

Us

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E-mail: newsletter@windsorpark.info

Visit the website at: Windsorpark.info

Newsgroup: groups.yahoo.com/group/windsorpark/

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P.O. Box 16183
Austin, TX 78761

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### **JOIN WPNA**

All residents of Windsor Park are eligible to become voting members of the Windsor Park Neighborhood Association. If you would like to join the association, please send your dues, at the level appropriate for you, to the address below or bring them to a monthly general meeting. Memberships are renewed yearly and expire on December 31 of each year. In order to vote on WPNA positions, you must have been a member for 30 days. Business members are welcome but do not have voting privileges.

The money received for dues is used to produce our newsletter and to support our other neighborhood programs. Because WPNA is a 501(c) (3) organization, your dues and any other donations are tax deductible.

(5) organization, your dues and any other donations are tax dedu		
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WPNA, P.O. Box 16183, Austin, TX 78761

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

## Windsor Park Library Updates and Events

**Events and Book Club** 

May 6, 2pm: Saturday Family Movie, "Sing"

May 9, 4pm: Lego Lab

May 9, 7pm: Windsor Park Book Club - "All's Well

that Ends Well", William Shakespeare

May 23, 4pm: Crafternoon

June 5,2pm: Captain Underpants and the

Underwear Fair

Library hours:

Monday - Thursday: 10am - 9pm

Friday: 1pm - 6pm

Saturday: 10am - 5pm

Sunday - closed

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http://library.austintexas.gov/windsor-park-branch

### The Windsor Park Neighborhood Plan Contact Team (WPNPCT)

A representative group of neighborhood stakeholders charged as stewards of the Neighborhood Plan, to uphold the implementation of the Plan's vision, goals and recommendations, and to review & vote on all proposed amendments to the Plan.

All can attend the Meetings - 2nd Monday of each month at the Windsor Park Library (subject to change)

at 6:30 p.m.

Contact Conor Kenny at conor@conorkenny.net or 512-968-3050

Numbers count! A strong neighborhood issociation advocates more effectively or Windsor Park! Join us today!

### **Austin Police District Representatives**

**IDA 1 (West) - Officer Harold Ristow** (512) 974-5046 | harold.ristow@austintexas.gov

IDA 2 (East) - SPO Chris Pitman

(512) 974-5521 |

christopher.pitman@austintexas.gov



# WINDOW on WINDSOR

Vol XXXVI No.05 May 2017

Windsor Park Neighborhood Association Meeting

Saturday, May 13th at 10am.

Memorial United Methodist Church 6100 Berkman Dr.

We serve LOCAL Fair Trade coffee from Trianon Roasting Co.!

### Windsor Park Contact Info

### Website:

www.Windsorpark.info

### Email:

president@ windsorpark.info

**Newsgroup:** groups.yahoo.com/ group/windsorpark/



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Submissions to the newsletter are due by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

Email them to:

newsletter@ windsorpark.info Published Monthly by the Windsor Park Neighborhood Association • Austin, Texas

### CodeNext and impacts on Windsor Park

Brian Graham, ANC Rep, Contact Team member and Neighborhood Association member

The long-anticipated maps showing the proposed new CodeNEXT re-zoning of the City were released on April 18th and are now being analyzed for a report to the neighborhood at the May 13 Neighborhood Association meeting. **Please come to the meeting for a deeper discussion of the impacts of this proposed zoning change.** A major goal of the CodeNEXT process is to increase the number of housing units in Austin by more than 145,000 over the next 10 years – and Windsor Park, as a near-central neighborhood, will be an attractive area to build more density. The preliminary analysis suggests that only one part of our neighborhood - the older portion of WP west of Berkman - is projected to see any significant change.

For other areas of Windsor Park (the residential areas located east of Berkman to Manor Road), the name of the zoning may change, but the zoning use remains the same. This means that about half of the neighborhood would remain unchanged by the CodeNEXT rezoning process. Most of the current zoning is SF-3 which limits housing to single-family detached homes, some duplexes and Auxiliary Dwelling Units (ADU- often called "granny flats") which are built on the same lot as the main house.

### Special Focus May Meeting: CodeNext and Development in Windsor Park

The proposed rezoning between Cameron Road and Berkman running from US 290 to Broadmoor (with some exceptions) would, in what the planners term "gently adding density", authorize new housing types on smaller lots than is now

permitted in that part of our neighborhood. The proposed rezoning to Transect 3 Neighborhood. Deep Set back (T3N.DS) would add two new types of housing called Cottage Corners, in which three small cottages can be built on a corner lot, and Cottage Courts in which six small cottages can share the same lot. The change would also allow duplexes to be constructed on smaller lots than is now permitted.

In addition to this change in the zoning of residential areas, the most significant change would be in what kind of buildings would be allowed in the Windsor Village area along Briarcliff in the center of WP. Here the planners envision the transformation of a 1950s-style strip shopping center into a new "Main Street" (zone T5MS) development with building up to six stories in height for apartments and businesses and/or live-work two-story housing units with similar up to three-story buildings (T4MS) across the street between Briarcliff and Wheless behind Harris Elementary.

Other major changes in the neighborhood include a similar T5MS development at the corner of Berkman and 51st Street and a similar T5U.SS development with buildings up to six-stories for the corner of Cameron and 51st across from Home Depot.

It should be noted that all these changes are only recommendations and are subject to changes. In fact, city officials expect to produce at least two further versions of both the overall CodeNEXT Land Use Code and of the zoning maps before the issues are submitted to the City Council for a final decision.

There will also be public meetings in each city council district. WP residents will likely be welcome at any such meeting, but the one for District 1 (Ora Houston) is 1PM to 3PM, Saturday, May 13, at LBJ High School; District 4 (Greg Casar) meets 6:30PM to 8:30PM, Wednesday, May 17, location TBA; and District 9 meets 10AM to noon on Saturday, June 3, at City Hall.

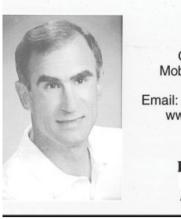
See page 2 for ways to get more info and provide input on CodeNext

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### CodeNext - how to get more info and provide input:

- The City welcomes your input at https://codenext.engagingplans.org/codenext-comparison-map
- To comment on the maps and the proposed zoning: https://codenext.civicomment.org/
- To see a dynamic map of how your property might change under CodeNext: https://codenext.engagingplans.org/codenextcomparison-map





### GARY KNIPPA CRS, REALTOR® Office: (512) 451-5050 Mobile/Direct: (512) 657-7714 Fax: (512) 451-5204 Email: gary@knippaproperties.com www.knippaproperties.com KNIPPA PROPERTIES P.O. Box 162906 Austin, Texas 78716

### **Revitalization and Economic Development Committee Update** Margaret Dahl

We are currently working on the following items:

- 1. Creating an accurate and positive image of Windsor Park. To this end, Mohan Rao has compiled a demographic document of our community which should be available soon online
- 2. Connecting with the City Economic Development Department and the Planning Department.
- 3. Contacting Cenote, Odelay & Realtors.

For more information please contact me at <u>planning@windsorpark.info</u>. If you are interested in learning more or participating in this committee, please attend our meetings: 4th Thursday of month 6:30 pm at the library.









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References available

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**PLUMBING** 



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# You have a friend at MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH HWY 290E H35 N Cameron Berkman Clayton Briarcliff Sunday School- 9:15am 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.

# Windsor Park Resident and Real Estate Broker



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### ABC – Herb Day Open House, May 6

Visit the American Botanical Council, 6200 Manor Road, entrance on Walnut Hills Drive, to celebrate "... herbs and herbalism through a series of independently produced educational events" on Saturday, May 6 from 10-4 pm. It's in our neighborhood and open to the public.

### AISD Facilities Master Plan passed

Cynthia Smith McCollum, Schools Committee

After more than a year of meetings, including four rounds of community engagement opportunities, the Austin ISD Facilities Master Plan (FMP) was passed by a 6-3 vote of the Board of Trustees, ending a contentious seven-hour meeting.

Trustee Ted Gordon, who represents Windsor Park and the rest of Northeast Austin, had serious criticisms of the FMP and offered several amendments to adjust the recommendations. Many of his amendments centered around reevaluating the decision to move the Liberal Arts and Sciences Academy (LASA) away from the LBJ campus, and those did not pass. However, he was successful in raising the Mueller school to a higher priority (years 1-6), and the same for the renovation of the Original LC Anderson High School, which will no longer house the Alternative Learning Center.

The Mueller school change is probably the project that will most directly affect Windsor Park Students. Currently District representatives are in discussions with Catellus, the developer, about the available land (likely ~20 acres)

and possible uses (likely it will be a Middle School ~and~ another facility). It may be that the Rosedale School for special needs students will be relocated to the Mueller school site, constructed with the proposed Middle School. The proximity to Dell Children's is a big advantage for the Rosedale community, which includes medically-fragile students that require nursing care on campus. Both of these are in the year 1-6 category, so it is likely that one or both will be passed as part of the first bond in November 2017.

Across the school district, those campus communities with projects designated for years 1-6 of the bond are already meeting with architects and planners to get a better idea of the cost estimates of the proposed projects. Once that information is gathered, the FABPAC will recommend projects will be slotted into the first bond after community engagement meetings May 16-19. The Board of Trustees is scheduled to vote on the bond package June 19, with an election in November 2017.

Currently the bond package has not been determined, but it is likely that all projects will be packaged together into one large bond, rather than smaller packages as in past elections. There can be no doubt that many of these first-





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Windsor Park Residents



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- Anuj D.

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round projects are approaching emergency status - some schools at 160% or more over-crowded, or in the case of TA Brown Elementary, schools' conditions are unsafe for children and far from an ideal learning environment. Please plan to come out to those community meetings the week of May 15 and share your input on bond projects and packaging, and look for the most up-to-date information at https://www.austinisd.org/fmp.

the scenes!

### What makes a neighborhood great?

By Meghan Dougherty, President, WPNA

I've been thinking about this for a while. My husband and I initially chose Windsor Park as our home for three reasons: location, the trees(!), and affordability. But since moving here, I know the most important reason for us to stay - the people. I'm so glad to be part of this neighborhood - I witness the kindness and generosity of the people in this neighborhood on a regular basis. I've seen people mobilize to donate to refugee families in need. Recently I saw a posting from Sadler Means on Nextdoor, asking for donations for a recently homeless family, and the response was instantaneous. But that's not all you've done...

I can't wait for May's neighborhood meeting when we get to recognize the scholarship recipients from our local high schools - young men and women ready to go out on their own, start college, and make a difference in the world. This is the third year we've awarded scholarships to neighborhood kids, and that's only possible with your generous donations, either given directly to the WPNA, or indirectly through your participation at the happy hours Nomad has hosted or the pancake breakfasts organized by the Mennonite Church. I'd also like to thank the very generous anonymous donor who's helped us sustain this fund. I don't know who you are, but you've made a tremendous impact.



I was extraordinarily impressed to see how this community came together to organize our first annual block party on April 8. What a turn out! We couldn't have done it without our local business sponsors: BlinkBeauty, TuneBugz, Cement Loop, Windsor Park Veterinary Clinic, Nomad Bar, Knippa Properties, The Porter Brothers of Coldwell Banker, Ann's Appliance Repair, Salt Homes, Michelle Edwards Counseling, Subway at Capital Plaza, GRIT, and Terri Martin Guardian Mortgage, Alamo Drafthouse at Mueller, Transform Fitness, Wetlands in Waiting Landscape Design, Dharma Yoga, Corona Coffee, El Mana Fruteria, and Big Mouth Announcing. Volunteers came out of the woodwork to do everything from greet people as

they arrived to coordinating games to building a stage. And I couldn't thank the key organizers enough: Joe Marotta, Shanda Sansing, Shrie Spangler, and Mary Leonard-Kellogg. Y'all were a great team and put in a ton of time behind

We ask A LOT of you, our neighbors. We work hard to make this neighborhood a great place to live. Moving forward, I know Jeanette Swenson will be knocking on doors to raise additional funds in order to finish installing shades on all the playscapes in Bartholomew Park and to start getting Pomerleau Park (on Patton Lane) developed and usable. And we'll continue to need volunteers to help beautify our key corridors, including on May 20 when the Beautification Committee is organizing the Berkman Drive clean up. So, thank you for your generosity, your participation at neighborhood events, and your membership in the Windsor Park Neighborhood Association.

YOU are what makes this neighborhood great!



### **Update from CM Houston**

I know that there are many concerns with the increase in traffic congestion in your neighborhoods because of the roundabout current construction happening on E. 51st Street/IH-35 and the Hwy 183S project. Our office has received numerous calls and emails, which we share with the Austin Transportation Department, the Texas Department of Transportation and the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority. Please feel free to call our office for information on how to connect with these entities, or visit their websites at: <a href="http://www.my35.org/capital">http://www.my35.org/capital</a> and <a href="https://www.183south.com">https://www.183south.com</a>.

The community meeting to discuss the CodeNEXT Zoning Map that was released on Tuesday, April 18, 2017 will be held on Saturday, May 13, 2017 at LBJ High School, 7309 Lazy Creek Dr., from 1pm - 3pm. I strongly

Windsor Park
Neighborhood Cleanup –
Berkman Drive
Sat. May 20th 8-10:30am
Meet at
Windsor Park Village
Shopping Center next to
Beall's

encourage everyone to attend and participate by sharing your feedback, ideas and concerns. Please attend or send a member of your neighborhood to represent the voice of your community.

For more information about CodeNEXT, please visit the website: <a href="http://www.austintexas.gov/department/codenext">http://www.austintexas.gov/department/codenext</a>.

Please feel free to call the District #1 office for information, assistance or to be added to the district email list: 512-978-2101.

### Yard of the Month May 2017 - 5354 Westminster Drive

Sara Jane Lee

Our May winners are Ilse Hendrickx and Bjørn Sletto of 5354 Westminster Drive. They have lived on Westminster for 11 years and are members of WPNA.

Ilse and Bjørn started with the existing landscape including their massive Arizona Ash tree. They wanted a welcoming walkway to separate their entrance from their driveway. The walkway is made of concrete rectangles laid in a curving design leading to the front door and the side patio. The walkway, the patio, and the Red Oak that they planted three years ago are their favorite design elements. The firm Fertile Grounds Gardens fleshed out their design for the walkway and made it a reality.

There are mulched beds near the house. Gray gravel outlines the rectangles in the walkway. On one side of the walkway Ilse and Bjørn have Rosemary, some Succulents, and blooming plants in a large mulched bed. The last include Salvia Greggii, and the Trailing, New Gold, and Texas varieties of Lantana. On their patio, they have Cacti, Succulents, Geraniums, and Violets.

The remainder of the yard is a mixture of Bermuda and Rye grass. By the way, they never water their grass. That is one way that they conserve water, also the gravel and the mulch let water soak into ground instead of running down the street. Now it takes them 2-3 hours a week to mow, to weed and to clean up their yard. Most of the cleaning up is picking up twigs under the ash tree.

Ilse and Bjørn advise following your instincts and designing a place that you find pleasant. Use perennial plants. Think about your design so that you will save water. You do not have to do it all at once. "Before you know it, you will have a great yard."

Ilse and Bjørn will receive a \$50.00 gift certificate from our sponsor, Shoal Creek Nursery. Pictures of the Yard of the Month are displayed on our website, www.Windsorpark.info as well as on our Facebook page. Check them out.

Do you like a certain yard, or yards, in the neighborhood? We love to get nominations. To nominate a yard or yards, e-mail us at yom@windsorpark.info, call 928-0681 or write WPNA YOMC, P O Box 16183, Austin, Texas 78761



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### AHA! Development proposed for 1915 Gaston Place

Conor Kenny, Contact Team, with input from Mohan Rao, Briarcliff Alliance

As the Windsor Park Neighborhood Plan Contact Team gets ready to wade into CodeNEXT (see contact team member Brian Graham's initial analysis of the draft plan), one of the local issues we've been considering has been the proposed Accessible Housing Austin (AHA) development at 1915 Gaston Place (the field between Briarcliff, Wheless and Gaston next to the Greenleaf florist wholesaler).

A few years ago, AHA brought a proposal to WPNA for a two-story, 20-unit development for the site, which is owned by the city affordable housing corporation and thus will inevitably house affordable housing of some type. AHA is now proposing to build a 27-unit, three-story development on the same lot, and is in the process of submitting site plans to the city. AHA's plan is for the development's tenants to be under 50% of the area median family income (current median family income is \$27,250 for one person and \$31,150 for a family of two), and for at least six of the units to be reserved for individuals with disabilities under the state's 811 rental assistance program. That program is for people receiving Medicaid medical services who are: 1) exiting a nursing home; 2) people with mental illnesses who are judged to have a high likelihood of success living on their own; and 3) foster care youth with disabilities aging out of the system.

The Windsor Park residents living in the vicinity of this housing complex, while they welcome providing housing for the complex's target population, have expressed several concerns related to this development. The concerns generally fall into two categories: the design and scale of the development and the property management once it is active. Another major concern for the Windsor Park residents is that the area already hosts a large number of subsidized rental units and halfway homes.

As to the design, we have given AHA feedback in regard to the street-facing aspects of the buildings, asking for a more articulated, interesting, and landscaped streetscape. AHA tells me they have come up with new renderings and are evaluating the cost of the design changes and will send the new renderings soon. One positive thing I have learned is that the philanthropic investments and federal funding for this particular project come with stringent property maintenance requirements.

As to the scale, the development is in a bit of an awkward space, however, the proposed plan is fully within the allowed use of parcel zoning and the neighborhood plan. I have confirmed with the city that the site plan cannot be challenged for being three stories or 27 units. The compliance of the site plan with city ordinances regarding things like parking and flooding can be challenged and requested for additional scrutiny, but the simple scale cannot.

With regard to the management of the site, I have done extensive research on the 811. The program's tenants actually come with quite a bit of casework/oversight, and are not personally concerning to me. However, I have been told it is best-practice to have engaged, on-site property management staff with a background in social work, as well as a 24-7 urgent contact line for both neighbors and tenants. A similarly sized and successful development, La Vista de Guadalupe off east 8th St., has their administrative offices on-site, which I have been told has also been critical to its success (they also give priority to their own neighborhood residents pushed out of their housing by gentrification, something I'd love to see with this development). I have raised these issues with AHA and told them we would like to see a plan & commitment. They agree that these are generally best practices and are going to come back with a response. I will keep the neighborhood and the immediate neighbors posted, but should their response fall short of expectations, I want to warn everyone that it will be a challenge to organize the city and county governments to bring pressure on AHA to strengthen their plan.

Neighbors have reacted to this development in a considerate and compassionate way, with a clear effort to not discriminate against our potential future neighbors due to their income or disability. All too often affordable housing proposals can be accompanied by a bit of hysteria. At a time when Windsor Park has been exhibit A for the housing crisis in Austin, with prices and rents near-doubling within a decade due to spiraling demand and no substantial increase in supply, and renters and working class people being increasingly pushed out, only proactive efforts will maintain our diversity and keep us from turning into another white-washed Clarksville. I am optimistic that the Windsor Park I have grown to know and love will rally to embrace a responsible and reasonable plan for the site.

If you would like to know more about the AHA! development or would like to join your Windsor Park neighbors who are voicing concerns about this project, please contact the WP Contact Team or email <a href="mailto:briarcliffalliance@googlegroups.com">briarcliffalliance@googlegroups.com</a> The opinions above are entirely our own and have not been endorsed by a formal vote of the Contact Team.

### **Mueller Update**

Rick Krivoniak

Though the Bartholomew pool is spectacular, I know some of you still have an interest in the Ella Wooten & John Gaines pools at Mueller. (John Gaines was recently featured in Texas Architect - <a href="www.txamagazine.org/2017/03/01/the-pool-upstream/">www.txamagazine.org/2017/03/01/the-pool-upstream/</a>) The Mueller pools will open to the general public on May 27, the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend. Entry fees are identical to those at Bartholomew. More Mueller pool information is available at <a href="www.muelleraustinonline.com/pool.php">www.muelleraustinonline.com/pool.php</a>

BD Riley's Irish Pub & Restaurant, JT Youngblood's Texas Chicken and Lick Honest Ice Creams all opened in April. Stella Public House and Halcyon Coffee + Bar + Lounge are the remaining ground-floor businesses hoping to open soon in the Simond Avenue Diamond Building, adjacent to the Thinkery. Other businesses will be opening soon in the street-level spaces at the Alamo Drafthouse, all forming the initial core of Mueller's Town Center.

Total Wine & More has filed remodeling permits at the City for the former Chair King location near Lancaster and Philomena. Started in 1991 by brothers David and Robert Trone in Delaware, they are now (per their website) the country's largest independent retailer of fine wine.

On April 3, the AISD Board of Trustees approved the Facilities and Bond Planning Advisory Committee (FABPAC) recommendation that a northeast Austin middle school at Mueller be constructed within the next six years. A bond election could happen as soon as November of this year. Construction of infrastructure for Mueller's Section 10, which includes the school site and the completion of Tilley Street to E. 51st Street, has just recently begun. Zach Scott Street is anticipated to connect to Manor Road by this time next year. Infrastructure for the final block of Mueller, Section 11 – bound by Tilley, Zach Scott and the big curve of Manor Road – will begin in 2019.

As of this writing, one vacancy remains on the RMMAPIAC (Mueller Commission). Council Member Ann Kitchen has appointed former Mueller Neighborhood Association chair Dave Neider to the Commission. If you have an interest in serving on any City board or commission, visit <a href="www.austintexas.gov/department/boards-and-commissions">www.austintexas.gov/department/boards-and-commissions</a>. The RMMAPIAC will next meet at 6PM, Tuesday, May 9, 2017 at Parque Zaragoza Recreation Center, 2608 Gonzales Street. Visit <a href="https://austintexas.gov/rmmapiac">https://austintexas.gov/rmmapiac</a> to see RMMAPIAC agendas, minutes and other documents. Address Mueller questions and comments to <a href="mailto:bc-rick.krivoniak@austintexas.gov">bc-rick.krivoniak@austintexas.gov</a>

### **Update from CM Casar**

### Berkman Drive improvements update

Infrastructure improvements on Berkman Drive north of 51st Street and south of 290 will begin this summer! When I first was elected to office, Windsor Park residents said one of their top concerns was Berkman Drive. That's why we allocated quarter-cent funds (sales tax money) to Berkman in one of our first transportation decisions as a new City Council. Since then, the Transportation Department has been meeting with families in Windsor Park to design the safety and traffic improvements to Berkman. The City will host one more meeting this spring so that you can provide input on the Berkman proposal. We'll let you know once the details for this last meeting are confirmed. In the meantime, don't hesitate to call my office at 512-978-2104 or email us at District4@austintexas.gov.

### Real-time sidewalks construction map available online

Windsor Park and District 4 have historically been short on sidewalks. One of our major initiatives has been to bring more sidewalks to North and Northeast Austin. Thanks to your advocacy and the new Council's efforts, there are new sidewalks coming to our area soon. The Public Works Department has just created a website where you can look up where sidewalk and curb ramp construction will happen in your neighborhood in the next six months! You can look online by going to http://bit.ly/COAsidewalks

### **Tenants Get Help on E. 52nd Street**

As you may have heard, the multi-family property at 1127 E. 52nd was determined unsafe by the City due to several conditions that posed a substantial danger and adverse health impact to residents at that complex. At the April 13 Council Meeting, we approved funding to ensure the neighbors at this property can move out and relocate within the area so that these Windsor Park neighbors do not face homelessness. The City is currently suing the landlord of this property for \$800,000 because of the dangerous conditions— this money will be used to reimburse the City for helping people move.

Editor's Note: Walter Olenick, co-owner of these properties, is a long-time, active member of WPNA and a neighbor of many years. A story in the Statesman on May 14th states that the Olenicks are moving forward on selling the properties due to the pressure from the city. I would hope for a good resolution for both the Olenicks and their current tenants.

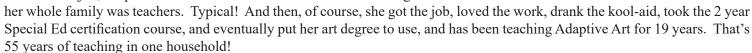
### MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS: TRICIA CHAPA and SANDY DAVIS

Martin Luecke

Our neighbors on Cloverleaf since 1997, Tricia and Sandy are Special Ed teachers. Well, actually, Sandy just retired after 34 years teaching Special Ed PE and she forgets that she isn't teaching anymore! So Tricia is the currently practicing Special Ed Art teacher for nine elementary schools in Austin, with her home school at Blanton. She provides life skills training for children who cannot be in a regular art class. Tricia tailors her lessons to the individual student, and even creates art tools for them. "Some kids can't hold a paint brush, so I stuck a paint brush through a tennis ball and the kid holds the ball to paint." Genius!

Tricia visits three schools a day. "Sometimes I don't know where I'm supposed to be!" It's that way for all the Special Ed teachers at AISD. Sandy recounts the many times she showed up at school the wrong day!

After graduating with a Degree in Studio Art, Tricia was selling software and hardware over the phone for IBM, "hating it", when Sandy talked her into applying for a Special Ed assistant job, despite the fact that Tricia had sworn off ever being a teacher since



"It's challenging like any other job, but it's not for everybody" says Tricia. Each child is unique in what they can do. "After all these years, I'm still learning about what skills they have and what you can do with them."



A few years ago, an Austin law firm bought all the art made by Tricia's students from the AISD art show. It was the first time those children had experienced anything outside of their small world. "And their parents also experienced something they never thought their children could do" says Sandy. It was a big deal.

Back in '97 the couple were renting in Hyde Park and regularly visiting a friend on Cloverleaf, and had noticed 'the house on the corner' many times. It's a yard of the month house. One day they drove by and saw a For Sale by Owner sign, slammed on the brakes, and bought the house!

Their place is full of Tricia's art. She mostly works in screen printing. You might recognize Tricia's iconic "Airport Tower" art hanging around Austin. Right now you can find it in Nomad Bar, and the AMLI building in Mueller. She also has participated in the East Austin Studio Tour at Cement Loop.

The pair have a love affair with Windsor Park. Sandy says she "feels like it's a real neighborhood." Tricia agrees: "We know our neighbors." Emphasis is added because it's so true.

If you have ever been to an impromptu Halloween party in a carport on Cloverleaf, you might know these two. "We have a lot of fun on this corner!" Right on, right on, right on I say! Tricia and Sandy are doing their part to Keep Making Austin Better!

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



### John H. Reagan Early College High School

Julia Remington, LCSW Bilingual Social Services Specialist

- May 1-5 End of Course exams for Biology, Algebra, and US History.
- May 6- 10am to 2pm Junior Soul Strutters Dance clinic-Do your young children like to dance? Have them join our Soul Strutters in a special training session. Contact Samantha Martin at 512-414-2523.
- May 9- 4:30pm to 6:30pm- Integral Care Mental Health Forum in the cafeteria. Did you know May is Mental Health Month? Please join us for a enlightening discussion on mental health. There will be an expert panel available to answer questions. Light snacks will be provided.
- May 13-7pm to midnight- Class of 2017 Prom. Holiday Inn-Midtown
- May 20- Saturday School
- May 25- Finals Exams start

In April, the student council pulled off a very successful Fashion show and silent Auction under the guidance of teacher Jason Summerville. Over \$2000 was raised to support student activities. The theme was Back to the Future and students made clothing representative of years past.

### **Scholarship Winners Announced**

Juan Pablo Martinez

The school committee is very excited to announce that our seven-member Scholarship Committee has determined scholarship winners for 2017! We expanded our scholarship offering to all three of our neighborhood high schools: LASA, LBJ, and Reagan. This year we will be able to award \$4000 of our scholarship money to four deserving seniors at Reagan and one commendable senior at LASA.

Because we have had generous donations this year, rather than holding substantial funds in the bank, we want to let our neighborhood students know that we are proud of their accomplishments and support them in their future educational endeavors. We are inviting these students to our WPNA May meeting on the 13th so that we can introduce them to everyone. Please come and be impressed!

We will also begin soliciting donations for next year's scholarship fund.

May 1st through the 5th is Teacher Appreciation Week. Remember to show gratitude to teachers who do so much to shape the future.

### Bartholomew and Pomerleau Parks Up-date

Jeanette Swenson

EARL J. POMERLEAU POCKET PARK at 1906 Patton Lane is Windsor Park's newest park. In April, several neighbors met with Parks and Recreation staff Jimmy Cone, Darrell Dawson, Sonny Chandler, and Charles Mabry to discuss increased maintenance and possible opening of the Park. We also met with Jesse Neumann, PARD Urban Forester. Urban Forestry will remove dead limbs and trees that are safety and security risks prior to a work day.

What we can do now:

- 1) Walk by and check out Pomerleau Park. It has been recently mowed and wildflowers are blooming in the rear of the park.
- 2) Send us your ideas for park development. We can do a lot on 1.9 acres.
- 3) Watch for workday date, probably in early June and join us to clear brush.
- 4) Advocate for funds for Pomerleau Pocket Park in the 2018 PARD budget and in the possible 2018 bond election.
- 5) Advocate for sidewalks and crosswalk on Patton Lane and in the Berkman Drive plan.
- 6) Vote at the WPNA meeting for Windsor Park NA to adopt Pomerleau Park.

### BARTHOLOMEW PARK

Thank you to the vote of confidence at the April 8 WPNA meeting. Members voted overwhelmingly to proceed with shading the large playscape (\$23,343) and the swings (\$17,500). WPNA voted to prioritize the shading of the larger playscape and install it as soon as funds are available. Fundraising will be completed in one calendar year. Grant requests will have been submitted to HEB, Wells Fargo, and Austin Parks Foundation as well as hospitals and dermatologists in the area by the time you read this. 112 Windsor Park residents have already contributed about \$14,500 to shade the playscape and toddler swings, and shade does make a difference! Thank you all for your past donations, and I hope that you will consider contributing again or becoming a first-time donor.

According to Greg Montes, PARD Design staff, the long-awaited trail between the splashpad area and the pool is being permitted and completion is planned for 2017. We do need volunteers to re-plant the splash pad landscaping at the entrance and in the butterfly garden.

Watch for notices on Facebook and Listserv for planting days, and let me know if you would like to help with planting.

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### Harris Elementary events:

- 5/8-5/10- STAAR Testing, all third-fifth grade
- 5/17- Fifth grade field trip
- 5/18- Track & Field PK-Second grade
- 5/19- Track & Field Third grade- Fifth grade
- 5/24- Young People's Concert Austin Symphony
- 5/25- Olympic Field Day
- 5/26 & 5/29 Student Holidays, NO School
- 5/30- Spelling Bee Fifth grade
- 6/1- Last day of classes for students

### **Bertha Sadler Means YWLA**

Liena Garcia, Parent Support Specialist

- May 2nd, 11:30 am 12:30 pm Coffee with the Principal
- May 9th, 5:30 pm 7:00 pm Parent Night (PTA Meeting Session)
- May 18th, 6:00 pm 7:00 pm Salsa Night
- May 26th, 5:30 pm 7:30 pm Family Fun Night

### Parent Courses:

- ESL (English as a Second Language), SSL (Spanish as a Second Language) and Basic Computer Classes are being provided at the school, April 22, April 29 and May 6, 9:00 11:00 am
- Online registration workshops for the 2017 2018 school year. Parents may come in and register students online with staff support. Mondays and Wednesdays in April till May 24th, 10:00 am, 2:00 pm, and 4:00 pm

If you would like more information or have any questions, please contact Mrs. Garcia, Parent Support Specialist, at 512-841-5788

### **Austin Achieve Public Schools**

Emily Morrison

This spring, we are celebrating the "whole student" at Austin Achieve with a new video series called #AchieveScholars. We hope you will check out our school Facebook page to learn more about what we are doing and to see these great videos. We recognize that a college ready student has also developed social skills, participates in extracurricular activities, and understands how to self-advocate. We are excited to share how we are changing the pace of education for our students through our unique "whole child" approach.

### Calling All Families for the 2017-18 School Year

Austin Achieve will grow next year to include a new class of rising 6th grade students. This month, interested families with students currently enrolled in elementary school are invited to attend an enrollment information session where you will have the opportunity to learn more about our unique curriculum, free after school activities, and special education programs. To sign up for an information session, please contact Lizett Ternes at 512-287-0345.

### **Volunteer Opportunities: Achieve Mentors**

As a mentor, you will work with students in a one-on-one or small group setting. Mentoring opportunities are available in multiple class subjects throughout the day, Monday—Thursday. We ask that mentors make a consistent commitment by volunteering at the same time and on the same day each week, for a minimum of 6 weeks. Please call 512-522-4190 for more information.



### **Andrews Elementary**

Crystal Brown, Assistant Principal

### **Upcoming Events:**

- 5/1-5/5 Teacher Appreciation Week
- 5/5 Coffee with the Principal
- 5/8-5/12 School Health Appreciation Week
- 5/12 Puestecitos
- 5/19 International Cultural Celebration
- 5/24 Track and Field Day (Kinder-2<sup>nd</sup>)
- 5/25 Track and Field Day (3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>)
- 5/29 Student and Staff Holiday
- 6/1 Students last day of classes



Wetlands in Waiting Gretchen Smith 512.317.5019

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Rain Garden Design, Xeriscaping, Erosion Control and Flood Repair

Free estimates
Up to \$500 City rebate for Rain
Garden installation

wetlandsinwaiting.com

### Celebrations:

Congratulations to all our teachers who participated in the Capitol 10K on April 23, 2017. GO! Team #GatorPride! A big round of applause to our 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders who worked so hard on the STAAR Test!

For volunteer opportunities please contact: Yanaseli Davis-Parent Support Specialist 414-5661

### **Blanton Elementary**

Karon Smutzer, ACE Site Coordinator

The school year is nearly over and Blanton has been very busy with learning and standardized testing, but that is coming to an end. Students are looking forward to the summer months with much anticipation and the teachers might get a little well deserved rest. In May, the school will be hosting a Pre-K and Kinder tour for new parents to the neighborhood. Please feel free to visit the school, ask questions and learn more about what Blanton Elementary can offer for your student. Important May dates for parents and community:

- May 2 Adult Zumba, 4:45-5:45 p.m., every Tues. & Thurs. in the gym.
- May 3 Adult ESL Classes, every Wednesday, 8:00-10 a.m., room 108
- May 4 Pre-K & Kinder Tour, 9:00 a.m.
- May 15-19 Library Spring Book Fair
- May 19 Principal's Coffee, 8:45 a.m.
- May 19 ACE after school program ends for 2<sup>nd</sup> semester
- May 29 School Holiday Memorial Day
- June 1 Last Day of School & Talent Show
- June 5 ACE Summer Camp begins

We encourage the Windsor Park community to join us for any special events whenever they have the opportunity - just keep an eye on this column to find out what has and will be happening at Blanton Elementary. For more information, please feel free to contact Karon Smutzer, ACE Site Coordinator at <a href="mailto:karon.smutzer@austinisd.org">karon.smutzer@austinisd.org</a>

### Harris Elementary

Lori Cordaway, School Counselor

We are looking forward to finishing out our year successfully. We still have summer applications for Austin Sunshine Camp if any parents are looking for camps for their children during the summer. Please stop by our school office and ask to speak to the Counselor, Mrs. Cordaway.