



# Neighborhood News

News and information for the residents of Wells Branch.  
Vol 20, Issue 2, March/April 2011



## SCHOOL BUDGET CUTS PLANNED: 5 things concerned parents can do

Submitted by Tammy DeWitt Le

Any parent with a child in public school should be aware of the bad news flowing through the hallways about the state budget deficit and budget reductions that will impact every school district in Texas. Both Pflugerville and Round Rock ISD (where Wells Branch students attend) will be affected. Under current school finance law, Texas owes its public schools \$10 billion more than the amount proposed in the current budget. However this money may not make it to the schools if the Legislature keeps it to help balance an expected \$27 billion budget shortfall. Schools in Texas are financed primarily from property taxes and state funding. Districts won't know for sure how big their shortfalls will be until the state budget passes.

So what is on the chopping block? Athletic, art, music and academic programs. Librarians may be replaced by library aides. Registered nurses (RN's) may be replaced by LVN's (Licensed Vocational Nurses). School counselor and gifted/ talented programs may be cut. Student to teacher ratios will likely increase. Many staff positions may be eliminated. If the legislature cuts the funding to our school districts, our school boards will have no choice, but to cut our school districts' budgets.

The proposed legislative cuts to public education funding are unacceptable. We deserve a better public education system for our children and their future. So what can a concerned parent do?

**ONE** – Most important is to get informed about the issue. Read what is at stake for our kids and what budget cuts are planned. Get on your child's school's email list if you are not already. Start talking with teachers and Principals to get their input. Attend school board meetings and speak up during citizen input time! Watch the news and read online to learn more about this issue.

**TWO** – Contact your congressional representatives. In Wells Branch, our State House Representative is Mark Strama, District 50, ph (512) 463-0821, fax (512) 463-1199, or e-mail Mark.Strama@house.state.tx.us. An automated email is quick and easy, but a phone call may indicate more concern and be taken more seriously. Specifically ask your representative to:

- 1-Make education a top priority.
  - 2-Use the \$9.3 Billion Texas "Rainy Day" Fund to support schools.
- See School Finance on page 8*

## Annual WBNA Easter Egg Hunt

Sponsored by Express Urgent Care in Hester's Crossing, Round Rock

Saturday, April 23, 10:30am • Homestead at KF Park

Kids through 5th grade are invited to join friends, neighbors and **The Easter Bunny**, himself, as Wells Branch welcomes Spring with the annual Easter Egg Hunt in front of the Homestead Cabin on Klattenhoff.

"Hunts" will be by age group and begin at 10:30am. Kids, bring your basket... parents, bring your camera.

We hope to see you there!



## Inside this Issue

Advertising rates ..... page 7	Gardening in WB ..... page 4
Alive at 25 ..... page 11	History of WB ..... page 2
Articles/advertising ..... page 2	Homeless ..... page 8
Calendar of events ..... page 12	KUDOS ..... page 4
Classified ads ..... page 2	Library news ..... page 10
Crime Watch Corner ..... page 9	Pioneer Festival ..... page 3
Decluttering ..... page 11	Spring Festival ..... page 2
Dog Fair ..... page 5	Stuff 2 Do registration ..... page 6
Dog Safety ..... page 7	Telephone safety ..... page 9
Fishing Tournament ..... page 5	WBNA elections ..... page 3

# CLASSIFIED ADS

**Hannah's Petsitting:** \$11/day for 1 pet, to water, walk, feed & play with your pet twice a day. References available. 922-3853

**Brattonwood Yard Sale**-April 30. Lots of stuff to sell. Come and be part of the fun! Corner of Brattonwood and Jack's Pond.

## A LITTLE WELLS BRANCH HISTORY...

Submitted by Mark S. Miller

WBNA Note: *We've had several requests for the history of our area and we wanted to get something in for the Homestead Festival. We're still researching the history and there will be more to follow. In the meantime, please see our website for links to other articles regarding the history of our region.*

At the time of settlement, this was at the edge of Comanche country. The pioneers who settled here knowingly moved into the territory of the most feared, violent, and vigorous defenders of their land ever known among Native Americans - the Comanche. The Comanche's skilled and viciously persistent approach to territory acquisition and defense displaced the Tonkawa who lived here before the Comanche onslaught and before the settlers. And so, the Tonkawa became strong supporters of the Texians that settled here, joined the cavalries and helped hunt and counter-attack the Comanche. During a time when the Comanche were winning against settlers, and killing or driving them off in large numbers, the pioneers in Wells Branch stood their ground. They defended their homesteads, rallied and manned counter offensives, and helped hang on to the foothold in Texas that eventually became the state capital and heart of Texas.

Wayman Wells received numerous land grants for his service in the Texas Revolution as did J.P. Whelan, the recipient of a 320-acre grant for our area for his military service. It was the Well's Branch of Walnut Creek, which flowed nearly year round with water that attracted the first settlement of the Wells family in the late 1830s, just south of what's known as Wells Branch today, which resulted in the naming of the stream here. The original settlers of Wells Branch were tougher than the toughest and most aggressive warriors ever known, the Comanche. Their legacy was handed down to us, and is the spirit of Wells Branch, and the Central Texas area in general, to this day.

WELLS BRANCH  
**VISION CARE**

DEREK HAMILTON · OPTOMETRIST

2013 WELLS BRANCH PKWY · SUITE 102 · AUSTIN, TX  
TEL 512.251.4040  
derek@wellsbranchvisioncare.com

WWW.WELLSBRANCHVISIONCARE.COM

## Wells Branch Elementary PTA JOIN THE FUN AT SPRING FEST



Wells Branch Elementary (WBE) School will hold its 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Festival, Saturday, April 2, 2011 from 2:00 to 6:00 pm on the WBE campus.

Mark your calendar and plan on attending with your family, friends and neighbors. This will be a fun and memorable event to spend with your community while raising the money for WBE! Tickets will go on sale the week of March 28<sup>th</sup> at the school and will be available for purchase at the event. Some of the things you can expect are:

- Silent Auction • Moonwalks • Dunking Booth
- Face and hair painting • Laser Tag • Inflatable slide
- Class Participation Contests • Live Music
- Cake walk • Refreshments • Helicopter
- And many more exciting activity booths and games

For additional information, please email WBE PTA at [springfest@wellsbranchpta.org](mailto:springfest@wellsbranchpta.org).

## ADVERTISING & 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@sbc-global.net](mailto:wbnanews@sbc-global.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 next issue is April 22. Ad rates may be found on page 7.

**Like a Good Neighbor, State Farm is there!**

- Homeowners
- Auto



**Lee Cramer**  
**251-3473**

**2013 Wells Branch Pkwy.**  
**Between IH35 & MoPac**

[lee.cramer.b4hp@statefarm.com](mailto:lee.cramer.b4hp@statefarm.com)

- Renters
- Life

**...28<sup>th</sup> year serving Wells Branch...**

## Your Neighborhood Mortgage Expert



Call me for help with your next home loan!

Buying | Refinancing | Building

### Emily Franke

Experience. Results.

(512) 809-7680

efranke@swbc.com

www.EmilyFranke.com



## Your Wells Branch Neighborhood Realtor

### Howard Hagemann, MBA

e-mail: howard@txhomes4u.info

cell: 512-633-8599 | fax: 512-255-1019

online: www.txhomes4u.info



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



## GO BACK IN HISTORY...

### at the Homestead Pioneer Festival

The annual Wells Branch Pioneer Festival celebrates Texas history Saturday, April 16, Noon - 5:00 p.m. The Homestead Festival is centered around the historic Gault Homestead, the 1850s-era cabin in Katherine Fleischer Park and will feature fun and educational activities throughout the day so residents can experience a taste of life in 19th Century Texas.

There'll be lots of **FREE FUN** for the whole family. Free pony rides, a petting zoo and photos with a Texas Longhorn. Live entertainment from the Jimmy Sims Trio, Austin Banjo Club, the New Orleans Jazz Band of Austin and Better Late Than Never. Free demonstrations and exhibits include weavers, lace makers, quilting lessons, spinners, Indian sandal making, rope making, syrup making and butter churning, antique bikes, antique guns & Buffalo Soldiers, just to name a few.

In addition, refreshments offered by the Wells Branch MUD and the Wells Branch Soccer Assn. will be available for purchase. There will be roasted corn, turkey legs, funnel cakes, hot dogs, sausage wraps and cold drinks.

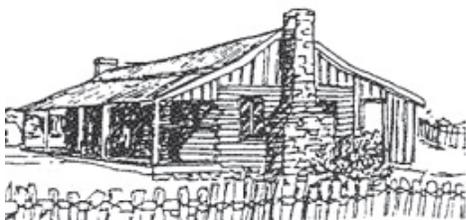
To quote Bill Todd, retired Wells Branch historian, "The homestead is both a symbol of change and link between past and present. Pioneer values like ingenuity, resourcefulness and recycling have endured. Texas always will be a frontier as long as imagination survives."

Volunteers are needed for the following game and demonstration stations:

Tug-O-War, Sack Races, and 3-Legged Race; Pole Climbing and Log Horse; Washer Pitching and horse shoes (games); Candle making (no fire or hot wax); Bunny stitching Craft; Cowboy Toss (game); Barbed Wire Display and Buffalo Display; Bull Lasso (needs to be able to work a lasso); Corn Sheller; Stilts, Hoop Rolling (no need to be able to walk on stilts); Syrup Making; Clothes Washing Station; and "where needed"

Any amount of time you have to give will be appreciated. To volunteer for this event, contact Matt Fuller at 251-9814 or mfuller@wellsbranchmud.com

**Bring the whole family and join us for a day of living history.**



# Neighbors inNEED

**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.

We are here to help.

**Please call 512-775-2660**



## WBNA BOARD UPDATE

WBNA Elections were held at the January 27 meeting. The position of editor became a non-voting position, thus allowing an at-large position to be added. The following officers were re-elected: Debby Thompson, President; Lara Bennett, Vice President; Mike Howe, Treasurer; Tom Cheshire, Community Liason; Rachel LeBansky, Secretary; Pam Wachholz, Editor (non-voting). Faye Cormier was elected to fill the At-Large position.

Shortly after the election, Rachel LeBansky resigned her position as Secretary. We thank her for the time she's given to help make Wells Branch a better community. Rachel has promised to stay active in the community and continue to deliver newsletters.

At the WBNA board meeting on March 8, Linda Baird was appointed to fill the position of Secretary. The WBNA welcomes input and involvement from everyone. Please, join us! We want to hear from you. Tell us what you would like to see in the way of meetings and events and how we can help you become more involved in your community. Contact us at: [www.wbna.us](http://www.wbna.us)

## WB GARDEN GUILD TO FEATURE PROMINENT AUSTIN EXPERTS

- Backyard Gardening with John Dromgoole, Monday, April 18, 7pm @ WBCC
- Shade Gardening with Tom Spencer, Saturday, May 21, 11am at WB Library

The WBNA and the Wells Branch Garden Guild kick off Spring by co-hosting a meeting in April featuring guest speaker, John Dromgoole, owner of The Natural Gardener: Organic Gardening Headquarters.

John hosts the longest continuously running, organic gardening talk show in the United States. For twenty-seven years, he has shared his passion and extensive knowledge of organic gardening on his show, *Gardening Naturally* on KLBJ AM 590 in Austin. The show is unique in that it takes a non-chemical approach to gardening and gives listeners the opportunity to call in with their questions about problems with trees, shrubs, lawns, flowers and vegetable gardens. John's main focus is to bring all gardeners on board with the organic technique, teaching them how easy, beneficial and beautiful it is to be an organic gardener: protecting the environment while enriching the soil and growing healthier plants.

This will be a great opportunity to get your questions answered, both those who are beginning new gardens and the "ol' pros". The meeting will be Monday, April 18, at 7:00 PM at the WB Community Center on Klattenhoff. We hope you can join us! Light snacks provided.

May brings us Tom Spencer, host of the weekly *Central Texas Gardener* program on KLRU. Over the course of the past twenty-seven years, Tom has shared his love of gardening with the people of Austin and Central Texas; either through his television program or his radio program, *The Wildflower Hour*. Visit Tom's website at [www.soulofthegarden.com](http://www.soulofthegarden.com).

Tom will be with us on Saturday, May 21, at 11:00 AM at the WB Library making a very special presentation on shade gardening. This topic should be especially appealing to the many of us in Wells Branch with mature trees.

In June, WBGG will host a tour of our gardens. Tara Fisher-Muñoz and Kathleen Clark are putting it together so if you are interested in having folks see your handiwork, let them know. Contact Tara at [tfishermunoz@yahoo.com](mailto:tfishermunoz@yahoo.com). This will be a great opportunity to see our neighborhood landscaping and gardening, and you may get a few new ideas. Check the WBNA website for updates on this event.



## Now Open SUNDAYS!

**Hester's Crossing**  
2000 S. IH 35 suite N-5  
(next to Luby's)  
**512.244.3822**  
M-F 9a-8p | Sat/Sun 9a-5p  
*Doctor owned, Doctor staffed!*

**EXPRESS URGENT CARE**

[www.myeuc.com](http://www.myeuc.com)

# KUDOS

Thanks to all of you who delivered our January issue. We had some really chilly weather but with your help, every issue was delivered to every house in WB on time – thanks for doing your part in keeping Wells Branch Great!

Michelle & Jenny Gadush	June Apprill
Lara, Clay & Henry Bennett	Eddie Curiel
Gary, Joy & Chance Bryant	Emily Berver
Bill & Debbie Brown	Garland Bullock
Dan & Cleta Ernst	Creola Burns
George & Wanda Holcombe	Meaghan Cruz
Phil & Dana Carter	Tara Fisher-Munoz
Becky & Katie Moore	David Gezana
James & Judy Mauldin	Gus Kohn
David & Lori Lotspeich	Betsey Harper
Skipper & Preston McWithey	Donna Howe
Ray, Samantha & Alexandra Lee	Sonya Hindman
Marisa Sawatphadungkij	Rachel LeBansky
Maia & Matias Munoz	Jacque Longino
Cristi, Ryan & Jacob Rendon	Angela Orth
Debby Thompson	Micki Rosiles
Todd Wortham	Julie Schwartz
Diane Starkey	Aubrey Stelly

If you would like to deliver the newsletter, please contact our distribution team at [dhowe@austin.rr.com](mailto:dhowe@austin.rr.com) or [deborah\\_thompson@earthlink.net](mailto:deborah_thompson@earthlink.net). 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.

# Wells Branch has the largest Neighborhood Watch program in the entire Travis County area.

## Does your street participate?

The time has come: Let's get involved with taking care of ourselves, our neighbors and our homes.

I recently attended a neighborhood meeting to learn more about the increase in crime occurring in Wells Branch.

Neighbors from all areas in Wells Branch talked about their personal experiences with home invasion, theft, car burglaries, property damage and the ever-increasing homeless population standing on our corners.

Deputy Kitchens from the Travis County Sheriff's Office spoke at length on how to protect ourselves and our neighbors.

Deputy Kitchens informed us that Wells Branch has the largest and most successful Neighborhood Watch program in Travis County.

Let's take back our neighborhood. Join your neighbors.

Start a Neighborhood Watch on your block!

- Faye Cormier

### GO FISH AT ANNUAL FISHING TOURNAMENT FOR YOUTH

WB MUD hosts the annual spring youth fishing tournament for ages 17 and under on May 7 from 9 a.m. to noon at Mills Pond. The tournament is free for all youth and trophies and prizes will be awarded. Equipment (fishing poles, hooks and bait) will be provided for those anglers who show without. All state fishing regulations apply.



### SINGLE STREAM RECYCLING COMING IN MAY

Check [www.wellsbranchmud.com](http://www.wellsbranchmud.com) for updates and watch your mail for a notice from IESI.



### SIGN UP FOR WELLS BRANCH LIST SERVE –

*Connect with your neighbors!*

Join the Wells Branch List Serve for a community conversation on any and everything! Find out what's going on with Wells Branch as it's happening – everything from ducks, composting and crime watch to history and gardening. All residents, homeowners and renters alike, are welcome. New topics are always popping up. Don't miss out! Join the group by sending a request to [geowanda1@me.com](mailto:geowanda1@me.com).

### WELLS BRANCH MUD ANNUAL DOG FAIR

April 9, 2011, 10am-1pm  
Katherine Fleischer Park



Calling all dogs! **FREE** to all. Come visit the many booths and displays by local veterinarians and pet companies. Also, enter your tail-wagger to win prizes in one of the many free and fun competitions including 40-yard dash, best trick, most obedient, best dressed, dog & owner look-alike, and our prestigious Wells Branch King and Queen. Expect a special guest exhibition. All dogs must have current vaccination tags.

### SCOUTING FOR FOOD THANKS WELLS BRANCH

Submitted by Mendy Barnett, Pack 140 Scouting for Food Chair

Cub Scout Pack 140 and Boy Scout Troop 1409 thanks all of the generous neighbors in Wells Branch who donated to our Food Drive on January 30th. We collected over 800 pounds of canned foods in WB-THANK YOU!

We thank you not only for your generous donations, but for teaching our young boys that through service they can make a difference in their community. All the donated items went to Gateway Church Food Pantry, which serves 100 families a meal every week.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *We thank all of the adults who volunteer their time to work with youth. You are making a difference!*

# EASTER

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

COME SPEND EASTER WITH US  
SUNDAY, APRIL 24<sup>TH</sup>, 9<sup>AM</sup> OR 10:45<sup>AM</sup>

 **Wells Branch**  
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Live For More!

14611 Wells Port Drive || [www.WellsBranchChurch.com](http://www.WellsBranchChurch.com)

 **Women Businesses**  
of  
**Wells Branch**

WOMEN WITH A COMMON GOAL.  
WOMEN WHO OWN THEIR OWN BUSINESS.  
WOMEN LIVING OR WORKING IN WELLS BRANCH.  
WOMEN WILLING TO SHARE IDEAS AND STRATEGIES.

## ATTENTION WOMEN BUSINESS OWNERS!

Submitted by Debbie Brown

The WB of WB is a group of women in Wells Branch who have come together to support, encourage and help each other in all the ups and down of owning and running our personal businesses. We hold casual evening meetings in each others' homes and daytime meetings in Wells Branch area businesses to share ideas, resources and our collective wisdom. Join us for one of our networking happy hours where we promote our products and services to see what we're all about. These happy hours are open to the public, and you need not be a female business owner to attend.

The only requirement for membership is that you either reside in Wells Branch or have a business located in Wells Branch. We don't have dues, nor do we elect officers, we're simply a group of women who benefit from interacting with other women who are facing some of the same challenges we face in running a business. ***And best of all...we have a lot of fun doing it!***

To get information on our next meeting and Open House/ Happy Hour, please check out our website at <http://wbofwb.blogspot.com/>

## SILVER BRANCHERS CELEBRATE A MILESTONE

The Silver Branchers are celebrating our very own centenarian! Ruby Faye Bryan Lythgoe was born April 24th 1911 in Pueblo, Colorado. She is a retired teacher who keeps all children in her heart today. Ruby has been a Silver Brancher since 1986. She was honored by the group with a paver on her 99th birthday.



Since her retirement Ruby has volunteered with North Central Caregivers, Literacy program in Austin, and the elementary children reading program in Pflugerville schools.

Thank you Ruby for being a great mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, friend and mentor to all who know you.

## REGISTRATION BEGINS SOON FOR STUFF-2-DO

Wells Branch MUD will again offer its Stuff 2-Do Summer Day Camp in weekly sessions in 2011 for children ages 5-10 years old (kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade).

Camp staff engages children in creative activities indoors and out based on themed weeks throughout the summer. The MUD's long-standing tradition has been to create a safe, interactive, and physically active day camp for children to meet new friends and participate in new out-of-the box activities.

Visit [www.wellsbranchmud.com](http://www.wellsbranchmud.com) for application, dates, and more information.

## DOG SAFETY EVERY CHILD SHOULD KNOW & RESPONSIBLE OWNERSHIP OF DOGS Submitted by Debby Thompson

In light of a recent dog attack in Wells Branch and an additional vicious dog call, we encourage everyone to review the following safety tips. The AVMA and CDC offer several suggestions on how we can help protect our kids. Educating potential victims, encouraging responsible dog ownership and enforcing consequences for those with vicious dogs are key to successfully managing this problem within our community.

As a parent, you should never leave a baby or small child alone with a dog (even the most trusted family pet), always be aware of your surroundings and potentially dangerous situations, and start teaching your children at an early age to be careful around pets. Any dog can bite.

Basic safety to teach and review regularly:

- Don't pet any dog without allowing it to see and sniff you first.
- Never disturb a dog that's sleeping, eating or caring for puppies.
- Don't approach strange dogs.
- Ask permission from a dog's owner before petting the dog.
- Do not play with a dog unless supervised by an adult.
- If an unfamiliar dog approaches you, remain motionless and avoid direct eye contact. **Do not run. Do not scream.** If you must move, back away slowly until the dog is out of sight.
- If knocked over by a dog, roll into a ball and lie still. Tuck your head, clasp your hands behind your neck and protect your face with your arms.
- Immediately report stray dogs or dogs displaying unusual behavior to an adult.
- If bitten, report the bite to an adult right away.
- For those of you who own dogs, I urge you to be responsible pet owners and good neighbors.
- Spend time with your pet. Dogs are social animals and have a greater chance of developing behavior problems when left alone for long periods of time.
- Socialize your dog so that it feels comfortable around people and other animals, including the neighbor's cat.
- Don't tease your dog or play aggressive games with it

(like wrestling or tug of war).

- Seek professional advice immediately if your dog develops aggressive or undesirable behavior.
- Obey the leash law.
- Keep your dog's vaccinations current. Parasite control and dental care are important too, because how your dog feels directly affects how it behaves.
- Spay/neuter your dog. This usually reduces aggressive tendencies and makes males less likely to roam. With females, you prevent unwanted litters and fewer stray dogs are attracted to the area. Animal Trustees of Austin offers reduced rates. They can be reached at 450-0111. They also offer inexpensive vaccinations.
- Make sure your fence is in good condition, keep your gate locked, and do whatever is necessary to keep your dog confined unless you're out with it on a leash. It's not safe for your dog to be out without you. It could get lost, stolen, shot, hit by a car or hauled off to the pound. Show your neighbors you're acting responsibly and that you respect their right to safety as much as you want them to respect your rights. **Secure your dogs.**
- Pick up waste. If you walk, jog or bike with your dog, carry a plastic bag and clean up after it. It's not fun cleaning up after your own dogs; it's even worse when it's someone else's. Be a good neighbor!
- Last, but not least, if you have noisy dogs, limit their outings when others may be sleeping.

If you're considering adopting a dog:

Consult a professional (like a veterinarian or animal behaviorist) to learn about suitable breeds of dogs for your household. Dogs with histories of aggression are inappropriate in homes with children or if you plan on having a family within the next ten years.

Before you bring that puppy home, think about the commitment you're making. Do you have time for a puppy? Space? Adequate shelter? Is he going to be an inside dog or an outside dog? Is your lifestyle better suited to an older dog? Can you afford the vet bills? Food? Think about it carefully. It's not fair to the dog to change your mind two months or two years into the relationship. That dog has dedicated itself to you for the rest of its life. The feeling should be mutual.

## Have a business or service you would like to advertise?

### Advertising Rates in the Neighborhood News

Ad Type & Size	Fee Per Issue	6 issues pre-paid w/discount
Classified Ad-2 lines	\$18	N/A
SizeA-Business Card Ad 3 1/2"W X 1 7/8"D	\$60	\$335
SizeB-3 1/2"W X 3 7/8"D Ad	\$100	\$558
SizeC-7 1/2"W X 2.5"D Ad	\$180	\$1,004
Size D-1/2 Page (7.5" X 5") Ad	\$225	\$1,256
Size E-Full Page (7.5" X 10") Ad	\$440	\$2,455
Scan Fee	\$7.50 per item to be scanned	
Ad Set Up fee-One time per new ad	\$15-50 depending on the size & complexity of ad	

**\*\*In order to receive the 7% discount, the full 6 issue fee must be paid in full before the first ad runs.**

To place an ad, email [wbnanews@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wbnanews@sbcglobal.net)

3-Sign the paperwork for \$830 Million in federal aid for teachers.

4-Fix school funding laws to be fair to all districts and to our growing student population (eliminate inequity of target revenue funding).

5-For a sample letter and additional contact info, please visit: <http://savetxschools.org/contact-your-representatives/>

**THREE** – Sign up for the Save Texas Schools <http://savetxschools.org> email list to stay informed. This website is a great source of information.

**FOUR** – Attend your school’s community forum meetings. Most districts are holding meetings where parents are welcome to attend and voice their concerns. They are also open to hearing your feedback via emails and phone calls. The more the districts hear from concerned parents and teachers, the more they know how important this issue is to the people the vote for them!

Below are links to the 2 Wells Branch public school districts. Both schools have their proposed budget reduction plans posted to their site:

Pflugerville ISD—<http://www.pflugervilleisd.net/community/budget/index.cfm>

Round Rock ISD—<http://www.roundrockisd.org/index.aspx?page=3730>

**FIVE** – Help spread the word to other parents and those concerned about education in Texas. You can post links to your Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn accounts, email messages, or write a blog. We all realize the economy is going through hard times, but a quality education insures our future and should be a top priority.

Sources: Pflugerville ISD website, Community Impact, [www.savetxschools.org](http://www.savetxschools.org), Austin American Statesman

**Editor's note:** Since this was submitted, the legislature has stated they will use the Rainy Day Fund, but Governor Perry has vowed to veto any legislation using these funds. Contact the Governor's office at (800) 252-9600, or register your opinion at [www.governor.state.tx.us/contact/](http://www.governor.state.tx.us/contact/)



## DOES A HANDOUT REALLY HELP?

Submitted by Faye Cormier

Day after day I see someone standing on the street corner holding a sign asking for help. What is that feeling I get as he approaches my car; fear, dread, disgust, guilt? Maybe he will go away if I just give him some money or maybe giving a few dollars will help me feel less guilty.

Will my generosity help him get what he needs to end the cycle of homelessness? Giving him a few dollars may help buy a sandwich today, but what about tomorrow? Unfortunately, my generosity does not seem to be working as he is still on the same corner holding the same sign, day after day and week after week.

Austin offers a variety of community resources to help the chronically homeless. Offering your time, money or skills to these agencies will help this man get what he needs to support himself and his family.

I would like to share a bit more about the chronically homeless population in relation to community resources. When I worked with this population one question that I would always ask is, "Why do you remain in Austin and what would it take to get you off the street, into housing and a job?" The majority of people I talked with said the reason they live in Austin is because the community resources are good. One person actually told me that "two helpings are always better than one", meaning that Austin has a reputation for "good resources".

Please note that the ARCH and Salvation Army receive funding for a variety of programs to address homelessness. One available program provides housing for 18 months, a job and free health and dental care. The ARCH has a fully staffed medical clinic inside where all medical issues are attended to and once a week St. David's sends the mobile dental clinic to address any dental needs. The goal of this particular program is to get people back up and running, but it requires that they go to work, save money and follow through on whatever else they need to address such as counseling, job training, and/or substance abuse treatment.

The folks that remain on the street do need help, but many are most likely not open to meeting the goals necessary to receive this particular type of help. Resources are available, and these folks do a good job of networking with each other so I believe they all know where to obtain the type of services described. Please take this into consideration before handing over your money directly to these folks as it is not going to discourage the current behavior or actually help in the long run. In most cases, this handout allows the individuals to purchase alcohol that is not going to help them in the long term. There are many community resources that will give a hand up and not a handout.

The ECHO (Ending Community Homelessness Coalition) website includes a list of resources to help our homeless neighbors. Please refer to: [www.austinecho.com](http://www.austinecho.com)

You may also refer to our website at [www.wbna.us](http://www.wbna.us)

**Thank you!**  
**Express Urgent**  
**Care**  
**Sponsor of the WBNA**  
**Easter Egg Hunt**  
**[www.myeuc.com](http://www.myeuc.com)**



## Austin HomePage Real Estate

**Real Estate Market  
Set To Rebound In 2011  
Get the facts on today's Real  
Estate market from the experts.**

**David Lotspeich**  
Broker/Owner, GRI  
251.4778  
636.8801

**Lori Page**  
Realtor®  
Buyer Specialist  
636.5765

houseishome@yahoo.com buyaustin@yahoo.com

[www.austinhomerealestate.com](http://www.austinhomerealestate.com)

**Wells Branch residents since 1985!**

### Daily Telephone Security

*The following tips are the seventh installment on Community Safety by Travis County Sheriff Outreach Deputy James Kitchens.*

- Never give personal information (name, age, address, etc.) to a stranger on the telephone
- Never let a stranger on the telephone know when you will or will not be home
- Never let a stranger on the telephone know you are home alone; instruct baby sitters never to tell anyone who calls that they are home alone with the children
- Teach children old enough to be left alone never to tell a stranger who telephones that the parents are gone. Teach them to say, "My mom can't come to the phone now. May I take a message?"
- Credit Card/Social Security Numbers, etc. Do not give out credit card or social security number to someone whom you do not know or whom YOU did not call.

Law enforcement officers are available to meet with individual Neighborhood Watch Groups and train members on a variety of topics, including: home security measures; recognizing suspicious activity; describing and reporting events, vehicles and persons; telephone security; and confrontation with intruders. For more information about setting up a Neighborhood Watch in your area, contact Debby Thompson at 990-3693, 656-0654 or [deborah\\_thompson@earthlink.net](mailto:deborah_thompson@earthlink.net) or Tom Cheshire at 913-3144, [tcheshire@wellsbranchmud.com](mailto:tcheshire@wellsbranchmud.com).

Deputy Kitchens is also available for detailed security inspections of your home. He may be reached at 854-8413 or [james.kitchens@co.travis.tx.us](mailto:james.kitchens@co.travis.tx.us).

Watch for upcoming safety seminars by the Travis County Sheriff's Office hosted by the Wells Branch Neighborhood Association. Check our website for updates: [www.wbna.us](http://www.wbna.us)

## Family is why WE DO IT ALL

We all feel the same commitment to care for our families. As your good neighbor agent, I can help you meet your insurance needs. Call me today.



### Carmina Eaton, Agent

4201 W Parmer Lane, Bldg B Suite 170 | Austin, TX 78727-4128  
Bus: 512-244-6641 | [www.carminaeaton.com](http://www.carminaeaton.com)  
30 year Wells Branch resident

LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR  STATE FARM IS THERE.®

## CRIME WATCH CORNER

### Neighborhood Watch Block Captain Training

WBNA hosted a Neighborhood Watch Block Captain Meeting on February 22. Deputy James Kitchens spoke on community safety and the impact of Neighborhood Watch on a community.

We are currently scheduling Neighborhood Watch Block Parties/Meetings with the Travis County Sheriff's Office. If you would like to know more about the program or to schedule a party, please contact Debby Thompson @ 656-0654 or [deborah\\_thompson@earthlink.net](mailto:deborah_thompson@earthlink.net)

More on this meeting and additional neighborhood watch information is available on our website [www.wbna.us](http://www.wbna.us).

### Citizens Observer Alert:

There is an increase of Vehicle and Residential Burglaries in and around Western Travis County. We do not have any specific areas of concern.

Please remember to secure all vehicle doors and residence doors at all times. Do not leave anything of value that can easily be seen in the vehicle and do not leave your garage door opener within view inside of your vehicle. I encourage everyone to get to know your neighbors; this is an effective way to counter crime in your neighborhood.

While Wells Branch is not named in this group, we do suffer our share of thefts and burglaries. Please take precautions.

### SpotCrime & Citizen Observer:

For daily crime stats, sign up at [www.SpotCrime.com](http://www.SpotCrime.com)  
To sign up for area alerts, go to [www.CitizenObserver.com](http://www.CitizenObserver.com).

## Q: HOW DO YOU GET RID OF FIRE ANTS? A: DO THE TEXAS TWO-STEP!



Check out TexaScapes founder and Green Gardener, Richard Fadal's guidelines on natural and organic gardening and his plan for controlling fire ants on the WBNA website under 'Community', [www.wbna.us](http://www.wbna.us).





15001 Wells Port Drive  
Ph#: 989-3188  
<http://www.wblibrary.org>  
Mon-Thurs 10am-8pm  
Fri- Sat 10am-6pm  
Sun 1pm-6pm  
Closed 4/28 for Inventory

**Learn to Crochet:** April 17 at 2pm  
Come to the library for a free introductory crochet workshop! We'll provide all the supplies. Ages 12 and up.

**Green Kids Recycling:** April 20th at 5:00pm  
Meet a representative from our local recycling service and learn about the recycling process.



**Fitness Seminar:** April 23 at noon  
A certified personal trainer will discuss all aspects of a healthy lifestyle, demonstrate exercises, and answer questions.

**Green Living Seminar:** April 23 at 2pm  
Learn about ways that you can reduce waste and toxins to live a healthier, greener life.

### 2011 Storytime Schedule

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  
NEW: All ages- Pajama Storytime: Tuesdays at 7pm  
NEW: All ages- Family Storytime: Every Saturday at 11am (2nd Saturday of the month is Bilingual)



### BOOK CLUBS

**Needles, Hooks and Books I Always Meant to Read:**

2nd Sunday of each month at 2pm in the 'Quiet' Reading Room: Bring your project (knit, sew, whatever) and discuss a book you've always meant to read, or wanted to talk about.

April 10: This Side of Paradise by F Scott Fitzgerald

May 15: The Old Curiosity Shop by Charles Dickens

### Wine, Women and Words Book Club:

3rd Monday of each month at 7pm in the 'Quiet' Reading Room. Newcomers are always welcome (you don't have to finish the book).

### ARTS AND CRAFTS

Kinder Crafts: Tuesdays at 6:30 & 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.

### LEARN AT THE LIBRARY

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



**Phonics Fun:** Mondays at 2pm 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.

### Thursday Night is Free Family Fun Night

1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month: Family Game Night & Chess Club: Enjoy a selection of family games to play with your friends and family. If you want to learn chess, we'll have a master teacher.

2nd Thursday of the month: Video Game Challenge (ages 8+) Wii games appropriate for you to enjoy together.

4th Thursday of the month: Family Movie Night: Watch a G or PG movie with your family and neighbors.

### Adult Computer Classes

(registration required 3 days prior to class)

April 7 @ 6: Word Basics

April 9 @ 10:30: Internet Basics

April 23 @ 10:30: Email Basics



### Database Workshops

The library subscribes to 5 database series for you to access, free, at home or on our machines. Learn to use them at one of our free workshops.

April 2 @ 1pm: Resume Maker

April 2 @ 3pm: Mango Languages and Hobbies & Crafts

April 9 @ 1pm: Job View (find a job here or afar)

April 9 @ 3pm: TexShare Research Databases

Find us on facebook. "Like" us to be linked for up-to-date information!



## Stepping Stone SCHOOL

Voted "Best in Child Care" for 11 Years!  
Infant Care • Preschool • Pre-K • After-School  
Care • Summer Camp • NAC Accredited

**2001 Wells Branch Pkwy.**  
**512-990-0044**  
**www.steppingstoneschool.com**



### Sign-up now: *Alive @ 25* on May 7

*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 teaches important decision-making skills for staying safe both behind the wheel and as passengers.

The WB MUD and WBNA hosted the first course in Wells Branch in December and are proud to be hosting this program again on Saturday, May 7, from 8am-12:30pm at the Community Center, 2106 Klattenhoff. Lunch will be provided. Through a grant from State Farm, we're able to offer the class to participants, ages 15-24, for \$10 per person.

Teens who took the course in December had this to say: "I think this was a really good class that will make me think. Next time I'm in the car with friends I will pay more attention."

"Very interesting, and involved the kids with everything that was going on. Videos were relatable and got the point across while keeping us interested. Very good!"

School's almost out with a long, hot summer to follow, lots of friends and places to go. 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. One participant from December reported her rates dropping from \$98 a month to \$73 because of this course. Only 25 spots are available. It's only one Saturday morning and it could change their lives. Register your teen at [www.texasaliveteam.org](http://www.texasaliveteam.org). For questions, please call 656-0654.

### Don't Mess with Texas - Keep Wells Branch Beautiful!

Submitted by Katie Hutchison

Mark your calendars for April 9th and join us for the 2011 Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off annual event. This event encourages Texans across the state to join forces to clean up Texas roadsides. Millions of pieces of litter accumulate on our roadways each year and we need your help.

The Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off is the single largest one-day cleanup event in the state and serves as Texas' signature event for the Great American Cleanup, the nation's largest community improvement program. Join us and be part of this great event.

Come out to the baseball fields at Katherine Fleischer Park on April 9th from 10am - 1pm, grab a trash bag along with some gloves and help us clean our pathways! The Wells Branch Dog Fair will be from 10am - 1pm also, so bring your pooch along to join in our second annual event with Keep Texas Beautiful.



## Lynn's Pet Sitting

Professional Pet Sitter

Experienced, dependable, loving care of your  
pets and home while you're away.

Dog walks. Pet transport. Insured.

Lynn Vaughan  
[www.lynnspetsitting.com](http://www.lynnspetsitting.com)

(512) 989-5701  
(512) 587-8221

### SPRING CLEANING: CLEAR YOUR CLUTTER AND RE-ENERGIZE YOUR LIFE

Submitted by Tara Fisher-Munoz

It's that time of year - Spring cleaning! Spring is the season of renewal, manifestation, celebration and love. There are many books available on various ways of clearing your clutter and getting more organization in your life. From personal experience, I can attest to how much better it feels to have an organized home; once unused or unwanted items have been donated to charity, and there is a place for everything and everything is in its place. De-cluttering your home will truly give you a sense of freedom and pure joy!

According to Karen Kingston in "Clear Your Clutter with Feng Shui," there are four categories of clutter:

- Things you do not use or love
- Things that are untidy or disorganized
- Too many things in too small a space
- Anything unfinished.

You are connected to everything you own by fine strands of energy. When your home is filled with things that you love or use well it becomes an incredible source of support and nourishment for you. Clutter on the other hand, drags your energy down, and the longer you keep it, the more it will affect you. When you get rid of everything that has no real meaning or significance for you, you literally feel lighter in body, mind and spirit.

When going through your items, you can utilize a list of questions and decide which items to keep, donate or throw away based on your answers. Do you really love it? Do you need it now? Can you imagine yourself or anyone in your family ever loving or needing it in the foreseeable future? If you can't answer yes to any one of these questions, sell it, donate it, or recycle it.

How do you decide what to throw out? Keep these three key guidelines in mind:

1. If it (the pair of shoes, the hat, the picture, the memory) weighs you down, clogs you up, or just plain makes you feel bad about yourself, throw it out, give it away, sell it, let it go, and move on.
2. If it just sits there, taking up room and contributing nothing positive to your life, let it go.
3. If you agonize over it for too long, throw it out

Everything around you, especially your home environment, mirrors your inner self. So by changing your home you also change the possibilities in your own life. Removing obstacles that impede the flow of energy in your living environment creates more harmony in your life and also the space for wonderful new opportunities to come to you.

For a list of places to recycle, donate and sell in Austin, please visit the WBNA website at [www.wbna.us](http://www.wbna.us) under Community, Green Living.



# Community Calendar

- Apr. 2, 2-6pm: Spring Festival (WBE Campus)
  - Apr. 9, 10am-1pm: Dog Fair, KF Park
  - Apr. 9, 10am-1pm: Keep WB Beautiful Trash Off, KF Park
  - Apr. 16, 12-5pm: Pioneer Festival, Homestead, KF Park
  - Apr. 18, 7pm WBNA & WBGG, John Dromgoole, Backyard Gardening, WBCC
  - Apr. 23, 10:30am: WBNA Easter Egg Hunt, Homestead @ KF Park
  - May 7, 8am-12:30pm Alive @ 25, WBCC
  - May 7, 9am-Noon: Spring Youth Fishing Tournament, MP
  - May 21, 11am WBGG, Shade Gardening, WBCL.
- \* Contact the MUD for more info, 251-9814 MP-Mills Pond WBCC-Comm. Center on Klattenhoff - WBCL-WB Comm Library WBRC-Rec Center on Shoreline

\*\*Have a free event to share? If so, send the details - date, place and time via email to: [wbnanews@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wbnanews@sbcglobal.net).

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

### WHY YOU NEED TO JOIN WBNA – YOUR \$20 MAKES A DIFFERENCE AND SO DOES YOUR TIME!

Everyone is welcome free of charge at any and all of our events, but please remember that it costs money to put these events on for our community. WBNA membership helps fund the Easter Egg Hunt, National Night Out, and Friday night at Luminary Fest as well as numerous meetings including Backyard Gardening with John Dromgoole and safety seminars with the Travis County Sheriff's Office. Community involvement is what makes Wells Branch such a great place to live. Please take a moment to join the WBNA and sign up to volunteer. Your time makes a difference!

**Family Pair**  
None Can Compare to our Family Pair!

**Your Wells Branch Neighbor & Specialist!**

*Visit our website designed just for you:*

Search MLS listings, Free Seller & Buyer Reports, Rent vs. Buy calculator, Helpful Wells Branch links, Instant Home Value, Wells Branch Events, School Ratings & lots more!

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

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

**HORIZON REALTY** Austin

[www.familypair.com](http://www.familypair.com)

**Scentsy™**  
INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT

The Hottest New Thing in Candles!™

**Pam Wachholz**

Experience Scentsy, a safer option for candle lovers. You get the glow and the scent without an open flame or dripping wax.

Call today to sample the more than 80 scents and choose your favorite Scentsy warmer. Gift Certificates are also available.

[www.scentsy.us/pamwachholz](http://www.scentsy.us/pamwachholz) | ph: 512.925.5309

**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. March/April 2011

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**