



Neighborhood News

News and information for the residents of Wells Branch.
Vol 19, Issue 6, Holiday 2010

Holiday events begin November 20

Thanksgiving Potluck, Luminaria Festival and more!

JOIN YOUR NEIGHBORS AT THE WB LUMINARY CELEBRATION



Experience the glow of the holidays as our trails are illuminated with luminaries around Katherine Fleischer Park on December 10 & 11. Returning to

tradition, the WBNA will be hosting Friday night's events and the Wells Branch MUD will host Saturday evening. Santa will be visiting the Homestead Cabin both nights from 6-9pm with FREE photos provided again this year by the WB Community Church.

Craft tables will be set up Friday night inside the Community Center and children will have the opportunity to decorate frames for their photos with Santa. The WB of WB and the WB Library will be on hand to assist the children with crafts and keep refreshments flowing.

Join us outdoors for a caroling hayride (both nights) or a trip around the trails on our holiday express train (Sat. only) to see the luminaries up close. There will be live entertainment and indoor refreshments for all to enjoy in the CC. Times are to be announced, so keep an eye out on the website www.wellsbranchmud.com for performance dates and times.

HOUSE DECORATING CONTEST

Remember to decorate your house this year! Awards will be given in several categories including:

- most elaborate
- most original
- most traditional
- best use of lights

Judging will begin Friday night, so make sure you go all out and vie for one of the coveted awards.

DONATE TO FIRE DEPT FOOD DRIVE

ESD #2 will be hosting a food drive from Nov. 15 through Dec. 20. Please bring canned goods and non-perishables by the fire station at 15300 Bratton Lane. All proceeds will be donated to Immanuel Lutheran Church Food Bank, which serves the area.

If you have questions, please contact Lt. Tim Wallace at 512.251.2801 ext. 4530 or twallace@pflugervillefire.com

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CLASSIFIED ADS

HANNAH'S PETSITTING: \$11/day for 1 pet, to water, walk, feed & play with your pet twice a day. References available. Call 922-3853.

'TIS THE SEASON TO WATER WISELY



Source: Wells Branch Word, December 2003
www.wellsbranchmud.com/docs/newsletters/bw.pdf

Wells Branch residents can save money year-round by conserving water during the winter wastewater averaging period beginning November 16, 2010 and ending February 16, 2011.

There are no meters on customers' wastewater lines. To determine wastewater usage, a customer's water usage is reviewed over three consecutive, low demand winter months when lawn watering and irrigation are less frequent. Margret Wingrove of Crossroads Utility Services tells us, "Only two months of the three month period will be used in the calculations...and we don't know which two months. The City of Austin determines the months they will use to bill Wells Branch after the fact. We in turn use the same two months for our customers." The customer's wastewater charge each month will be based on the new wastewater average or actual monthly water usage, whichever is lowest. Customers may contact Margret at 246-5908 or mwingrove@crossroadsus.com with any questions.

Because the MUD is a wholesale customer of the City of Austin, the City's Water Conservation Program is available to Wells Branch residents to help reduce charges for both water and wastewater. For more information consult www.ci.austin.tx.us/watercon/.

Visit the following sites for more tips on water conservation:
www.epa.gov/watersense/water_efficiency/cons.html
www.wateriq.org/apps/wateriq/default.aspx

Like a Good Neighbor, State Farm is there!



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SILVER BRANCHERS' HOLIDAY LUNCHEON



Wells Branch Silver Branchers (residents 55 and older) continue to meet the first three Thursdays of each month at 1:00 PM in their new digs at the recreation center on Shoreline Drive.

They plan to break from their traditional meeting place in December to celebrate the holidays with lunch out on Thursday, December 2nd.

For additional information call the Wells Branch MUD office at 251-9814, ext 107.

Wells Branch's Got Talent

What's your talent? The WB MUD is inviting all residents to come share their gifts with our community and take part in the second annual talent show.

If you live in Wells Branch, start putting your group together now or plan your solo act. Residents of all ages with any type of talent are encouraged to participate on January 29, starting at 6pm in the Rec. Center located at 3000 Shoreline Drive.

Prizes and trophies will be awarded for:

- Best Individual Performance
- Best Group Collaboration
- Judge's Pick
- Audience's Pick

Admission is free for spectators and all performances will require a \$5 entry fee. Registration begins in December and space is limited. For questions, please contact the recreation manager at 251-9814.

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GREEN LIVING 101

By Tara Fisher Munoz



What does green living mean to you? For me, it means taking small steps each day to tread lightly on our precious planet. I was taught from a very young age that we need to preserve our natural resources by reusing items, recycling every recyclable item and to conserve water and electricity. There are also other things that you can do in order to live a more eco-friendly lifestyle such as eating a healthier diet, using fewer chemicals and reducing your consumption. It can be overwhelming, but if you just take one small step, it will empower you to continue on your green journey.

Being green just makes sense. Not only does it help the environment, but it helps your health and pocketbook! Listed below are a few choices you can make right now that will make a big difference in a small amount of time:

Invest in a good quality water bottle. This will last you a very long time and you save an incredible amount of money by not purchasing bottled water. Did you know that tap water is more regulated than bottled water? Chances are, your tap water is healthier than the over-priced bottled water.

When doing any sort of shopping, use a tote, rather than accepting a plastic or paper bag from the store.

CLEAN GREEN! Please, put away the endless bottles of toxic chemicals and the harsh smell of bleach for a gentler, easier on the body, green cleaner. Simple homemade solutions can be made in mere minutes or you can simply use baking soda, vinegar and hydrogen peroxide for almost all types of cleaning.

Save water! Shorten your showering time, turn off the tap when brushing your teeth, lather up your hands with the faucet turned off, use Watersense toilets (rebatale through the City of Austin), use

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Please contact me for your real estate needs and let me put my knowledge of WB to work for you!



rain barrels (also rebatable) in the garden, only start the dishwasher with a full load, etc.

Save electricity! Turn off the lights when you are not using them, use CFL bulbs, use powerstrips to turn off your electric machines at night, etc.

Reduce, reuse, recycle. Reduce what you buy (I know ... so un-American, but who really needs all this stuff that we tend to accumulate?), reuse what you have and recycle all the rest.

Eat less meat and processed foods-this is a biggie! Not only are these items completely unhealthy for you, but they cost a lot of money and cause many future medical issues.

Regarding processed food, do you know how to read a label? Do not be misled by what the packaging states, but learn how to read a nutrition label.

Be present – Be mindful – Enjoy what you have!

So, now that you have some tips, I challenge you to make some positive environmentally friendly changes in your life!

ADVERTISING AND ARTICLE SUBMISSION

Do you have a business or service you would like to advertise? Have an article of interest to other WB residents? If so, please contact Pam at wbnanews@sbcglobal.net for other information.



Publication is not guaranteed, and all article submissions are subject to editing. All ads must be pre-paid. Please note that it is the policy of the WBNA not to publish political ads of any kind.

The deadline to receive ad payments, ad materials and article submissions for the January issue is December 27.

Ad rates may be found at www.wbna.us.

The value of the WBNA

As we prepare to say adieu to 2010, the Wells Branch Neighborhood Association (WBNA) would like to take a moment to remind everyone why becoming a member of your neighborhood association is important.

The WBNA has brought several meaningful speakers/topics to you this year, from gardening expert John Dromgoole to the sheriff's department conducting various safety seminars. The WBNA also sponsors the Easter Egg Hunt, National Night Out, part of the luminary celebration and this newsletter.

Over the last 10 years, the WBNA has been a strong advocate for the neighborhood against irresponsible development, TxDOT's original toll road plan that did not allow free access on FM1325, installing a stoplight at the very dangerous intersection of FM1325 and Shoreline Dr., widening Bratton Lane and more. The WBNA has been there to support all of these major issues and we plan to continue to be a voice for Wells Branch.

Support **your** WBNA and send in the membership form on page 8 along with your \$20 dues.



Halloween Pictures



Over 400 Trick or Treaters attended the festivities at the Wells Branch MUD Kiddy Korner and 480 ghouls, goblins, fairies & princesses visited the Haunted House on Halloween night.

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HOW TO PLANT A TREE

by: The Green Gardener, Richard Fadal



While most associate spring with planting season, fall is a great time for planting trees – both for the tree and the gardener! With cooler temperatures, new trees are subjected to less stress. This enables the trees to recover more rapidly from transplanting and quickly establish a root system giving them a jumpstart on spring growth. And what better stress reliever for the gardener than to be outside enjoying this beautiful weather?

Fall is a good time to recall the seven steps to properly planting a tree.

1. First, select a good, open, well-drained location.
2. Then dig a big and wide hole at least 12 inches wider than the root ball.
3. Set the root ball so that it is at least 1 inch higher than the surrounding ground for good drainage.
4. Backfill the lower half of the hole with existing soil, tamping it solidly into place and filling the top half with a 50-50 mixture of existing soil and a good organic soil mix.
5. Mulch the tree ring with 2 inches of shredded mulch, keeping the mulch 2 inches away from the trunk.
6. Secure the trunk and root ball with steel fence posts and wire, making sure to protect the trunk. Keep them in place and tighten for one year.
7. Water deeply and thoroughly and continue watering until the tree is established.

Trees cool the earth, produce new oxygen for you to breathe and are always a beautiful addition to any property.



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(Residents of Wells Branch)
Shelly Chicoine Hogan, D.C.
Nicole Chicoine Edwards, D.C.

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WB GARDEN GUILD IS GREEN AND GROWING

The newly formed Garden Guild met for the first time on September 25 for a brainstorming session to come up with ideas and guidelines for future meetings. These are some of the items on the wish list:

- Hold Plant & Seed Exchanges
- Arrange for soil analysis during one of the meetings
- Have a session on soil amendments for this area
- Look at various organic plant fertilizers
- Discuss organic pesticides and use of Lady Bugs and other beneficials to control pests
- Look into possibility of caring for the demonstration garden by the Homestead House
- Consider touring other organic gardens and farms
- Research native plants for use in gardens
- Research what fruit trees and vegetables are appropriate for our climate and area
- Look at water conservation measures
- Promote Rain Water Barrel information and Austin Rebate Program
- Check out myfolia.com for gardening information
- Post pictures of gardens and on list serve and blog
- Possibility of having wine at the meetings
- Change the meeting time from 2pm to noon.
- Display garden photos at library

At the October 23 meeting, WB resident Shelly Palmer led residents on an educational hike to learn about area flora and enjoy the beautiful fall weather.

Guild members met Saturday November 6 for a plant and seed exchange. Janet Church from the Texas Native Plant Society of Williamson County brought soil kits and taught residents how to take samples and submit them to the lab for analysis. Next, Shelley Palmer, also of the TNPSWC, led a discussion on "Sustainable landscaping with Texas native plants." Shelley discussed the reasons to do this, how to do this, resources and a City of Austin program that might be of help.

Tara Fisher-Munoz followed the program with a seminar on Green Living.

The WB Garden Guild meets the first Saturday of each month at the WB Community Library. Everyone is welcome.



Shelley Palmer points out a Black Willow tree by the pond, used by the Indians to cure headaches.

WBNA MEETING-DON'T BECOME A VICTIM

On October 21, the WBNA hosted a seminar by Sgt. Craig Smith of the Travis County Sheriff's Office. Below is a snippet of what was learned.

1 in 3 females and 1 in 10 males will become the victim of a violent crime. Most important: Do not place yourself in a situation where you will become a victim.

Plan your actions.

- Always be aware of your surroundings - - look around
- Park your vehicle as close as possible to your home if you are coming home late
- Park in a well lighted area
- Have your keys in your hand and put the keys sticking out between your fingers
- Have your cell phone in your hand and already dialed to 911 so all you have to do is press "send"
- If at all possible, walk with another person and not alone - this action in and of itself increases your chances of not being a victim by about 200%
- Don't be the last one to leave the mall. Leave early enough to walk out with others. If unsure of your safety, ask a store attendant to have security walk you to your car. You can't be too safe.

View the entire article at www.wbna.us

SUPPORT CHS' COUGAR CELEBRATION

Connally High School Project Graduation encourages students to embrace a lifestyle free of drugs and alcohol. Its key activity is to organize and host a substance free event held graduation night known as "Cougar Celebration".

In an effort to raise the funds needed to host Cougar Celebration 2012 (CC2012), a VIRTUAL Vendor Fair is being held now through December 15th.

Visit their website for offers from local business and representatives of home retail products like Avon, Tupperware, Pampered Chef and Scentsy.

Participating vendors will donate a percentage of all sales from customers identified as CC2012 supporters during the shopping period.

Make holiday shopping easy AND benefit the CHS Class of 2012. Visit their site at <http://www.cougarcelebration.com>

HOMESTEAD COOKBOOK UPDATE

Thanks to all of you who've contributed your recipes to the Wells Branch Homestead Cookbook. While they've had a great response, they need more recipes. Delivery for the Cookbook is planned for the Homestead Festival in April.

Send your recipes to [wbrecipes@gmail.com](mailto:wbreipes@gmail.com) or drop them by the MUD Office, the Rec. Center on Shoreline or bring them to the Thanksgiving Potluck!

FALL CRITTER CONTROL

Fall is the time when rodents, possums and raccoons start looking for a nice winter home. Old appliances, stacks of lumber, uncut brush and grass, old decking and hot tubs, etc... provide the perfect winter shelter. Now that the weather is starting to cool off, take a weekend to make sure your home and yard are protected.

Rats contaminate food, damage and destroy property, and spread disease. Raccoons are destructive and possums can be a nuisance. We have all of the above in Wells Branch.

The best form of control for any of these animals is an integrated plan that removes access to shelter, food and water. If you have a rat or mouse problem, then the use of rodenticides or traps may be necessary as well. Every resident in Wells Branch can take steps to minimize the appeal to these animals.

- If your animals eat outside, give them a chance to eat and then **bring the food & water bowls inside.**
- Secure all doggie-doors at night.
- If you have a bird or squirrel feeder, bring it in at night. Empty the birdbaths as well.
- Seal all openings into your home. It only takes a 1/4" to 1/2" opening for mice and rats to gain access.
- Clean out any debris that might provide refuge for these animals.

Travis County discourages the trapping and relocation of healthy raccoons and possums. They recommend the aforementioned preventive measures instead.

They will, however, come out if you have an animal "trapped" inside a living area. Should this happen, call 311 and ask for Travis County Animal Control.

For rodent bait and trapping tips, visit the following website: <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/health/downloads/>

Participate in community growth survey

Can you imagine what Austin and the surrounding areas will look like in 20 or 30 years? Through the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan process, the City of Austin is asking the community how the city should grow and what priorities and values are most important. Wells Branch is within Austin's ETJ (that area extending up to five miles from the city limits and not within another city's limits or ETJ) and they want to hear your thoughts about the future.

The Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan will direct how the city spends tax dollars, directs growth and shapes regulations for decades to come. If you live, work, own property, or play within Austin or its ETJ, this plan will affect you.

To find out more information and lend your voice to the community conversation you can go to the Imagine Austin Web site—www.ImagineAustin.net.

House hunting is TIRING!

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National Night Out a huge success!!!

Thanks so much to all of you who attended NNO. We had a great showing of good old-fashioned Wells Branch community spirit with the largest attendance in years! There were politicians, law enforcement and best of all friends and neighbors. The WBNA provided food and drinks and a good time was had by all.

To read more about our guests and view photos, please visit www.wbna.us. Again, thank you EVERYONE for making our NNO (and, Wells Branch) so GREAT!!!



KUDOS

Thanks to all who delivered our September issue. We had a great turnout for National Night Out because of your efforts. You really do make a difference! We couldn't get the newsletter out to everyone without your help. Together, we deliver each issue to 3366 homes – ALL of Wells Branch! As always - thanks for keeping Wells Branch great!

John & Patti Altman; Mary Alverson; Joyce Best; Pharr Andrews-Clark; Phil & Dana Carter; Lara, Clay & Henry Bennett; Debbie Brown; Creola Burns; David & Debra Dalke; Gus Kohn; Michelle & Jenny Gadush; David Gezana; Rachel LeBansky; Jacque Longino; Sivaram Manda; Becky Moore; Katie Moore; Preston & Skipper McWithey; William Olson; Barbara Romero; Micki Rosiles; Marisa Sawatphadungkij; Julie Schwartz; Diane Starkey; Aubrey Stelly; Debby Thompson; Midian Wilkes; Wally Wingfield; Kevin, Lisa, Sarah, Faith, Grace & Liam Ward.

If you would like to deliver the newsletter, please contact our distribution team at deborah_thompson@earthlink.net or dhowe@austin.rr.com. We'll bring the newsletters over to you along with a map of the delivery area. If you've never done this before, it takes about 45 minutes to an hour.

We always try to match up everyone with the area they live in. Sometimes there's a lot of response for one area and none for other areas. If so, we try to "get you close". Or, if you'd like to see other parts of Wells Branch, let us know and we'll gladly find a section for you.

FAMILY TROUT FISHING DAY

**January 15, 2011, 9am-noon
Mills Pond**



Through a collaboration with TPWD, Wells Branch MUD will be stocking Mills Pond with farm-raised rainbow trout. January 15th will kick off the angling with a morning of fishing to catch a mess of fish. Poles and bait will be provided Saturday morning from 9-12 p.m. or bring your own. Residents of all ages are invited to wet a hook. Residents are encouraged to harvest the fish throughout the winter. Note that TPWD licensing requirements do apply!

IMPORTANT!!! Website update and photo share opportunity

The WBNA website, has been updated and is current again with all the pertinent fall & winter information so PLEASE visit us.

ATTN: Wells Branch shutterbugs!

We're pleased to announce a WBNA group on Flickr that will allow us to share our Wells Branch pictures and offer links to our own individual photostreams.

You can log on to this site:

<http://www.flickr.com/groups/wellsbranch/> or

follow the link on our website: www.wbna.us. Any way you get there, we hope you'll join us.

Madonna Johnson has been kind enough to set this up for everyone and has National Night Out and Halloween posted on the site already. Let's see who can get their Thanksgiving Potluck photos up first....

KEEP YOUR H₂O FLOWING WHEN IT FREEZES

We may be in Texas, but we're still vulnerable to destructive winter weather. Here are tips to protect your water system from winter blasts.

Before a freeze:

- Wrap all exposed pipes located outside or in unheated areas of your home.
- Remove garden hoses from outside faucets. Insulate the faucet with a Styrofoam cover, rags, disposable diaper or paper.
- Cover vents around the foundation of your house.
- Know where your property's water cut-off valve is located and know how to use it.

In sub-freezing weather:

- Let water drip slowly from inside faucets during a freeze.
- Open cabinet doors under sinks where pipes are along outside walls.

If you're not going to be home:

- Cut off your water at the property's cut-off valve and drain all outside water faucets if your house will be unoccupied for several days.
- Or leave your home heating system on at a low setting. That may cost a few bucks, but it's better than returning home from your holiday trip to find your carpet and furniture soaked from burst pipes.

Renters should contact the manager or landlord for more information on freeze precautions.

Updated from original source: Wells Branch Word, December 2003 www.wellsbranchmud.com/docs/newsletters/bw.pdf



Thanksgiving Events

Dedication Grove ceremony and annual Thanksgiving Potluck

November 20, 2010 • Saturday, 4:30-7 pm

Join the Wells Branch MUD Staff at 4:30pm around the dedication grove to recognize new pavers added in memory and achievement. Contact the MUD office for information on purchasing a paver, 251-9814.

Directly following the dedication at 5pm, all Wells Branch neighbors are invited to come together for the annual Thanksgiving potluck dinner to be held in the recreation center this year. Everyone should bring a dish to serve 10 and the recipe of the dish so that it can be included in the WB Homestead Cookbook. The turkey, ham, dressing, potatoes, bread, and beverages will be provided by the WB MUD.



Youth Fowl Shot contest

November 23, 2010 • 6-8 pm

Wells Branch youth are invited to test their basketball skills and try to win a Thanksgiving turkey in the gym at the Wells Branch MUD Recreation Center on Shoreline Dr, beginning at 6pm on Tuesday, November 23.

Participants accumulate points by competing in a variety of basketball activities (Free Throw, H.O.R.S.E., 3pt Around the World, and possibly Knockout). Age groups will be split into three groups: 8-10, 11-13, and 14-17. Grand-prize winners from each age group will receive a turkey.

Participants must have a valid recreation tag to enter the gym and compete in the contest. Registration is free at the Recreation Center.

Sidewalk safety-trim trees & shrubs

Many of us enjoy hiking, walking and jogging through our neighborhood each day using the public sidewalks along the way. Please take a moment to check the sidewalk in front of your house for bushes, trees and other plants that may be encroaching on the walkways. While they may be beautiful, they can pose a hazard to sidewalk traffic. Tree limbs overhanging the sidewalk should not be lower than a tall person's height so that neighbors may pass freely. Don't forget to check those limbs that overhang back fences that are beside sidewalks also.

Thank you for your thoughtfulness and good neighbor spirit in making our sidewalks passable and keeping Wells Branch a Great Place to Live!



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Brown Santa needs your help!



Since 1981, Travis County Brown Santa has depended on the generosity of individuals, groups and businesses in the community, like you, to provide items for families in need so they have presents to open and a special meal for Christmas. The goal for the 2010 season is to help 2,000 families, including approximately 15,000 children.

They accept all non-perishable food items in unopened containers. Some of the main items needed that are in every food box are: corn, green beans, cranberry sauce, instant potatoes, stuffing mix, cake mix and cake icing.

Brown Santa gives toys to each child in the family from age 0-14. Donations of books, puzzles, stuffed animals, and new toys are needed for every age group. Fewer donations are received for infants to 2-year-olds and boys and girls ages 10-14. Brown Santa needs books this year for **all ages!**

Suggested donations for boys and girls ages 10-14 are: wallets, electronics, bath sets, basketballs, footballs, purses, curling irons, hair dryers, hair straighteners, ball caps, sock caps, hat and gloves sets, etc...

Suggested items for infants to toddlers: receiving blankets, bottle sets, teething, rattlers, stackable rings, diapers, onesies, etc...

All donations need to be new and unwrapped. Very gently used toys are accepted if in great condition and there are no missing pieces. Donation barrels will be available at the Wells Branch Recreation Center on Shoreline beginning November 20 for the Thanksgiving Potluck through December 18, and at the Luminary Festival at the Community Center December 10 & 11.

Brown Santa also accepts monetary donations that are used to purchase turkeys and items not donated to complete toy and food boxes, overhead costs and assist in expansion of services. Mail your tax-deductible donations to: Travis County Brown Santa, PO Box 207, Austin, TX. 78767-0207 OR use the DONATE button at www.brownsanta.org to make secure online donations through PayPal.

Brown Santa also needs volunteers to wrap presents, sort food, make food boxes and more. Sign up online or call 247-2682. Please see www.brownsanta.org for more details.

The Brown Santa warehouse is in Wells Branch at 2300 Grand Avenue Pkwy, suite 105.

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A loving hand to take care of small needs around your home.

Wells Branch Community Church would like to help with some of the needs in our community. Some of us may be reaching an age that makes it difficult to do work around our home. Others are suffering from medical conditions that render it difficult to take care of things that were once routine.

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WHEN LEAVING HOME FOR SEVERAL DAYS

THE FOLLOWING IS THE FIFTH INSTALLMENT ON COMMUNITY SAFETY BY TCSO OUTREACH DEPUTY JAMES KITCHENS



- Let a neighbor know you'll be out of town and when you'll return.
- They should have the following: your emergency contact information; contact information for anyone with access to your house (pet sitter, etc.); when they should be expected; what they look like and a description of their vehicle(s).
- Don't cancel your paper or mail deliveries; ask that your neighbor pick them up every day.
- Leave a key with a friend or neighbor; ask that the house be checked at regular intervals.
- Have the drapes periodically opened and closed and different lights turned on and off so the house appears occupied.
- Keep your house well lit at night (backyard included). A motion sensor activated light is an inexpensive deterrent.
- Store all your valuables.
- File a Close Patrol Request. The filing of this form alerts patrolling officers so that they may pay close attention to one's residence. To do so: Contact the Travis County Sheriff's Office at 854-9721. Ask to make a "Close Patrol Request".
- Consider asking friends or relatives to live in your home while you are away.
- Leave a car in the driveway, or ask neighbors to park in it.
- Ask your neighbor to put trash in your trashcan and to put it out for collection and away when they put theirs away.

Despite precautions, if intruders are determined to enter and burglarize your home, they can probably do so. However, burglars usually chose the easiest and least risky target; you CAN take steps to make your house less vulnerable. For more suggestions on holiday safety, see wbna.us

Program aims to keep kids Alive @ 25

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for 15 through 24-year-olds.

- National Transportation Safety Board

"Alive at 25" is a video-based 4.5 - hour class taught by law enforcement and first responders. Developed by the National Safety Council, the program focuses on good decision-making by the driver or passenger in a motor vehicle with the goal of empowering young drivers to adopt safer driving habits and reduce injury and death among Texas' youth. In comparison to their peer programs graduates have experienced an over 72% decrease in crash fatalities. "Alive @ 25" teaches young drivers important decision-making skills for staying safe behind the wheel.

The Wells Branch MUD and WBNA will be hosting this program in OUR neighborhood on Saturday, December 4 from 10am-3pm at the Community Center. Lunch will be provided. Through a grant from State Farm, we're able to provide it to residents at a cost of only \$10 per participant, ages 15-24. A drawing for gift certificates to Lakeline Mall will be held at the end of the seminar.

School will soon be out for the holidays. There'll be lots of trips to the mall and parties to attend. Please take a moment to stress to your children what their safety means not only to themselves, but also to everyone around them and encourage them to attend this seminar. Check with your insurance agent as some agents are offering up to a 10% discount for completion of this course.

Only 25 spots are available. Sign up at the Rec. Center or MUD Office. It's one of the best gifts you can give your teen or young adult for the holidays. For questions, call 656-0654 or check out the "Texas Alive at 25" website, www.texasaliveteam.org.



15001 Wells Port Drive
Ph#: 989-3188
<http://www.wblibrary.org>
Mon-Thurs 10am-8pm
Fri- Sat 10am-6pm
Sun 1pm-6pm

Holiday Hours

Closed Nov 25 & 26, Dec 24-26, Jan 1.

Early close (4pm) on Nov 24.

Late open (1pm) on Nov 27.

We are open regular hours all other days.

First Annual Holiday Bazaar: Nov 21 from noon-6pm
Buy from your friends and neighbors; find great gift ideas from local vendors. 20% of sales go to the library.



Gingerbread Friends Workshop: Dec 4 at 10am & 12pm (\$1.00 fee per cookie and advance registration required) Decorate gingerbread boys and girls with your friends and family.

Ornament Making Workshop: Dec 5 at 1pm and 2:30 (\$2.00 ticket required): Make and decorate an ornament for the holidays.



Last Minute Gifts- Fleece Creations: Dec 15 at 5pm & 6pm: Bring your own fleece (or bring \$1.00 for ours) and learn how to make creative gifts.

9th Annual Polar Express Pajamarama: Dec 17 at 6pm
FREE winter crafts and activities, hot chocolate, cookies, and a bedtime reading of The Polar Express.



Fun loving volunteers are still needed to help with these exciting programs and the library's daily operations. Please visit our website or contact Beth Hydak at beth@wblibrary.org to learn more.

Library Card Design Contest

The library is going to be changing to a hard plastic card & key fob with one design for youth cards and another for adults. Entry forms are available and original designs will be accepted at the library between Nov 15 and Dec 15.

Regular Storytimes

0-18 months- Baby Bookworms: Fridays at 10am
1-2 years- Monkey in the Middle: Mondays at 10:45
18-36 months- Toddler Storytime: Fridays at 10:45
3-5 years- Preschool Storytime: Fridays at 11:30
All ages- Family Storytime: Tuesdays at 5pm
All ages- Signing Time: 1st and 3rd Saturday at 11am
All ages- Bilingual Storytime: 2nd Saturday at 11am

ARTS AND CRAFTS



Kinder Crafts: Tuesdays at 6pm & Thursdays at 1pm for ages 3-6: Process-oriented art projects for kids.

Arts & Crafts: Wednesdays at 6pm for age 8+ or with an adult: Fun and creative art projects for all ages.

Paint & Draw (ages 12+) Poinsettias: Nov 21 at 1:30: Advance registration required.



BOOK CLUBS

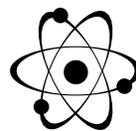
***NEW* Books and Hooks:** 2nd Sunday of each month at 2pm in the 'Quiet' Reading Room: Bring your project (knitting, embroidery, whatever) and discuss a book you've always meant to read, or wanted to talk about. Nov 14 will be Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte.

Wine, Women and Words Book Club: 3rd Monday of each month at 7pm in the 'Quiet' Reading Room. Newcomers are always welcome.



Bluebonnet Book Club: 2nd Monday of the month at 4pm for ages 7-12 - Read and discuss your choice of any of the 2010-2011 Bluebonnet Book Award nominees.

LEARN AT THE LIBRARY



SPECIAL PROGRAM: MAD SCIENCE (AGES 6+) Nov 20 at 11am. Professional scientists will perform interactive, fun experiments to help families get inspired for science fair.

Wacky Science: Wednesdays at 5pm for age 8+: Hands-on science experiments!

Phonics Fun: Wednesdays at 4pm for ages 4-7: Learn the beginning steps of reading and writing through fun phonics activities.

Conversational English: 1st & 3rd Saturdays at 4pm: Discussions will be in small groups and will focus on topics important to you in your daily life.

Chess for Everyone: Dec 7 at 5pm: Bring your friends and learn from a master, or challenge someone!



ADULT COMPUTER CLASSES

Dec 9 at 6pm Access Basics

Dec 11 at 10:30: Mango Language Learning Database

Find us on facebook.

"Like" us to be linked for up-to-date information!



Community Calendar

Nov 13, 9am-1pm: Teens & Moms Safety Seminar

Nov 15: Fire Dept Food Drive begins 15300 Bratton

Nov 16: Winter Wastewater Averaging begins*

Nov 20, 4:30pm: Dedication Grove ceremony*

Nov 20, 5-7pm: Bring a dish, neighborhood potluck*

Nov 20: Brown Santa Donations accepted - WBRC

Nov 23, 6-8pm: Youth Fowl Shot Contest*-WBRC

Dec 2: Silver Branchers Luncheon, see pg. 2

Dec 4, 10am-3pm: Alive @ 25*

Dec 4, Noon: Gardening Guild at the Library

Dec 10 & 11, 6-9pm: Luminary Fest & Santa* WBCC

Dec 10 & 11: House Decorating Contest

Dec 18: Last day to drop off Brown Santa Donations

Dec 20: Fire Dept Food Drive ends 15300 Bratton

Dec 27: Deadline for advertising and article submission for WBNA News January issue

Jan 15, 9-noon: Family trout fishing on Mills Pond

Jan 29, 6pm: Wells Branch's Got Talent, WBRC

* Contact the MUD for more info, 251-9814

WBCC-Comm. Center on Klattenhoff - WBRC-Rec Center on Shoreline

**Have a free event to share? If so, send the editor the details, date, place and time via email: wbnanews@sbcglobal.net.

**Events put on by for-profit entities do not qualify for this space.



Tammy

Judy



Your Wells Branch Neighbor & Specialist!

Wells Branch Kids Poetry Contest

Show your creative side this holiday season by submitting a poem about your favorite holiday. Contest open to our talented Wells Branch residents ages 14 and under. Visit www.familypair.com for full contest details & entry deadline.

Prizes Awarded! Winning Poems Published Online!

Judy DeWitt, Realtor®, GRI, ABR
(512) 917-5037



Tammy DeWitt Le, Realtor®
Wells Branch Resident
(512) 773-3214

www.familypair.com



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Support your Neighborhood Association
by joining the WBNA and continue to make Wells Branch great!

Here is my check (made out to WBNA) for \$20 annual dues for 2011.

Holiday 2010

I am: _____ renewing my membership _____ a new member

Name(s) _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

I/we want to help with: _____ Newsletter Delivery _____ Crime Watch
_____ 4th of July _____ Easter Egg Hunt _____ Nat'l Night Out

MAIL TO: WBNA Membership, 2104 Klattenhoff, Austin, TX. 78728