

Neighborhood News

News and information for the residents of Wells Branch.
Vol 20, Issue3, May 2011

SINGLE STREAM RECYCLING Q & A – MONDAY, MAY 16, 7PM @ WBCC

WBNA will host a meeting with IESI, our Single Stream (SS) Recycling provider on Monday, May 16 at 7pm in the Community Center on Klattenhoff to explain how SS works, what you can and can not recycle and benefits of the program, as well as a question and answer session.

IESI recently announced that the start date for Single Stream Recycling has been pushed back to June 1 for Wells Branch residents who pay their water bill to the WBMUD. Transition will begin the last week in May with the actual recycling changes starting on June 1. IESI apologizes for the inconvenience. Watch our site: www.wbna.us and the WB MUD site: www.wellsbranchmud.com for upcoming notices.

Clip and save our handy RECYCLING REFERENCE GUIDE on PAGE 11.

HOW TO APPEAL YOUR PROPERTY TAXES

Submitted by Linda Baird

Did you know you can appeal the tax appraisal value of your home? If you want to decrease the amount you pay in property taxes, here is how. Most homeowners should receive their valuation on or before May 1. Homeowners have until May 31, or 30 days from the date they receive their valuation (whichever is later), to appeal.

If you think your property valuation is too high compared to the current market value, you should appeal your taxes. If you don't appeal the value, the taxing authority accepts that their value is correct which affects the homeowners in the area. Appealing the value on our real estate keeps the taxing authority valuations in line with the market value.

File your protest using the protest form that is available from the Travis County Appraisal District. After you file, it can take up to several months for the county to schedule your informal hearing.

When you are at the hearing you should present evidence and facts to support your claim that they have over-valued your home.

See Property Tax Appeal on page 3

**Thank you to our Easter Egg Hunt
sponsor: Express Urgent Care in
Round Rock.**

4THFEST FUN INCLUDES SILENT AUCTION-YOUR DONATIONS NEEDED!

July 4 in Wells Branch means a day of fun in the sun, live music, games for kids of all ages, LOTS of food, a good time with your neighbors and the WBNA Silent Auction.

The Silent Auction is WBNA's annual fundraiser that, when combined with your membership dues, pays for the Easter Egg Hunt, the National Night Out party in October, activities on Friday night at the Luminary Festival, the food at WBNA sponsored meetings and educational sessions and more.

In order for the auction to be a success, we need items to bid on! If you have a business (or even if you don't) and would like to donate an item, gift certificate for a service or put together a themed basket, we want to hear from you! We are happy to swing by and pick up your donation. Please contact Debby at 512-656-0654 or Pam at 310-2225. Your business will receive exposure to several hundred residents, be featured on a hand-out the day of the event, listed in the next newsletter and on the WBNA website. See you on July 4th!

Inside this Issue

Articles/advertising page 3	HOA/POA/MUD ?? page 2
Calendar of events page 12	Join WBNA page 12
Cub Scouts page 7	Library news page 10
Classified ads page 2	MUD events page 8
Easter Egg Hunt pics page 9	Single Stream info page 11
Energy Star tax free page 6	Trees for Trails page 6
Gardening in WB page 6	Water restrictions page 7

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

MUD, HOA, POA, WBNA – WTH? Somebody tell me the difference, PLEASE!!!

Submitted by Debby Thompson, President, WBNA with contributions by Chuck Walters, President, Wells Branch MUD Board of Directors and Dan Ernst, Stoneridge POA Board Member

If you've ever felt this way, this article is for you. Most of us in Wells Branch (except Brattonwood & Bratton Glen) are a part of the Wells Branch MUD (also referred to as being In-District). If you live in Wells Branch, and pay your water bill to Wells Branch Municipal Utility District (MUD), you're in a MUD. You may also be in an HOA or POA. And, in addition to these, we'd really like to have you in the WBNA.

Are you confused yet?

Wells Branch MUD - The Wells Branch Municipal Utility District (MUD) is a recognized local government created under Texas State Law providing for these limited authority entities as part of the Water Code.

Wells Branch MUD provides for creation and management of services supporting water, wastewater, drainage, parks, safety, solid waste and other functions. The Wells Branch MUD Board of Directors are elected for four year terms at elections every two years (for 2 or 3 members per election).

Wells Branch MUD was created in 1981 by a group of developers that were expanding neighborhoods around Austin. Wells Branch is NOT a part of the city of Austin, but we are in the ETJ (extra-territorial jurisdiction) of Austin. For this reason, we are served by the Travis County Sheriff's Office and ESD#2 instead of City of Austin Police or Fire Dept. We do not pay taxes to the "City"; we pay taxes to the MUD and County for their services.

The mission statement of Wells Branch MUD is as follows:

"The District works in a cost effective and efficient way to support the vision by monitoring, tracking, and ensuring quality of life in the District. Quality of life has been defined as safe water supply, well maintained amenities, recreational opportunities, general safety, and stable and appreciating property values."

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

- Homeowners
- Auto



lee.cramer.b4hp@statefarm.com

...28th year serving Wells Branch...

**Lee Cramer
251-3473**

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

- Renters
- Life



**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

HOA/POA (Home Owners Association/Property Owners Association) – Generally speaking, an HOA/POA is a membership of homeowners that is responsible for the enforcement of the Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions for the properties in their immediate subdivision. There are some exceptions for "In-District" vs. "Out-of-District". Many of the Associations also maintain the landscaping and fences in the common areas of, once again, their immediate neighborhood. The goal of an HOA/POA is to enhance the appearance of its neighborhood and maintain property values. Dues paid to an HOA/POA, go for Covenant or Deed Restriction enforcement and maintenance of the common areas of the subdivision.

The Association retains a property management company to collect dues and maintain the accounting and expenses for the Association.

If you are "In-District", the WB MUD handles your covenant enforcement. Some HOAs/POAs do Deed Restriction enforcement in addition to the Covenant Restrictions documented by the MUD.

"Out-of-District" HOAs/POAs are responsible for enforcement of violations of the Covenants and Deed Restrictions.

The "Architectural Control Committee" is an independent (non-MUD) group that must be contacted for home alterations prior to modifications for "In-District" properties. "Out-of-District" properties have their own Architectural Control Committees that may be contacted through their property management companies.

There are five HOAs or POAs in Wells Branch. If you live in Bratton Glen, Brattonwood, Brookside, Stoneridge or The Lake at Wells Branch, you live in an area with an HOA or POA. There is a link to each of these HOAs/POAs along with property management information on our website: www.wbna.us under "Links".

See MUD? on page 3

If your home is in one of these areas, membership in your designated HOA/POA is not optional and is disclosed during the purchase of your property. You became a member of your HOA/POA at the closing of your home purchase when you signed a "Planned Unit Development Rider" which explains the terms of the HOA/POA and your responsibility for payment of dues. You could not close on your property without signing this document.

Each HOA/POA has its own specific guidelines as to how many Board of Director positions are elected and the term of these positions although most offices are elected annually at a general meeting of Home/Property Owners. Board of Directors and Officers serve on a voluntary basis; they donate their time and efforts to the neighborhood.

WBNA – Wells Branch Neighborhood Association - The Wells Branch Neighborhood Association is a social/civic organization that includes all addresses in Wells Branch whether "In-District" or "Out-of-District". We are NOT a governing body and do not collect taxes. We have no legal right to enforce anything. Membership dues, \$20 per year per household, are optional, but GREATLY appreciated. The WBNA publishes the "Neighborhood News" six times a year. Each issue is hand delivered to every house in Wells Branch, all 3,366, by volunteers. In addition to this, we put on the Easter Egg Hunt each year, hold a Silent Auction fundraiser in the CC during FourthFest, host National Night Out for the neighborhood, and host one of the nights during Luminary Fest in December. WBNA also hosts several meetings throughout the year with guest speakers on every thing from gardening to safety. We have a new website up and running, www.wbna.us which posts neighborhood events, news, and just has all kinds of cool stuff on it and we've just started a Facebook photo share site for Wells Branch residents. We rely on dues, donations and advertising to fund our endeavors with the purpose of keeping the residents of Wells Branch informed and facilitating community spirit. We have a board consisting of six officers who are elected each January by a majority of WBNA members. We are strictly a volunteer-run organization.

In short:

WB MUD: Most of Wells Branch - Taxing entity with responsibility to provide services to residents. Provides a safe water supply and maintains an excellent park system that adds to our property values. Recreational opportunities and events sponsored by the MUD are outstanding!

HOA/POA: Some parts of WB - Collects dues for covenant (Out-of District, only) and deed restriction enforcement and property maintenance.

WBNA: All of Wells Branch - Voluntary membership to fund neighborhood activities and foster a sense of community.

Hopefully, we've helped to clear a little confusion. Bottom line is: All are separate entities with entirely different purposes, functions and funding. We can however, communicate with each other and join together for events to create a stronger community.

Together, we all make Wells Branch Great!

Your Wells Branch Neighborhood Realtor

Howard Hagemann, MBA

e-mail: howard@txhomes4u.info

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

online: www.txxhomes4u.info



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



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 wbnaews@sbcglobal.net for 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 June 3. Ad rates may be found at www.wbna.us.

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!

Property Tax Appeal from page 1

You will need a Comparable Market Analysis which looks at the market value of recent sales for homes that compare to yours in size, age, location and type of construction.

If you have recently purchased a home and the purchase price was lower than your appraised value, bring a copy of your settlement statement.

Another item that would adversely affect the market value would be the location, i.e. if home backs up to a busy street. For this, use Google Map to document your location.

Also, the condition of your home: plumbing problems, outdated fixtures and foundation issues for example could be used to argue too high an appraised value. Take pictures and bring them with you to your hearing.

GIVE A KID A SUMMER

The fact of the matter is: Kids NEED a place to "be" in the summertime. Staying at home by themselves is only good for so long before boredom sets in and they go in search of entertainment. If you give a kid someplace to be, something to do, they're far less likely to get into trouble on their own. We have wonderful facilities available in Wells Branch: two pools and a recreation center – safe, clean environments with adult supervision.



Unfortunately, with the economic downturn, many families are strapped for funds and a Wells Branch Rec. Pass is the last thing in their budget. That said, the WBNA would like to ask for your help. It only costs \$35 for an individual quarterly rec. pass and just \$75 for an annual membership for a child in need.

We'd love to tell you that your donation is tax deductible, but unfortunately, it isn't. Think about it, \$5, \$10, \$20, even \$35 isn't going to make that big a difference on your tax return and you can make a HUGE difference in a child's life. For questions, or if you know of a child, age 10–16, in need, contact Debby Thompson at deborah_thompson@earthlink.net. Needs will be met on a first come, first serve basis.

Help us out, please – Give a Kid a Summer. Mail your check (in any amount) made out to WBNA with "Rec. Tag Donations" on the memo line to: WBNA, 2104 Klattenhoff, Austin, TX 78728.

Last year, we were able to buy six youth full one-year passes. Please help us do it again. Donors will be recognized in the September issue of the WBNA News. Thank you in advance for taking this opportunity to help a child enjoy their summer vacation safely.



PICTURES! PICTURES! PICTURES!

**Pioneer Fest • Trees for Trails Planting •
WBNA Easter Egg Hunt • Kids Fishing!**

Yea! Finally a place to share our pictures of Wells Branch Events! WBNA has a new Facebook page where we can all share our photos. Look for WBNA Wells Branch Neighborhood Association on Facebook or go to our website: www.wbna.us and click on the link to our new Facebook page. "Like" us and share your pictures. Send a request to upload whole albums or just add one or two favorites from an event. Check it out and let us know what you think! Are you hiding in someone else's photos?

WELLS BRANCH NEIGHBORS LIST SERVE

Want to get involved and just not sure where to start? We have our very own Google Group that serves Wells Branch. Neighbors can ask questions, get answers and offer advice. There's always something new to talk about. Sign up today by e-mailing geowanda1@me.com to join or use the link at www.wbna.us

Now Open SUNDAYS!



**EXPRESS
URGENT
CARE**

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!**

www.myeuc.com

KUDOS

Thanks to those who delivered our March issue. We hadn't counted on doing an insert on recycling and got one just as the newsletters were ready for delivery. Thanks so much to each of you for taking the time to stuff the newsletters with our *VERY* important recycling inserts. Thanks to **Linda Baird** for counting out all 2800 flyers and a special thanks to **Anthea DeV Vaughan** for stuffing the last 300 newsletters for delivery.

And, once again... Thanks to all of you for keeping Wells Branch Great!

Mary Alverson	Pharr Andrews-Clark
June Apprill	Jack & Genevieve Bales
Lara, Clay & Henry Bennett	Linda Baird
Mike & Joyce Best	Kathy Brown
Gary, Joy & Chance Bryant	Garland Bullock
Creola Burns	Phil & Dana Carter
Jacob Dawson	David Gezana
Betsey, Tessi & Cole Harper	Sonya Hindman
Donna Howe	Gus Kohn
Brian & Rachel LeBansky	Jacque Longino
Sivaram Manda	William Olson
Barbara Romero	Micki Rosiles
Marisa Sawatphadungkij	Marcia Schoellman
Allen & JoAnn Sparks	Diane Starkey
Debby Thompson	Midian Wilkes
Wally Wingfield	Pamela & Bre'Anna Woodward
Dan, Kim, Brendan & Sarah Lanicek	

If you would like to deliver the newsletter, please contact our distribution team at dhowe@austin.rr.com or 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.

Chicoine Chiropractic

Chiropractic ~ Massage ~ Nutrition ~ Therapy ~ Rehabilitation ~ Foot Orthotics



(Residents of Wells Branch)

Shelly Chicoine Hogan, D.C.

Nicole Chicoine Edwards, D.C.

www.chicoinechiropractic.com

We offer health care for the whole family at our newest location in Wells Branch. These are a few symptoms or indicators you may need a Chiropractic check-up:

Sports Injuries

Neck and Back Pain

Plantar Fasciitis

Headaches

Sprains/Strains

Pinched Nerves

Numbness and Tingling

Pregnancy Aches/Pains

Radiating Pain

Carpal Tunnel Syndrome

Repetitive Falls

Auto Accidents

Infant Colic

Chronic Ear Infections

TMJ Problems

\$50 Invitation to Good Health

includes a complimentary 20 minute therapeutic massage

This exciting offer of good health normally costs \$200 or more. It will provide you with an initial consultation, an orthopedic and neurological exam, radiographic analysis if necessary, and of course a private consultation to discuss the results. Please accept our invitation for Chiropractic Care.

3407 Wells Branch Pkwy. #625 - Austin, TX 78728 - (512)255-1777

Our Family Has Been Serving Your Family Since 1989.

We also accept most major medical insurance, medicare, and auto injury insurance.

STORM WATER DRAINAGE FEE ADDED TO WATER BILL



In order to help pay for MS4 compliance and other drainage maintenance, a new storm water drainage fee of \$1.75 per month will be billed through the WB MUD water bills for residential households.

As a municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4), Wells Branch is required to follow and implement certain measures to adhere to new Federal and TCEQ (Texas Commission on Environmental Quality) regulations. MS4 is an "unfunded mandate"; the MUD is required by law to meet these directives, without any federal or state compensation.

What is MS4? Broken down: "separate storm sewer system" includes ditches, curbs, gutters, storm sewers, and similar means of collecting or conveying runoff that do not connect with a wastewater collection system or treatment plant. To be a "municipal separate storm sewer system" (MS4), the system must be owned or operated by a public agency such as a Municipal Utility District and be located in certain population density areas.

Fees collected will be used to develop and apply a storm water management program, clear and maintain existing drainage areas and detention ponds, pay associated permitting fees and other drainage maintenance requirements.

For more information, please visit:

Source: http://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/water_quality/stormwater/WQ_ms4_definition.html



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



QUESTIONS ABOUT WELLS BRANCH?

Send them to info@wbna.us and we will do our best to get answers for you. Questions that may be of interest to multiple residents will be published in upcoming newsletters or on our website.

TREES FOR TRAILS

WB MUD's 1st focus group success

Submitted by Bob Bauhs & Chuck Walters

The WB MUD Facilities Committee wanted to be able to include neighborhood residents to provide input for our parks system. The committee gained support of the Board of Directors to proceed with a focus group in effort to answer some questions. How can we tap into the talents of the citizens of Wells Branch? What kind of project would benefit the community as a whole? How can we involve more residents? These types of questions led to the creation of the "Trees for Trails" focus group.

After the concept was approved by the full board in November of 2010, a call for volunteers was made. Written applications were submitted and the group was formed. The first meeting was held on February 3rd and their mission was to gather information and suggest solutions to the WB MUD Board by:

- Viewing the whole trail system as our nature park
- Staying focused on how trees can enhance the trail
- Looking for problem areas and opportunities
- Considering how to involve more of the community
- Considering how to finance the plan

The members of the group enthusiastically attacked the issues by walking the trails, taking virtual tours of the trail using Google Earth, identifying their individual top opportunities, and creating a ranking system to prioritize where trees are most needed. The group also called on outside expert assistance from the Capital Area Master Naturalists, and The Texas Riparian Society. The end result was a master plan that identified the 10 top areas and the top sites within each area. Their plan was approved by the full board on April 5, 2011 and the first planting of trees was conducted April 19.

The fulfillment of the plan will take several years. There will be ample opportunity for the residents of the community to contribute by:

- Nurturing saplings until they are ready to plant
- Participating in planned educational events
- Contributing to fund-raising efforts that community groups sponsor.
- Volunteering their labor
- By participating in single stream recycling, revenue rebates from this program will be dedicated to tree replacement.

We wish to offer our thanks to the members of the Trees for Trails focus group. They are a dedicated group. Several of them had special training. All of them brought their passion for the environment. The members of the team, in addition to the Facilities Committee are:

Darlene Bauhs	Richard Fadal	Chris Lintz	Steve Weikal
Lara Bennett	Paul Flugel	Craig Matthews	
Linda Bilstein	Jesse Kennis	Shelley Palmer	

More details about the plans and priorities will be presented over time. We ask you to take time to see how you can help promote "Trees for Trails." Additional information coming to the MUD website: WellsBranchMud.com. Look under Departments->Projects->Focus Group (Info coming soon)

ENERGY STAR[®] Sales Tax Holiday

Memorial Day Weekend: May 28-30, 2011

Submitted by Donna Howe

During Memorial Day weekend, Texas shoppers get a break from state and local sales and use taxes on purchases of certain energy efficient products.

The 2011 ENERGY STAR sales tax holiday begins at 12:01 a.m. on Saturday, May 28, and ends at 11:59 p.m. on Monday, May 30.

The products qualifying for the exemption are:

- Air conditioners priced at \$6,000 or less
- Refrigerators priced at \$2,000 or less
- Ceiling fans
- Incandescent and fluorescent light bulbs
- Clothes washers*
- Dishwashers
- Dehumidifiers
- Programmable thermostats**

** Because most dryers use similar amounts of energy, ENERGY STAR does not label clothes dryers.*

*** ENERGY STAR specification of programmable thermostats was suspended on December 31, 2009; however, any existing stock of ENERGY STAR labeled programmable thermostats offered for sale by retailers is still eligible for the exemption.*

Qualifying products will display the ENERGY STAR logo, which may appear on the appliance, the packaging or the Energy Guide label. ENERGY STAR is a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy. Earning the ENERGY STAR means a product meets strict energy efficiency guidelines set by these two federal agencies.

There is no limit on the number of qualifying items one can purchase during this sales tax holiday, and an exemption certificate is not required.

For more information, see: http://www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/taxpubs/tx96_1331/

WELLS BRANCH GARDEN GUILD

The May 21 meeting of the WBGG features Tom Spencer, host of the weekly Central Texas Gardener program on KLRU. Over the past twenty-seven years, Tom has shared his love of gardening with the people of Austin and Central Texas through his television program and his radio program, *The Wildflower Hour*. Tom's presentation on Shade Gardening at the WB Library will begin at 11am Saturday morning.



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, please e-mail 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.



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

houseishome@yahoo.com

Lori Page
Realtor®
Buyer Specialist
636.5765

buyaustin@yahoo.com

www.austinhomerealestate.com

Wells Branch residents since 1985!

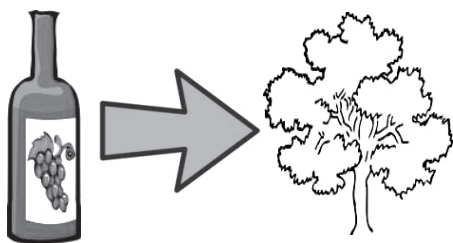
HOW DO YOU TURN A BOTTLE INTO A TREE?

It's easy! Our new **Single Stream Recycling Program** pays the WB MUD \$20 in rebates for each ton of recycling collected. Those funds, in turn, are dedicated to purchasing trees for our park system. And soon, we'll be able to recycle more products curbside than ever before! Pretty cool, huh? The more we pitch in and recycle, the more trees get planted.

Think before you pitch it in the trash!

Trash isn't trash anymore.

See page 11 for a clip & save guide to our new recycling plan.



**Get to know your
neighbors—start a
neighborhood watch!**

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

30 year Wells Branch resident

LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR



STATE FARM IS THERE.®



CALLING ALL CUBS

Submitted by Matthew Floyd

Cub Scout Pack 140 is now recruiting boys who will be entering First through Fifth Grades in Fall 2011. We mainly recruit from Wells Branch, Northwest and Parmer Lane Elementary Schools but all area boys are welcome to join. We have many great activities planned for the summer including those that will benefit our Wells Branch neighborhood. If you are interested, please go to www.pack140.org or email join@pack140.org.

STAGE 1 WATER USE - WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

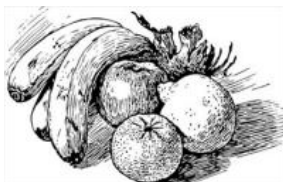
Stage 1 Water Use Schedule is currently in effect for Austin Water Customers and that includes Wells Branch residents since our water is purchased from the City of Austin.

The Wells Branch MUD encourages observation of these guidelines in support of City efforts to conserve water.

What exactly does that mean to you?

- No operation of irrigation systems or hose-end sprinklers between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.
- Commercial and Multi-Family customers can continue to water on Tuesdays and Fridays
- Single family homes have 2 watering days a week:
Odd addresses: Wednesdays and/or Saturdays
Even addresses: Thursdays and/or Sundays
- Watering by sprinkler or irrigation system is allowed on your assigned day only before 10 a.m. or after 7 p.m.
- Hand watering is allowed anytime

For more information, visit: <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/watercon/>



Making your diet more eco-friendly

Submitted by Tara Fisher-Munoz

I have a love affair with food. I love to buy it, eat it, grow it,

cook it, and of course, talk about it. I am Vegan and I love how being Vegan has allowed me to become incredibly creative and diverse with food preparation. Additionally, my eco-friendly diet makes me feel healthy, vibrant and full of energy. Here is a list of steps you can take to make your diet more eco-friendly while at the same time, improving your health and overall well-being.

- 1. Choose organic** – Studies show that organic produce is healthier than their conventional counterparts. Organic foods are produced without synthetic growth hormones, genetically engineered organisms, antibiotics, chemical fertilizers or manmade chemical pesticides.
- 2. Join a local CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) or shop at your local Farmer's Market** – By joining a CSA or shopping at a Farmer's Market, you are supporting local farmers, while ensuring the safety and health of your food at the same time.
- 3. Eat in season** – By eating in season, you are greatly reducing your carbon footprint and the ill effects on the planet by shipping out of season produce.
- 4. Eat less meat** - Eating lower on the food chain is probably the single most important thing you can do to help the environment.
- 5. Eat real foods** - The less processing a food has been subjected to, the less energy and fewer resources have been expended manufacturing, packaging and transporting it to your grocery store.
- 6. Start your own garden** - Besides the benefits of gardening that go beyond food - growing your own food means complete control over the quality of your diet.
- 7. Compost** - Composting makes simple common sense. Check out howtocompost.org to learn more.
- 8. Buy in bulk** - Two reasons: Less packaging, and less cost.
- 9. A few more simple steps** - If you drink bottled water, or carbonated beverages, look to your tap, a good filter and/or a home carbonation system, paired with a good reusable bottle. Get cloth napkins and dishtowels, and stop buying paper napkins and paper towels. Replace plastic storage containers with glass. Glass can last a lifetime.
- 10. Green clean** - You can clean green and save money by easily making your own cleansers with simple ingredients like baking soda, borax, lemon juice and vinegar.

In summary, the best options to make your diet more eco-friendly are to eat less processed food, eat less meat, eat real foods and cook at home. You will be amazed at how much better you feel. Happy Eating!

EDITOR'S NOTE: Due to all of the important information that needed to be included in this issue, this article was greatly condensed. Please see the complete article and references at www.wbna.us.

WB MUD SUMMER EVENTS

Memorial Day Concert and Casino Night

We have a winner-It's Wells Branch! Katherine Fleischer Pool will be open at no cost to residents on Saturday, May 28, and visitors can enjoy a free concert and refreshments in the park from 3 to 5 p.m.

From 6 to 9 p.m., the MUD presents an adults only evening of gaming for our residents. This event is for residents 21 and up only and IDs will be checked at the door. Join us at 2106 Klattenhoff Dr. as the MUD transforms the Community Center into a casino using professional tables and dealers. Stick around following the gaming for more fun and the opportunity to "spend" your winnings on a variety of prizes.

Teen Basketball Clinics

The clinic is designed to hone your skills using drills, games, and scrimmages indoors under the supervision of a coach. You're guaranteed to dribble away a better player! The clinics cost \$40 and are for ages 11-15.

Session 1: June 6 – June 29, 12 – 3 p.m.

Session 2: July 11 – August 3, 12 – 3 p.m.

Location: WB Recreation Center Gym

Days: Monday and Wednesday

Movies in the Park:

University Federal Credit Union and Wells Branch MUD present Movies in the Park at Katherine Fleischer Park. Admission is free. Bring your blankets and chairs and enjoy these free family events. Pre-movie activities start at 8 p.m. with the movies starting at twilight. Concessions will be available for guests.

June 11: Open Season 3



The WBNA & WBGG shared a wonderful meeting in April. Together, we hosted a seminar on Backyard Gardening with John Dromgoole. With 86 residents in attendance, we had the biggest crowd yet and we all learned about Mel Bartholomew's methods for square foot gardening. John answered many questions from the audience as well. We thank him for joining us for the second year in a row!




Stepping Stone
SCHOOL

Voted "Best in Child Care" for 12 Years!
 Infant Care • Preschool • Pre-K • After-School
 Care • Summer Camp • NAC Accredited

2001 Wells Branch Pkwy.
512-990-0044
SteppingStoneSchool.com





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 (512) 989-5701
 www.lynnspetsitting.com (512) 587-8221

"THANK YOU" FOR WBNA EASTER EGG HUNT

Thanks to everyone who came out to the WBNA Easter Egg Hunt: both volunteers and participants. We had a great turnout!

Special thanks to the Bennett family who makes the Easter Egg Hunt happen each year for the WBNA. Lara (WBNA VP) orders all the prizes, stuffs ALL the eggs and organizes the EEH. Her husband Clay, the guy with the bullhorn, runs it. Henry, their sixteen year old is the Easter Bunny (BTW, he's amazing with the children) and Owen, their youngest, is EB's bodyguard. We wouldn't have this event if it weren't for the Bennetts.

Lara started planning weeks in advance. On Saturday morning, she rounded up her friends Lynette & Darius Sanders, who in turn this year, brought their friends, Mary & Erin to help. They got up early, came out to the park, set EVERYTHING up for the event and manned the "ropes".

The WBNA would like to thank the Bennett family and their friends for their continued efforts each year to make this event special for the residents of Wells Branch.

Each year, the WBNA funds this event through your memberships and donations. This year we had help from Express Urgent Care at Hester's Crossing in RR, sponsor of the Easter Egg Hunt and Chon Som restaurant on Wells Branch Parkway. Marisa, owner of the restaurant and WB resident, donated over one hundred eggs and prizes.

Also, thanks go to the other WBNA board members, Debby Thompson, Mike Howe, Pam Wachholz, Linda Baird, and Faye Cormier as well as WB MUD board directors, Chuck Walters and Donna Howe who volunteered their time to come out and help and those who helped with crowd control: Gus Kohn, Jacob Dawson, Hannah Wachholz, Anna Kate Haulotte, Alex Ngo and Robbie Hearn.

Please check out the photos by Madonna Johnson, long time WB resident and WBNA photo site administrator, and Donna Howe, MUD Board Director, on our new Facebook page. "Like" us on Facebook and add your own event photos!



TOP: (L) WBNA VP and EE Hunt coordinator, Lara Bennett with Darius Sanders and the Easter Bunny.

(R) The main attraction (besides the eggs), the Easter Bunny, AKA Henry Bennett.

CENTER: Mischa & Tasha are ready to start the hunt!

RIGHT: Easter Egg Hunt sponsor and WBNA advertiser Luis Aparicio of Express Urgent Care was on hand with his daughter Ashlyn handing out goodies to residents. Thank you!



Wells Branch Community Library

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

**Get Ready for Summer Reading 2011
Dig Up a Good Book at the Library
June 11- August 13, 2011 for ALL AGES**

Special Kids Programs

June 11 – 12pm: Dinosaur George - *Learn about dinosaurs and get an up-close look at real dinosaur bones and fossils!*

July 16 – 11am: Lucas Miller- *A fun and scientific concert the whole family will enjoy!*

August 13 – 11am: Circus Chicken Dog- *Storytelling, juggling, unicycling, and performing animals!*

The Reading Incentive Program: Pick up a reading log starting June 11th, and track how many hours you spend reading. Earn prizes at 10, 25, 50, and 100 hour levels. The top readers get grand prizes!

Adult Summer Reading

Register for the Adult Summer Reading Incentive Program starting June 10 at 4pm. Each adult who registers June 10-11 will get a terra cotta pot. We'll have pot decorating for the grown-ups between 4 and 5:30pm both days. Each time you read 3 books and turn in a log, you'll get a prize.



Magic Tree House Club

Ages 7-10: June 13, July 11, & August 8 at 2:00pm: Read and share your choice of any of the Magic Tree House books.

Weekly Programs

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.

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

Prehistoric Preschoolers: Wednesdays at 1:00pm for ages 3-6: Learn about science, history, archeology, and more as we dig up good books.

Elementary Explorers: Thursdays at 4:00pm for ages 7-10: Uncover buried treasure as we explore non-fiction books about science, history, archeology, and more.

Dino Time: Mondays at 11:15am & Fridays at 12:00pm for ages 2-5: Free-play and social time with dinosaur toys immediately following storytimes.

Teens and Tweens

Wii Tournaments at 6pm: June 23, Mario Kart;

July 14, Wii Bowling; August 11, Super Smash Brothers

Book Reviews: Read and turn in a review of any YA book from June 11th to August 13th for your chance to win a gift card!



Crochet Class:

No experience required; we provide hooks & yarn! If you don't know which end of the hook is which, or if you're a crochet whiz looking for fun, this group is for you.

May 15 at 1pm: Basic Beginnings

In June & July, we'll make cup cozies and granny squares.

OverDrive

We have a digital library. This means you can download e-books and electronic audiobooks directly to your machine at home, any time, for free, with a direct link from our catalog.

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

All ages- Pajama Storytime: Tuesdays at 7pm

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

Needles, Hooks and Books Reading Group:

2pm in the 'Quiet' Reading Room: Bring your project (knit, sew, whatever).

May 15: The Old Curiosity Shop by Charles Dickens

June 12: The Last Picture Show by Larry McMurtry

July 10: At Swim Two Birds by Flann O'Brien



Wine, Women and Words Book Club:

3rd Monday of each month at 7pm. Newcomers are always welcome. May 16: The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins

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.

Family Game Night & Chess Club: 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month at 6pm: 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.

Want to learn more about our databases? Sign up for our scavenger hunt and use them to answer 12 questions. Turn your answers in for a chance to win a prize! June 10-June 27



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



Wells Branch Starting New Single Stream Recycling Program

CLIP & SAVE INFO SHEET

The Wells Branch MUD has renewed its trash and recycling contract with our current service provider IESI. If you pay your water bill to Wells Branch Municipal Utility District, then starting on June 1, 2011, trash service will be once per week pickup and recycling will be every other week single stream recycling collection. The District was able to negotiate a minimal rate increase despite the rising costs of landfills, fuel, and insurance. Solid waste (trash) is included in your Base fee on your water bill.

IESI will continue to provide the green 95-gallon carts for trash, but the recycling program and bins are evolving into the 21st century. The last week of May, your current 18-gallon recycling bins will be replaced with one blue 95-gallon recycle cart. Trash and recycling will be collected on the same day as your current pickup day. In an effort to better service you, please place your trash and recycling carts at the curb no later than 8:30 a.m. The trash and recycling will be serviced by automatic trucks, which do have some special requirements. We ask that the carts be placed within two (2) feet of the edge of the street or curb with the handle toward curb. Please place the recycle cart at least five (5) feet from the trash cart. Try to place all of your trash or recyclables into your cart without overfilling to minimize spillage.

Single-Stream Recycling comes to Wells Branch

The new recycling program is called "single-stream" recycling. It's the future for responsible resource conservation and an important step toward meeting Wells Branch's goal to being a Green community. Single-stream recycling makes it almost as easy to use the recycling cart as it is to use the trash cart, so there's no excuse for not recycling. It also creates a significant opportunity for the community to get a lot closer to their waste reduction goals through this revolutionary new system: Single Stream Recycling.

The following materials may be Recycled:

PLASTICS #1-#5 & #7 - Water, soda and juice bottles, Milk jugs, Shampoo, conditioner & liquid soap bottles, Detergent bottles, Bleach and all-purpose cleaner bottles, Margarine tubs, yogurt containers, Empty medicine bottles, Clean frozen food trays, Plastic lids from bottles, Plastic takeout containers, Plastic produce containers, Plastic disposable plates, cups and utensils (check for recycling number).

PAPER - Newspapers and Inserts, Magazines, Catalogs, Junk Mail and Envelopes (No product samples; envelope labels and windows are OK), Boxboard (thin cardboard like cereal boxes, shoe boxes, soda cartons, etc.), Holiday and greeting cards, Phone books, Home Office Paper (Stickies, manilla envelopes and file folders and paper ream wrappers are OK), Paper bags, except gift bags.

METALS - Aluminum cans, such as soda cans, Tin & steel cans, such as soup cans and tuna cans, Empty aerosol cans, Metal lids from glass jars.

GLASS - Clear, green and amber glass. Put the glass containers in your recycling cart with all your recyclables. There is no need to remove labels. Metal lids from glass jars may also go in your recycling cart.

CORRUGATED CARDBOARD - Corrugated cardboard is thick and has a wavy middle layer. Moving and mailing boxes are usually made from corrugated cardboard.

The Following Materials ARE NOT Recycled:

PLASTICS - Plastic Bags, Styrofoam (cups, egg cartons, take-out container), toys, motor oil bottles

PAPER - Pizza boxes, wet, soiled or food-stained paper, paper towels, facial or toilet paper, disposable paper plates and cups, dark-colored envelopes and folders, wrapping paper and gift bags, milk and juice cartons

METALS - Aluminum foil, coat hangers, paint and solvent containers, scrap metal (nails, screws, gutters, etc...)

GLASS - Plate glass, windowpanes, light bulbs, mirrors, dishes and cups, ornaments and decorations

For more information on the following additional services, contact the District at 251-9814 or visit: www.WellsBranchMUD.com

Monthly Clean-Up Day

IESI provides the District with Monthly Clean-Up Day for residents of WB MUD. Dumpsters are available from 8am-5pm the 2nd Saturday of Each Month.

District Maintenance Yard

13905 Thermal Drive, Austin, TX 78728

Used Motor Oil Drop-Off Location

IESI provides the District with a Central Drop Off for used motor oil for WB residents on Clean-Up Day from 8am-5pm the 2nd Saturday of Each Month.

District Maintenance Yard

13905 Thermal Drive, Austin, TX 78728



Community Calendar

May 16, 7pm: WBNA presents Single Stream recycling
 May 21, 11am: WBGG, Shade Gardening, WBCL.
 May 28: Memorial Day events, see pg 8*
 June 3: Deadline for Neighborhood News, July
 June 11: Summer reading begins, WBCL
 June 11, 8pm: Movie in the park*

* 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.

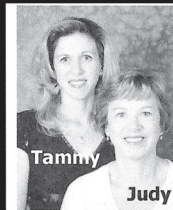
**Events put on by for-profit entities do not qualify
 for this space.

JULY 4TH HOT DOG SALES TO SUPPORT WB TREES FOR TRAILS – Volunteers & Customers needed!

The WB Garden Guild and the Trees for Trails Focus Group will be selling hot dogs and sausage wraps with all the trimmings to raise money to add native trees to our parklands. They hope to raise enough funds to plant at least fifteen more trees and need volunteers to help in the booth and, of course, customers.

Everybody, come on out and bring your appetites for this traditional Fourth of July holiday treat and help green up our neighborhood. To volunteer your time for this worthy cause, contact Dianne Koehler at dikoehler@yahoo.com.

We hope to see you there!



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

www.familypair.com



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 | 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.

May 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