

### WINDOW on WINDSOR

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Vol XXXVII No.07 July 2018

Next Neighborhood Association Meeting

Saturday, July 14th at 10am.

July **Meeting Focus:** 

Advocacy for **Parks** and Park Development Process Speakers from

**Austin Parks** 

**PARD** 

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

### JULY LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Meghan Dougherty

In our June WPNA meeting, Spencer Cronk, Austin's new city manager, posed a couple of questions:

- 1. What do you want to retain about your community?
- 2. What do you see that needs to change?
- 3. What gives you hope about Austin?

Some of our responses to the first question included: retaining small businesses, improving policing, limiting high property taxes, maintaining infrastructure so it keeps pace with development, creating a more welcoming environment to all, providing easier accessibility to city services, and preserving the diversity of East Austin.

What gives me hope is the level of community engagement I see here. When I first moved to Austin, I was immediately struck by the high degree of volunteerism and civic involvement. There are so many great ways to participate in our community - thanks to all the people dedicated to making Austin an inclusive and welcoming city. [Continues on page 2]

### PARKS Update - July 2018

#### Pomerleau Park - Jordan Shade

Major update!! We are super excited to announce that Pomerleau Park won the Austin Park Foundation's 2018 Master Planning Grant! This is a huge step forward towards the development of the park. Over the next 10-12 months we will develop a master plan for Pomerleau Park with the help of Austin Parks Foundation and the City of Austin's Parks and Rec Department and all of you! This is the first step towards actually raising money and building permanent structures in the park. There will be no fewer than four (4) community meetings to continue to gather your input and vision for the park, so stay tuned to be invited.

Currently, we are working to get rid of the poison ivy that lives in the park today so that we might have some interim events in the space.

As always, if you'd like more specific updates and reminders about getting involved, please reach out reach out to Jordan Shade (jordan@windsorpark. info). [Parks, cont. on page 5]



I'm so excited to see some of our upcoming community projects bearing fruit - the Beautification committee's plans for installing a neighborhood sign and adding landscaping along Berkman as a result of winning a \$38,900 Neighborhood Partnering Program grant; the Revitalization committee's work on identifying and supporting local businesses; the Parks committee's award of a Master Planning Grant from Austin Parks Foundation for the Pomerleau Pocket Park. Ultimately, it is the volunteer work of so many in our neighborhood that has had the biggest impact on where our community is headed in the next few years.

I'd love to see the Transportation Committee continue to move forward on work towards improving the Cameron Road corridor. The new owner of the Cooper's Tires location is soon to be opening a convenience store, and that will assuredly increase traffic in and out of that spot. It will be imperative that we advocate with the City to improve the traffic congestion and pedestrian safety of that corridor. The committee has begun the process of gathering public input, but we really need someone to lead as committee chair. The Transportation Committee impacts the quality of life in our neighborhood, so please consider volunteering for this important role. If interested, please email me at <a href="mailto:president@windsorpark.info">president@windsorpark.info</a>.

We were also presented with a request to change the zoning for the new convenience store at Westminster and Briarcliff, to allow for the sale of wine and beer, not currently allowed because of its proximity to Harris Elementary. The WPNA members voted against this zoning change, but the owners will probably still pursue it. We are sending a notice to our City Council members, the Planning Commission, and Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC) of our opposition to the zoning change. If you are concerned by this change, I encourage you to contact your councilmembers, and you can reference our resolution.

Join our next neighborhood meeting July 14th to learn more about developments happening in our local parks and greenbelts. As we enter the peak of the summer, stay safe, hydrated, and don't forget your sunscreen!



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### Yard of the Month, July 2018

Sara Jane Lee

The July winners are Winston Denny and Jennifer Lacy of 6000 Dunbury Drive. Winston has lived there 15 years; Jennifer joined later. When Winston moved in, his yard consisted of a nonbearing mulberry tree surrounded by St. Augustine grass. When the mulberry had to be removed, Winston replaced it with a Monterrey Oak. Without the large mulberry, much of the St. Augustine cooked.

Even now there is some St. Augustine, but much of the lawn has been replaced by plants that enjoy hot, dry weather. The bed near the corner has Red Yuccas and some Variegated Agaves. The Monterrey oak is nearby, so is a Mountain Laurel. They also have Smoke Tree, Lacey Oak, and Texas Sage.

The area between the sidewalk and the driveway is now a well-mulched bed with heat tolerant plants. In addition to adding mulch, they further conserve water by using soaker hoses. Their plants include Batface Cuphea, Blackfoot Daisy, Lantana, Drift Roses, Pink Skullcap, Catclaw Tree, and White and Purple Coneflowers. When one of Winston and Jennifer's cats died suddenly after being diagnosed with feline lymphoma, they decided that adding plants that attract butterflies to that bed would be a positive gesture. These included the catclaw tree, the drift roses, and the cornflowers. Butterflies aren't the only thing these flowers attract. Winston likes to watch the fireflies flitting around the coneflowers.

They are still adding to that bed. Winston admits that he finds adding new plants more fun than taking care of what they have already planted. He and Jennifer try to find plants that do well in clay soil. He advises just try plants that you like and see what happens. Also pull weeds before they become established.

Winston and Jennifer 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 - feel free to nominate a yard, even your own! 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.



### WINDSOR PARK AGENT. COM







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### **MAY 2018**

Windsor Park Market Statistics

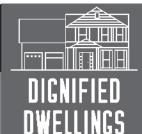
AVG SOLD PRICE/SQ FT \$258.48 (MAY 2018)

# OF HOMES SOLD IN (MAY 2018)

AVG SQ FT OF HOMES SOLD 1,637
AVG DAYS ON MKT OF SOLDS 37

# ACTIVE LISTINGS ON MARKET 14\*
\*As of June 12th, 2018 - Single Family Homes

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## WELCOME TO VBS!

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### A Gateway to Windsor Park

Rodney Ahart

After several years of work, Windsor Park was officially awarded Neighborhood Partnering Program (NPP) funding by the City of Austin last month.

The funding will be utilized to implement and enhance road safety improvements, establish name and brand identity for our neighborhood, and beautify one of our major roadways:

1) Six pedestrian crossing refuge islands with native landscaping will be constructed along Berkman Drive at Patton Lane, Glenvalley Drive, Ridgehaven Drive, Rogge Lane/Suffolk Drive, Broadmoor Drive, and Greenbrook Parkway.



**2)** A Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon (an example is located at Corona Drive and Cameron Road) will be installed at Rogge Lane/Suffolk Drive & Berkman Drive.



**3)** A Windsor Park Neighborhood Entrance Sign will be installed at the 51st Street and Berkman Drive intersection on the Bartholomew Park corner. The adjacent property owners, Torchy's Tacos and Speedy Stop, supported our proposal 100 percent which was very beneficial.



The NPP funding is a HUGE win for Windsor Park, and will allow us to accomplish three primary neighborhood plan priorities: road safety, beautification, and pride of place. Studies have shown that the installation of attractive entrance signage and landscaping in highly-visible locations of a community can vastly decrease litter, deter crime, and aid in attracting families, retail, and services to a neighborhood.

The Windsor Park Beautification Committee will be recruiting volunteers to plant, and assist with maintaining the six pedestrian crossing refuge islands. We'll need substantial volunteer support to accomplish this inspiring neighborhood transformation.

To support the project, please contact: Rodney Ahart, rodahart@yahoo.com



[Parks, continued from page 1]

#### Bartholomew Park - Jeanette Swenson

According to Council Member Leslie Pool, Austin residents must advocate to develop and protect a top community asset, - our parks and open spaces, which enhance the quality of life for all Austin residents. Allocation of resources should be spread equitably through all 10 Council Districts, so that no sector of the city receives a disproportionate amount of scarce resources.

[Cont. on page 6]

[Parks, Continued from page 5]

I hope you have signed up at austinparks.org (Austin Parks Foundation) to receive emails for critical dates to contact City Council members Houston and Casar about including Pomerleau Park and Bartholomew Park in the upcoming bond package. The Parks Bond Election Task Force is recommending a \$142 million package for parks including \$22 million for Aquatics, \$45 million for parkland acquisition, and \$64 million for parkland development. This is a fraction of the identified \$700 million in deferred park repairs and renovations. August 9 is the tentative date for the City Council to approve the final parks bond package.

John Rooney and/or Kathleen Monello will speak at the July 14 WPNA meeting. Though not yet confirmed, we hope that Christine Chute-Canul, PARD Development Administrator will also attend. They will be talking about how Windsor Park can most effectively support and develop projects and the advocacy process.

The Austin Parks Foundation will announce its Playshade Grant award at the end of July. Also in July, the Foundation has arranged for the Park Rangers to have a clean-up day at Bartholomew Park. The Rangers are eager to come to our community as they spend

Hope Lutheran Church You are invited to a community of moms just for you! We invite you to relax and unwind from your daily grind. Good food, good friends and good fun! Form new relationships while talking to other moms about parenting issues. You can listen to our guest speakers as well as work on some creative craft projects in a friendly, inviting Call 512-926-8574 for information & to register.

most of their time along Lady Bird Lake. They may bring some of their recently developed Loose Parts, Nature Play kits designed for children to engage in unstructured outdoor play to create, build temporary projects and have fun with a variety of natural materials. Building our own kits would be easily transportable to Pomerleau Park while it's still in development. Windsor Park volunteers are welcome to help with the clean-up, build a temporary structure, and meet the Park Rangers. Here's hoping you get out and enjoy your parks this summer!

### WINDSOR PARK SPECIALIST



Every house in Windsor Park has a story. I have lived and invested in Windsor Park for nearly 8 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.

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### **Business Feature: Ramsey Voice Studio**

Jackie Brooks

Calling itself the "live music capital of the world," it's safe to say that Austin holds its music business in pretty high regard. Lucky for us, our little neighborhood of Windsor Park hosts a business that's lifting voices up and helping to keep that musical magic alive and well in our City - empowering artists to bring their talent to new levels.

Matt Ramsey, owner and head voice teacher at Ramsey Voice Studio, is celebrating one year in Windsor Park this month of July. When asked how he came to be in this line of business, he spoke very candidly saying, "It is something I sort of fell into - as a singer/songwriter I went through a total transformation after



getting involved with a voice teacher in Austin - it was a dramatic improvement, and even inspired me to move here." He had no intention of teaching at first, but after the encouragement of his voice teacher to try it, he found out he loved it!

He was bursting with pride describing the best part of his day, "Seeing the light bulb go on when a student grasps a new concept. And seeing big shifts in someone's voice." If you have any doubt about the improvements of his students, look no further than his online ratings. Ramsey Voice Studio boasts more 5-star ratings than any voice teacher in the whole state - not just Austin - Texas!

So how did 1506 Larkwood become the home of this high end, professional and friendly singing studio, offering lessons for singers of every level? The Windsor Park home had space for an in-home studio, and Matt added "after looking at neighborhoods, I really liked the central location being convenient to most highways. The neighborhood was beautiful, progressive, with a good variety of demographics."

Matt's favorite part about the neighborhood surrounds his love of walking and running - "the area is just beautiful for this." Windsor Park is special in that it is a place where businesses can thrive without losing the comfort of the "neighborhood" feel. To that end, Matt also shared with us some of his favorite local businesses in the area including, Cenote, HEB, and gave a shout out to Flower Junction (a flower delivery business owned by a fellow neighbor).

As our neighborhood continues to blossom, Matt hopes to see more arts oriented spaces, small venues for music, and more bars/restaurants in Windsor Park's future. And while our wonderful neighborhood's future unfolds, stop by to sharpen your vocal skills at Ramsey Voice Studio by taking advantage of their free first 30-minute voice lesson!



### **Debby Reynolds**Realtor®

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WINDSOR PARK SPECIALIST AND RESIDENT

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The Ramsey Voice video blog is also a great place to start if you're curious about singing and vocal exercises – see answers to singing questions and explore the other great

content. Who knows, maybe the sound of your newly coached voice will debut at the opening of our future local music venue!

http://www.ramseyvoice.com/blog/



### Meet Your Neighbor Update: Norman Blumensaadt

Norman Blumensaadt, our neighbor who was profiled in the January 2018 issue, has been inducted into the Austin Arts Hall of Fame for his tireless efforts in producing and/or directing four plays a year since 1981. In that time he has given many actors and



designers their first work on a local stage, and as the Austin Chronicle reports "he has given Austin its best education in great playwriting." Congratulations on a lifetime of work!

Next up for Norman: Great Expectations at The Vortex in November. For Tickets: DifferentStagesTheatre.org

### July 2018 Mueller Update

Rick Krivoniak

Fresh on the heels of the Austin City Council's May vote for historic zoning, the Texas Historical Commission has approved a subject marker for the historic site of the Mueller Control Tower. The text of the marker is in the process of being prepared, and Catellus will have a celebration commemorating its placement later this year.

After years-long efforts, the Austin Film Studios are implementing changes to take advantage of the former National Guard Armory Building, also referred to as Studio 7, which has been used mostly to store warehouse set pieces and equipment. Planned to become the Creative Media Hub, Phase-1 of the project involves demolishing about 30,000 square feet added to the Armory over the years. In Phase-2, the remaining 21,376 square feet will undergo interior and exterior renovations into leasable space for future tenants. Total square footage of the project is 44,967 square feet. Amenities within the building for future tenants will include meeting rooms, breakroom, mailroom, tenant lounge, restrooms and shower facilities. Phase-3 will bring site improvements to the grounds around the building. The Austin Studios complex encompasses 20+ acres, leased from the City through 2084, and is home to more than 40 film industry businesses, including Richard Linklater's Detour Filmproduction, Chapman Leonard Studio Equipment Inc., SoundCheck Austin, and MPS Camera & Lighting. Austin Studios has provided a \$1.35 billion economic impact since its founding in 2000, and created more than 8,000 jobs.

University Federal Credit Union plans on an August grand opening for their Mueller Market District location, 1801 East 51st Street, Building 5B (the former Capital One Bank

building).

A reminder that you can relay landscaping and maintenance issues at Mueller parks and parking lots to the Associa Hill Country property management company during business hours at 512-703-9202, or email them at <a href="mailto:contactus@muellercentral.com">contactus@muellercentral.com</a>. Report Mueller street and traffic problems to 311.

The Robert Mueller Municipal Airport Plan Implementation Advisory Commission will not meet in July. The next meeting is at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, August 14, 2018 at the Britton, Durst, Howard & Spence Building (Chestnut Community Center), 1183 Chestnut Avenue. RMMAPIAC agendas, minutes and other documents are available at https://austintexas.gov/rmmapiac



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### Garden Guide "When life gives you lemons...."

William Glenn

Have you thought about growing your own citrus tree, maybe a lemon? You know, in Windsor Park, you can do it! You can also grow tangerines, blood oranges, grapefruits, kumquats, and other citrus. You can enjoy the springtime fragrance of fresh citrus, and later, pick fruit right off the tree!

When considering a spot for citrus, it's important to remember to protect the young trees from northern winter wind. This means finding a sunny spot on the south side of your home, shed, or other structure. Generally speaking, citrus can handle down to about 28 degrees before they're seriously damaged,



so a protected spot can make all the difference around Windsor Park, which can drop into that range for short periods of time.

Limes, unfortunately, are the first to get taken down by an arctic chill. Avoid limes unless you can be diligent about covering with row cover (aka "frost cloth") any time the weather is predicted to drop under 32° F. You can also wrap the tree with light-strings ("Christmas lights") to protect them a bit more on icy nights under their row cover wrap.

At independent garden centers, employees ought to be well versed with the appropriate selections of citrus and soil improvements for Windsor Park. You ought to leave the garden center with a bag of compost, and a bag of granite or expanded shale with your tree. It is important to loosen our deep clay soil for these subtropical species that require well-drained soils. I recommend the backfill (the soil you put back in the hole) be 20% compost, 20% expanded shale, and 60% native soil. Make an earthen basin several inches around the base of the tree to hold water, and direct it to the roots. Apply organic fertilizers every 6 weeks from March to September. To get it off to a brisk and healthy start, water your newly planted tree with a liquefied seaweed solution.

Varieties to look for:

Improved Meyer Lemon | Artic Frost, Owari, Seto or Bumper Satsuma (a Tangerine-like Mandarin) | Ruby Grapefruit | Moro Blood Orange | Meiwa Kumquat

If you can, position your new citrus near a window or door, so you can enjoy the sweet fragrance in spring. The "citrus smell" is one of the most alluring and lovely botanical fragrances on the planet, and the harbinger of a plentiful fruit crop!

#### **COMMUNITY EFFORT**

Guadalupe Abbud, Sponsorship Chair

Did you know that you are reading this NEWSLETTER because of the effort of more than 100 volunteers? Some contribute articles, some do the bookkeeping and ordering, some receive the more than 4,000 issues and distribute the newsletters to our deliverers, who then walk the streets to deliver the 4,000 + newsletters door to door....Isn't this amazing? It shows the vibrancy

of our community, much like the volunteer clean-up efforts and the neighborhood social events. However, monies are needed to pay the printer and to pay for the paper and that comes from our sponsors, who donate a fee to have their information seen by readers of both the print and online versions of the Window on Windsor.

Our sponsors do hope to earn your business and we invite all of you to consider them. Community engagement usually translates in great results, because businesses that are successful can give back to the community and continue to develop which brings increased benefit to the neighborhood. Businesses, we invite you to become sponsors so that the whole neighborhood can learn about you, support your business and spread the



word. Residents, please support your local businesses and become a member of our Neighborhood Association.



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### **Local Library Happenings**

Dana Newlove

#### UNIVERSITY HILLS BRANCH

- Pajama Storytime: July 9, 16, 23, 30, 6:00pm Mondays
- All Ages Storytime: 11:00am Wednesdays
- Art Smart "We Read" Community Mural Project. Tuesdays, 4:00pm, Ages 8-12
- Monday, July 2, 6:00pm, Ages 3-5 The Contemporary Austin Presents: Art Storytime, reading "Beyond the Pond"
- Each Thursday from July 8, 2:00pm, Music, storytelling and special events for ages 5-10
- Tuesday, July 10, 4:00pm, Ages 8-12 Tween Steam: littleBits Theme Park
- Tuesday, July 17, 2:00pm, Ages 8-12 Feltastic and Filmazing: sew a small felt character while watching "Coco."
- Wednesday, July 18, 7:00pm Audiobook Club: "The View from the Cheap Seats" by Neil Gaiman
- Friday, July 2, 2:00pm, Ages 5+, Lego Lab
- Saturday, July 21, 6:00pm, All Ages

   Arcade Night: An After Hours Family Event with Gaming Systems, Giant Jenga, Connect 4 & Candyland, Photo Booth, Snacks
- Thursday, July 26, 2:00pm, Ages 5-10
   Pollyanna Theatre Company Presents:
   "If Wishes Were Fishes"

#### ST. JOHN BRANCH

- Yoga classes: Mondays, 6:30pm
- Senior Computer Club: Thursdays, 10:00am
- Bilingual Yoga Storytime: Thursdays, 10:30am
- Talk Time (English language practice): Saturdays, 11:30am
- Wednesdays, July 18 & 25, 7:00pm -Ukelele 101