in focusing our Revitalization efforts based on YOUR wants and needs for the neighborhood of Windsor Park. The survey should take about 5-10 minutes of your time, and we have also included a few opportunities for you to expand and share more as you would like. At the end of the survey, you may provide your email address to enter into a raffle for a \$25 gift card to Hank's as a thank-you for your time! We appreciate the opportunity to continue this conversation in shaping the Windsor Park we love. Scan the code to the right or go to the Survey link: <https://goo.gl/forms/JgCRC3V9ZvSCybqG2>



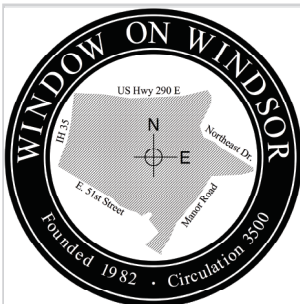
[Parks Update, continued from page 9]

To demonstrate support for the shade sail project before I apply for additional outside grant money, Parks Committee is turning to the neighborhood again and hope that new Windsor Park residents and previous donors join forces to donate again to make the park healthier and safer for our children. Donations can be made through the Windsor Park website by specifying PLAYSCAPE SHADES, or you may donate at the Holiday Party in December.

Left: Learning Trail Painting in Progress

Right: Bartholomew Learning Trail is ready!





WEB: <http://www.Windsorpark.info>
 NEWSGROUP: groups.yahoo.com/group/windsorpark/
 FACEBOOK: WindsorParkAustinTx

Contact Us

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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

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E-mail: _____

Local Library Happenings

Windsor Park Branch

5833 Westminster Dr.

Tues, Dec 11 3:30 - Lego Lab

Tues, Dec 18 3:30 - Video Game Free Play

Thurs, Dec 20 10:30 - The Nutcracker - A Literature Live! Production

Thurs, Dec 27 2pm - Mario Cart Wii U Tournament

Holiday schedule - The library will be closed the following days:

Christmas: Sunday, December 23 and Monday and Tuesday, December 24* and 25*

New Year's Eve: Monday, December 31

University Hills Branch:

4721 Loyola Ln.

St. John Branch

7500 Blessing Ave.

