



WINDOW on WINDSOR

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

Vol XXXVIII No.12
Dec 2019

**Next
Neighborhood
Association
Meeting**

**HOLIDAY
PARTY**

**Saturday, Dec-
14th at 10am.**

**at Knomad Bar,
Corona**

**Dec Meeting
Focus:**

**HOLIDAY
PARTY**

**Come Meet
your neighbors!**

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

President's Letter – December 2019

By Dan Strub

Wow, I am still glowing from the November WPNA meeting. We passed resolutions on AISD school closings and changes to the Mueller development plans, and had an amazing session with Councilmembers Harper-Madison and Casar. We had a packed room, but everyone got a chance to ask questions and had them answered. The discussion was mostly about the land development code revisions, but was open to everything. I was impressed by the level of discussion and the great respect shown by everyone over such a potentially divisive issue. And I am grateful to the Councilmembers, who not only were there through the hour that we gave them on the agenda, but stayed an extra half hour to answer the many questions.

I will take that good cheer into our December holiday party. We do not hold a regular meeting in December, but instead hold a potluck party where we can focus on talking with and getting to know our neighbors even better. We will meet from 10-Noon on the 14th at the Knomad. Bring warm feelings and a favorite food to share, or just your presence is a gift to all.

Speaking of warm feelings, the Giant Letter will be returning to 1312 Broadmoor again this year. Giant Letter is an art installation featuring an oversized letter that changes every year and is part of a holiday conversation, often between a child and Santa. It deals with themes of wonder, sadness, hope, and redemption. You may have seen it the past two years, but it started in 2012 in Chicago and moved here when Caro d'Offay (one of the artists) moved to Austin and became roommates with long-time Windsor Park resident Marj Wormald. It is now a holiday season fixture in the neighborhood. This year's unveiling will be on December 12, after dark. Come out then, or take it in through Christmas.

Coyote Activity

Shannon Mekuly

For those that might not be aware, we are experiencing an increase in coyote activity in our neighborhood and the loss of many small pets. These attacks are happening at both day and night, behind fenced yards and along the trails. Animal Control recommends that we monitor our pets while they are outside and to engage in 'hazing' if you encounter a coyote. Hazing consists of making eye contact, making loud noises and making yourself seem larger than the animal. This process helps encourage coyotes to avoid contact with humans or pets.

Those of you that have lost pets or have had an encounter with a coyote, are encouraged to report the event to Animal Control, as they are trying to monitor the activity and gauge how it is impacting our community. Our Animal Control neighborhood representative is Sarah and you can contact her directly at 512-978-0513. I am unsure as to what exactly the City can do to stop these attacks, but I believe in being informed and I hope we can all work together to keep both nature and our pets safe.

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!**

**Jan. 31st @ Cenote WP
May 8th @ Knomad Bar**

See FB events for more info.



social@windsorpark.info

CLIMATE CORNER - Holiday Edition

Barret Sundberg

When we express our love for others during the holidays, here are several ways to take care of the climate too. Selecting fewer gifts per recipient saves emissions at every step - producing, shipping, packaging. This doesn't have to mean shortchanging the spirit of the season. My mother's favorite aunt was always appreciated because her gifts were thoughtfully selected for the individual, not because there was a high number of gifts. Some families get together and have an exchange where each person brings one gift and receives one gift.

Using reusable bags instead of wrapping paper saves paper, which means fewer trees cut down. Use that last roll of paper, then switch!

For some recipients, buying or making a service type of gift is appreciated. You could even help the climate by buying carbon offsets, which pay for things like planting trees that prevent carbon emissions or absorb CO2 from the atmosphere. These days, you even buy offsets to compensate for the carbon used in traveling if you need to travel to see your relatives. Happy holidays to all!

Mueller Update – December 2019

Rick Krivoniak

One of the six community-determined goals for Mueller's redevelopment was "Fiscal Responsibility," requiring the redevelopment to create a positive revenue stream to fund on-site infrastructure and increase the City's tax base for the benefit of all citizens. In other words, unless you live in or have a business at Mueller that pays property taxes, or shop at one of its retailers and pay sales tax, Austin resident's property taxes do not contribute to the project. Mueller does contribute to the other taxing entities, like AISD, Travis County, Travis Central Healthcare District, and the Austin Community College District. So far, Mueller has added \$1.4 billion to the tax base, and will begin contributing to the City's general fund once all of its Tax Increment Funding (TIF) bond debt is paid off, expected to be done by 2032. This year the debt payments are \$4.5 million, while the TIF revenue stream is providing \$6.2 million of income. Mueller's financial performance is well above what was anticipated when the City signed the Master Developer Agreement with Catellus back in 2004.

Though the statistics change almost daily, around 3,755 residential units (both homes & apartments) have been built so far at Mueller, and 1,036 of those are in an affordable program, a bit over the 25% required. As for commercial and institutional development, 2.25 million square feet have been constructed; 625,000 sq ft of that is retail.

WPNA and the JJ Seabrook and Mueller Neighborhood Associations submitted supporting resolutions for the Mueller Planned Unit Development (PUD) amendment, which passed on the Planning Commission's consent agenda at its November 12th meeting.

Though posted on the City Council's November 14th agenda, it has been postponed to their December 5th meeting.

The Robert Mueller Municipal Airport Plan Implementation Advisory Commission does not meet in December, but will next meet at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, January 14, 2019 at the Chestnut Community Center, 1183 Chestnut Avenue. For RMMAPIAC agendas, minutes, meeting recordings and other documents, visit austintexas.gov/rmmapiac

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Garden Guide: Tree Season!

William Glenn

It's that time. We are in the perfect window to plant a new tree in your yard. There are lots of great local resources such as the City of Austin's *Grow Green Landscape Guide*, as well as knowledgeable folks at garden centers to help you make an informed choice about which tree suits your needs best. *But it is time!*

Here are five "pro tips" to help you find your tree:

- 1) Go to a local garden center to buy your trees. This supports local retailers, wholesalers and growers. The trees come from local seed and cutting stock, are grown with local water, and are best acclimated to our region.
- 2) Be clear on the size and placement of your tree before you go to the garden center. Trees look about the same size when they're for sale, but some trees will grow to 10', while others will attain soaring heights of 60'. A big difference!
- 3) When shopping for your tree, pull trees away from anything holding them up. Does it stand on its own? Pass on any tree that will require staking to stay up, as staked trees are at a disadvantage from day one.
- 4) Pull away any debris on the surface of the pot near the trunk. If a tree has many roots growing in a circular shape ("pot-bound"), pass on that one too. You can correct minor circling, but if big, woody roots have begun to encircle the trunk, they might eventually choke the thickening trunk, causing a tree's failure. This is called "girdling." According to Guy LeBlanc, a local arborist, this is the most common reason for trees failing in our area.
- 5) The tree you choose will likely be there for decades, maybe even centuries. Include the whole family in the process. Commemorate a special moment or special person with the tree's new start, and take pictures! You'll be surprised at how much the tree means to you, and how it will evoke a shared moment and a special significance over time.

Peggy Street neighbors hosted their 2nd annual "Halloween on Peggy" with great success!

Working closely with the city of Austin, the neighbors closed the street to thru traffic at Wheless and Linda Lane, creating a safe space for trick-or-treaters to roam freely and fill their pumpkins or pillow sheets with candy and other treats. New this year was homemade tamales for the parents and "boo"ze stations sprinkled throughout the street. Thanks so much to the Windsor Park neighbors who participated in the candy drive earlier in the month of October. We'll see you again next year!



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MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR - The JJ Refugee Family Update

Martin Luecke

One year ago, Windsor Park met the Jaqueline and Joas family through this column, and the subsequent outpouring of support was legendary. We took an empty house and filled it with everything one needs to run a household of eight. The family is so grateful for the Windsor Park welcome and support.

The past six months have seen the family move to a less expensive apartment, across the street from the company that employs both parents. They are lucky to have jobs, but it is not easy work and sometimes they do not have full work weeks. They are receiving help with government food program SNAP, so no one is going hungry.

Four of the six sons are in school. The oldest son Ishara is mentally handicapped, so his brother Muhire stays home all day to protect him from getting hurt. What's amazing is that Muhire is ok with this assignment; at 20 years old, he could be doing something else. The 18-year-old Elize is doing well in school and learning English the best, and acts as translator these days. He tells me he wants to go into construction – the construction program at ACC is his goal.

Innocent, Jules and Joshua are the youngest boys and are regular American kids, playing lots of music and games on their phones and laptop from school. They are into soccer and cool sneakers like most young boys, but I don't know if school is really reaching them. Their English is coming along slowly; mostly because Kinyarwanda is so completely different from English.

For a recent adventure, we went to San Antonio for a dose of Texas history and their first Tex-Mex meal on the river walk. We speak in small words, trying to convey complicated information as simply as possible. The Alamo is "a famous battle place", and the "oldest church in Texas." Explaining the concept of ultimate sacrifice for the sake of country is just not possible, and they've never heard of John Wayne. Joas asked me to take his photo next to a tree that has a cousin in Africa. As we walked through the gardens, Elize pointed to a large green leafed decorative plant and said it is food in Rwanda.



Over the past 5 months, I have been teaching three of the boys to drive and Elize is good enough to drive on the streets. He earned his driver's license and is ready to provide badly needed transportation for the family, but at his



age, car insurance is very expensive, something the family cannot afford. Ironically, if he had the van he could go to work in the afternoons and make enough money to pay the insurance.

For Christmas this year it would be great to raise money to buy the family six

months to a year of auto insurance and get them started down the road to real self-sufficiency. We're talking about three to four thousand dollars here, not a small thing. The other most needed item is a vacuum cleaner and house shoes for everyone. Their native land is so much warmer than Austin the family is perpetually cold, so comfy house shoes will go a long way. Contact me if you want to help out: mwluecke@hotmail.com

Austin Achieve Public Schools

It's been a great semester at Austin Achieve Public Schools, and we're looking forward to continuing in 2020!

- Community Movie Night - The Polar Express Friday, 12/6 | 6:00 p.m. Achieve Northeast Campus, 7424 E. Hwy 290

Temperatures are falling in Austin, and Winter is officially here. We'll be kicking off the festive season with an outdoor community screening of The Polar Express. Hot cocoa will be provided for all. This event is free of charge, and all are welcome! For more information, please visit <http://bit.ly/AAMovieNight2019>.

- Pre-K + K for a Day - Thursday, 1/16 | 9:00 AM - Austin Achieve Elementary School, 7424 E. Hwy 290, Building 1. As you consider your Pre-K and Kindergarten options, we want you and your child to experience all that Austin Achieve has to offer first-hand. While your student steps into the classroom, you're invited to join campus leadership and faculty for coffee and a time to connect with existing Austin Achieve families and other prospective families. During this event, you will learn more about our commitment to educating the

whole scholar, ask any questions you may have, and observe classrooms to see what a day in the life of an Austin Achieve scholar is like. Childcare for younger children will be provided so you can fully commit your attention to learning more about Austin Achieve.

To RSVP, please visit <https://bit.ly/2CJIyK2>. Space is limited. If you have questions or would like more information, contact Priscilla De La Torre at pdela-torre@austinachieve.org or (512) 234-0142.

Bertha Sadler Means

Bertha Sadler Means community has been touched by the expressions of support and encouragement heard at various meetings on the proposed AISD school closures.

The school is hosting its first ever gala fundraiser on December 14, 6-10pm at the school. For more information and opportunities to become a sponsor, please click the link below. We are hoping the Sadler Means Dreams Gala will be a great success and help fund enrichment activities for our students.

Link: <https://austinisd.schoolcashionline.com/Fee/Details/14235/63/False/True>

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Blanton Elementary

Thanksgiving break is barely over, students are hard at school work, teachers planning lessons and then it is December. Everyone is looking forward to the upcoming winter break and celebrating the holidays. We encourage the Windsor Park community to join us for the fun and enjoyment of any special events whenever they have the opportunity. For more information about BASE or Blanton Elementary, please contact Ms. Karon, baseblantonpta@gmail.com

Dec 3, and 17 - Dual Language School Tour – 9:00 a.m. // Dec 5 - Family Holiday Celebration – 6:00 p.m.
Dec 20-Jan 7 – Student Winter Break // Classes and BASE resumes Jan 8th

Harris Elementary

Harris Elementary would like to thank all of the Windsor Park neighbors who came to CATCH Night on October 29, 2019. We had a very successful turnout and one of the best Book Fair evenings. Thank you for your support! A hundred thanks to Gloria Neunaber who advocates for Harris Elementary. Thanks to her efforts, our business neighbor Teledynamics has provided support for the library. Many thanks also go to Harris advocate, supporter and prospective parent, Shaleiah Fox who connected us with a sponsor for BookSpring, a program that provides all of our students with three free books. It's amazing what can happen when schools, parents, and community work together!

Northeast High School

In November, we were joined by teachers, students, and families at our annual Stand Up dinner. It was a great time full of turkey bowling, food, community engagement, and fun. In December, we plan to have coats available for all students who need one. This fall we have been diligently participating in the principal hiring process. The new principal will introduce themselves to the community in December, and begin in January.

Here are some events on the horizon: Dec 9 - Girls Basketball vs. Eastside @ Northeast // Dec 10 - 9am - Principal's Coffee // December 16-19 - Finals Week // Dec 17 - Boys Basketball vs. Eastside @ Northeast // December 19 - 6pm - PTA meeting

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AVG SOLD PRICE/SQ FT (OCT 2019)	\$284.29
# OF HOMES SOLD IN (OCT 2019)	11
AVG SQ FT OF HOMES SOLD	1,401
AVG DAYS ON MKT OF SOLDS	18
# ACTIVE LISTINGS ON MARKET	15*
*As of Nov 14th, 2019 - Single Family Homes	
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Yard of the Month – Dec 2019*Sara Jane Lee*

The December winner is Lida Roberts of 1806 Rogge Lane. Since she moved in in January, this yard has been a continuing revelation to her. New plants keep popping up. What you see in December may be quite different from what we saw in early November.

Her favorite is the Crape Myrtle. She also has Plumbago, Firebush, Trailing and Texas Lantana. Zexmenia, Pink Skullcap, Bottlebrush, Geraniums, Euonymus and many more.

Near the street she has St. Augustine. The rest of the yard is covered in black mulch which complements the white house.

Recently Lida installed a sprinkler system which helps conserve water. It also cuts down on her watering time. She does advise new gardeners to buy what they like, but to consider sun and water requirements. Lida will receive \$50.00 gift certificate from Shoal Creek Nursery. Please patronize them, and tell them that you appreciate their sponsorship.

We love nominations - do not be shy – let us know if you like a certain yard. We cannot visit every yard in the neighborhood each month. Feel free to nominate your own - 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.

turner**Debby Reynolds**

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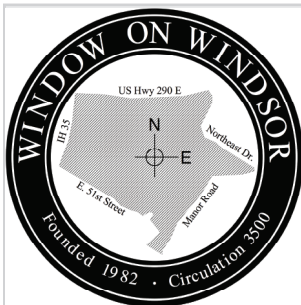
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Make checks payable to WPNA and mail to:

WPNA, P.O. Box 16183, Austin, TX 78761

Or dues may be paid by Paypal through the WPNA website!

Thanks to Friends of WOW:

- Dan Strub
- Anonymous Friend of WOW

Library Happenings

Windsor Park

- Monday Dec 2nd, 6pm Adult Graphic Novel Book Club (Book Swap)
- Wednesday Dec 4th, 11th, and 18th 6pm Resume and Job Search Help
- Saturday Dec 7th, 2pm Saturday Movie Matinee (Toy Story 4)
- Tuesday Dec 10th, 7pm Windsor Park Book Club (Born to Run)
- Thursday, Dec 12th, 6pm Board With Books (Come Play Board Games!)
- Thursday, Dec 19th, 10:30am Literature Live Puppet Show (The Elves and the Shoemaker)
- Saturday, Dec 21st, 1:30pm Holiday Craft-A-Palooza (Metal Lantern Crafts)

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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