



Neighborhood News

News and information for the residents of Wells Branch.
Vol 21, Issue 5, September 2013



National Night Out - Free Food • Great Company • Door Prizes!

Join your Wells Branch neighbors for our night out against crime, Tuesday, October 1, from 6-9pm at the gazebo at Katherine Fleischer Park. The WBNA will be serving up FREE hotdogs, sausage wraps, sodas, chips and door prizes. For

dessert we have Culver's Restaurant & the Friends of the Library serving delicious frozen custard (while supplies last). Distinguished guests will be on hand from the Travis County Sheriff's Office, ESD #2 Fire Department, Precinct 2 Constable's Office and the Wells Branch MUD to mention a few. Both children and adults will have the opportunity to visit with first responders, receive information on Neighborhood Watch and other programs available to residents, and tour the fire safety house and fire truck that ESD #2 will have on hand. As a special treat this year, we'll have the very first Pflugerville Volunteer Fire Truck from 1956 on site as well.

Come find out what's going on in our community and visit with local law enforcement officers and politicians about

what you can do to help reduce the opportunities for crimes to occur in our neighborhood.

National Night Out is designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, generate support for and participation in local anti-crime efforts, and to strengthen neighborhood spirit and law enforcement-community partnership. Help send the message to criminals that Wells Branch is organized and fighting back.

Take a stand against crime. Turn on your porch light and come join your friends and neighbors at the park for food and fellowship. If you have a Neighborhood Watch group on your block (or even if you don't) we'd like to encourage you to come eat dinner with us, listen to the speakers, and then return home to your street and gather with your neighbors over dessert to discuss how you can make your homes and our community safer.

We hope to see you there!



WB - We put the Community in Communication and it Works!

by Debby Thompson, President, WBNA

Our Wells Branch network ROCKS! Using social media and our WB network on a hot August day, we may even have saved a life!

On August 12 a neighbor, Pamela Woodward, called to ask if I knew why there was a helicopter circling our homes (as it had been for over an hour). I hadn't heard it because I was at the pool with my grandkids, but I offered to find out. I called Tom Cheshire, MUD Safety Chair. He hadn't heard it either, but said he'd call and check into it for me. He contacted Deputy Robert Phillips who was on duty working patrols for the MUD. Deputy Phillips in turn, called Sgt. Craig Smith. Sgt. Smith knew exactly what was going on! He called Tom back with the full story. A 73 year-old woman had wandered off from Sweetwater Apartments over two hours ago. She was not from this area and was not dressed for the heat. He gave Tom a detailed description of the missing woman, Tom texted

See Communication on page 2

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See Insert for Fall Events, Hazardous Waste Disposal, Bulk Trash, Medicine Take-Back, Shredding, Google Group, Recycling Calendar and more!



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CRIME TALK with Sergeant Craig Smith of the Travis County Sheriff's Office

Crime Reporting, Crime Statistics, Crime Analysis, Criminal Intelligence.... What do these words mean? More importantly, how do these words affect you? Crime Reporting is simply what deputies do every day. When deputies respond to calls they gather information about the crime that has occurred in order to begin the investigation and document their findings so that a detective can understand what has occurred and then complete the investigation. Crime Statistics occur when staff members review the reports that have been generated by the deputies and then compile total numbers of crimes, usually over a month. Charts are created to make it easy to see how many crimes have occurred. The statistics are broken down into crimes against persons and crimes against property in each patrol district. Crime Analysis is performed by a trained criminal analyst.

The analyst uses the crime statistics and looks for trends or patterns. This information is then passed to the patrol deputies so that they have a better understanding of what is occurring in their patrol district. The theory is that trends or patterns can be seen and then patrol deputies can take a proactive approach to try and catch the criminal before the next crime occurs. Criminal Intelligence is a unit within the sheriff's office. These deputies work daily with other law enforcement agencies to share intelligence and again, look for trends or patterns. Other law enforcement agencies may have information to help our agency take a pro-active approach to fighting crime.

However, statistics, analysis, intelligence can only go so far. These tools work great when a criminal begins a long term "crime spree". Unfortunately, these tools do not work when a criminal randomly commits a crime. These random crimes occur as a result of opportunity. A criminal may not be out looking to commit a crime but if the opportunity presents itself, they tend to act on the chance. When criminals are simply acting on a given opportunity, the statistics, analysis and intelligence information does not work. This is where you become the best crime fighting tool of them all!

In twenty-one years of law enforcement I have interviewed more criminals than I care to remember. There is one thing that stands out about them all. Not one person has ever told me that they wanted the crime to be a challenge. Not one has ever told me that they wanted to attempt a difficult crime and hope that they got away with it. They said that they chose the easiest target so that they were sure to get

See Crime Talk on page 9

Communication from page 1

it to me and we broadcast it via cell phone on the Google Group and the WBNA and Brattonwood Facebook pages, and best of all, y'all shared it!

"Missing from Sweetwater Apts -Hispanic Female, 73 years old, 98 lbs, 5 ft, last seen wearing a dark blue shirt with pink lettering (long sleeve) over a pink shirt, black skin tight leggings, Brn hair, brn eyes. May be carrying a pink blanket.

Call 911 if you've seen her. Please share."

As it turns out, Cody McGuire our neighbor over in Brattonwood was checking his Facebook and realized that he had seen her on his way home from work. Cody called 911 and gave the officer her location; she had made it all the way to La Frontera. The deputy called Cody back to let him know that the woman was safe and on her way home.

She was missing for over three hours and they had a helicopter searching for her; our Wells Branch network helped to locate her in less than 40 minutes!

This is the best reason in the world to become a member of the Google Group and "Like" the WBNA on Facebook. Communication in an emergency!

Thanks, Wells Branch! Way to work together!



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Fire Safety News!

Fire Station 2 Open House • Oct. 8, 6pm-8pm

ESD#2 will hold an Open House at Station 2, 15300 Bratton Lane on Oct. 8. Come spend your evening with your neighborhood Firefighters, view an array of different fire fighting trucks, tour our Station and Fire Safety House, and have the kids run our EDITH obstacle course. We'll have snacks and goodies for both the children and the adults!



Annual Food Drive • Oct. 15 - Nov. 15

Our ESD#2 Firefighters will hold a food drive from October 15 through November 15. Nonperishable food can be donated at Fire Station #2, 15300 Bratton Lane. There will be a big collection barrel outside the front of the station. Your donations are appreciated!

National Fire Prevention Week 2013 • Oct. 6-12

"Prevent Kitchen Fires"—that's the message of this year's Fire Prevention Week. During this week, we'll be spreading the word that more fires start in the kitchen than in any other part of the home. Learn how to keep cooking fires from starting in the first place.

Visit www.nfpa.org and click on "Safety Information" for a wealth of information: safety tips, printable handouts, and a link to the Sparky the Fire Dog website which allows kids to explore and learn about fire safety in a safe and interactive environment.

Visit our website, www.pflugervillefire.org, to:

—Learn more about our *Hi-Five a Firefighter* and *FirstIn Pfoundation** initiatives and how you can support them.

—Sign up for our quarterly newsletter: *The Dispatch*

**The Pfoundation will be competing in the Pflugerville Pfall ChiliPfest October 19. Come by and taste their Priority 1 Chili - so good you gotta get to it fast! The festival and street dance is from noon-9pm at Main Street & Railroad Avenue in Downtown Pflugerville. See <http://www.pflugervillepfallchilipfest.com> for details.*



Time to "Fall Back"

Daylight Saving Time comes to a close on Sunday, Nov. 3 at 2am. Don't forget to turn your clocks back an hour before bed on the Saturday night!

Safety Reminder

Smoke alarms save lives. Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in reported home fires in half.

Almost two-thirds of home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast and you need smoke alarms to give you time to get out.

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of the home.
- Interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound.
- An ionization smoke alarm is generally more responsive to flaming fires, and a photoelectric smoke alarm is generally more responsive to smoldering fires. For the best protection, both types of alarms or a combination alarm (photo-

See Fire Safety on page 9

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PUBLIC NOTICE

"Tejas Liquor #2" is an independent store and is not affiliated with any other "Tejas Liquor". Since 2003, it has been serving the neighborhood under the same ownership. Our only other location is Dany's Liquor (Pflugerville, TX). Thank you for your continued patronage. - **Desh & Roopa**

SPECIALS

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GENTLEMAN JACK 750ML/2 OF 375ML	\$23.99
JACK DANIEL'S BLACK 750ML/1.75L	\$20.99/\$38.99
JAMESON 750ML/1.75L	\$23.99/\$48.99
JIM BEAM WHITE 750ML/1.75L	\$13.99/\$23.99
REVEL STROKE STRAIGHT/SPICED 750ML	\$12.99
TULLAMORE DEW 750ML	\$18.99
WILD TURKEY 101 1.75L	\$35.99

VODKA

ABSOLUT 750ML	\$18.99
DEEP EDDY 1.75L	\$24.99
DRIPPING SPRINGS 1.75L	\$27.99
GREY GOOSE 750ML	\$28.99
RUSSIAN STANDARD 1.75L	\$24.99
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**SALES ARE NOT LIMITED TO THESE ITEMS.
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Summer Success! By Debby Thompson

Donations from neighbors allowed "Give a Kid a Summer" to buy recreation passes for neighborhood kids in need. We were able to buy passes for everyone who requested help. Thank you so much for your contributions: Brad & Linda Caramagno, Tammy Le, Ronnie Weis & Emilia Fowler, Kurt Lyell & Oksun Cho, and Caroline Beard. Each of you have impacted these children's lives. Some of you for several years now. Thank you for your generosity.



Kids NEED a place to "be" anytime – not just summertime. We have wonderful facilities available in Wells Branch: two pools and a recreation center – safe, clean environments with adult supervision. I know for a fact the kids we bought passes for used these facilities every single day and what's more, they appreciated having some place to go. I'd like to thank Matt and the staff at the Rec. Center for providing leadership and positive adult role models. You've made a difference in these teens' lives. And a special thanks to Paul for giving the kids rides home (and ice cream).

Thank you, everyone, for taking this opportunity to help these kids enjoy their summer vacation safely.

Critical Water Challenges in Central Texas & Wells Branch Submitted by Chuck Walters

The drought conditions that started in early 2009 are continuing to distress Texas, the Central Texas County region and neighborhoods including Wells Branch. Normal average rainfall levels and water flow into our regional storage reservoirs of lakes Buchanan and Travis have continued to decline. The reduced rainfall also affects the aquifers that gain reserves from absorption of the rains, rivers and the balance of water table levels. Year 2011 set some new records with the river inflows to the Lower Colorado River Highland Lake System.

- The worst single year drought in Texas History
- The Hottest Summer in Texas History
 - Produced 90, 100+ degree days in Austin
- The lowest inflows to Highland Lakes in History

The last 5 years have been the lowest for any 5-year period since the record drought of 1950. The average inflow to lakes is 1,244,586 acre feet (af) per year; one acre foot equals one acre of surface area to a depth of one foot or 43,560 cubic feet. In 2011 it was only 127,802 af, barely 10%, and 2012 was the 5th worst year with 393,426 af. Of the 10 worst years in history, 5 have occurred since 2006 (LCRA.org).

With the ongoing consumption for lakes' support for Municipalities, Manufacturing, Agriculture, and water right obligations the levels continue to be drawn down. The lakes are at 33% of capacity as of this writing at a level of 660,868 compared to the record lowest level of 621,221 acre-feet on Sept. 9, 1952. Full capacity is 2.1 million acre-feet. (<http://www.lcra.org/water/drought/index.html>)

As the level of the lakes continue to drop, the LCRA, under the direction of the Texas Commission for Environmental Quality (TCEQ), placed emergency restrictions to stop

Agriculture releases for downstream rice farmers in the summer of 2012 and In July 2013 extended these restrictions through the end of 2013. The LCRA will start to curtail supplies with higher level restrictions to all customers as the lake levels drop to the 600,000 acre-feet level and that may include mandatory 20% reductions by customers. LCRA is discussing these plans with cities and other non-interruptible contract holders (for more details see LCRA.org).

Your support is needed in water conservation efforts and by helping to eliminate wasteful leaks.

Check your home for water leaks like running toilets, dripping faucets or showers and **FIX THEM**. Look at the water usage on your water bill; it should be fairly steady in summer or winter months when not watering your lawn. If you notice a spike or large usage amounts of many 1000s of gallons, you may have a leak. Contact Crossroads Utility at 512-246-1400 if you have high usage to get help on checkups. For videos and tips on ways to save water around our homes see http://www.watersmart.org/ws_videos.html.

Home improvement stores have test kits available to help check toilets; also check out water saving faucets and shower heads that are easy to install and can save you money while you support conservation. The Rec. Center has a few low-flow showerheads and low-flow aerators for kitchen and bathroom sinks that are free to WB water customers.

The MUD Board voted to enact **mandatory** One-Day-A-Week Water Restrictions at their September 17 meeting. See chart on page 9, details at www.wellsbranchmud.com. Please join me in doing our part to help keep our water supply available for the future.



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Birding in Wells Branch by Sharon Richardson

If you have been able to get out early before the summer's heat takes its toll and walk the trails, you may have been rewarded by seeing Western Kingbirds, Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, Purple Martins, and Barn Swallows. Summer strolls around the pond treated us with viewings of the expert fishing strategies of the Green Herons and the majestic Great Egret, and hearing the squeaking Killdeer calling its name.

The Northern Cardinals and Blue Jays have been looking rather odd lately as they either go through their feather molt or transition from their juvenile state to an adult plumage. The resident Wood Duck appears to be going through a molt or is in a more subdued, non-breeding plumage which makes him blend in with the mixed Mallards. A recent surprise birding attractant is the seed heads of the prolific ragweed. A healthy stand behind my house was thick this week with House Sparrows, Cardinals, House Finches, Lesser Gold Finches and Carolina Chickadees. I wish they would eat more!

As the summer birds migrate south, some fall migrants may include glimpses of Yellow Warblers, Indigo Buntings and Baltimore Orioles gleaning bugs from the tree canopy. The summer-long Black Chinned Hummingbirds are moving south and have been replaced by the Ruby-throated Hummers. As we get further into September and October check the pond frequently for the returning wintering ducks such as the American Wigeon, Northern Shovelers, Ring-necked Ducks and Lesser Scaup. It is really interesting to see the Shovelers get in groups and rotate around as they stir up stuff from the

pond. The ducks get all their nutrition from what a pond has to offer. It is not necessary, nor is it healthy, to feed them bread or leftovers.

If you are interested in learning more about birding in Central Texas, consider attending Travis Audubon Society meetings (see www.trisaudubon.org for more information), or join the Wells Branch birders on Monday Sept. 30 at 7:30am at Mills Pond. Bring your binoculars or if you do not have any, we can share extras we have amongst our hosting teams.... Watch www.wbna.us for more scheduled bird walks this fall and winter.



House Sparrow eating ragweed

For further information or questions/suggestions contact:

Wanda Holcombe: wandah70@gmail.com

Sharon Richardson: srich816@austin.rr.com

Heather & Mark Johnson: frioswimmer@gmail.com

Susan Gezana: susgezana@msn.com



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Fri - Sat 10am-6pm
Sun 1pm-6pm

The library will close for inventory on October 24.

Open House/ Reception

Sunday, November 3rd: 6-7:30pm

We opened the doors of this awesome facility in November of 2003. Ten years later, let's all take a moment to celebrate how far we've come and what this library has accomplished. Join us after-hours for music, drinks, hors d'oeuvres and dessert.



Free Family Craft: Paint the Roses Red Saturday, October 19th: 10am-noon

We'll use a variety of mediums and a lot of imagination. This program is a part of the Alice in Wonderland series of programs offered at area libraries in October.

Spider Show – Saturday, October 26th: 10am & 11am

Spider expert Dave Moellendorf will be bringing a zoo of live spiders and other arachnids to the Wells Branch Community Library. Kids of all ages are invited to learn about arachnids, and get to see them up close. Seating is limited and registration is required <http://spidershow.eventbrite.com/>. Please select either the 10am or 11am show. Parents and children of all ages must each reserve a ticket.



Members of the Friends of the Library are invited to a private, up-close viewing 30 minutes before the show.

Arts & Crafts: Wednesdays at 6:00pm

Tickets available at 5:30pm. Ages 8+ or with an adult.

Resume Workshop-

Saturday, October 12th at 10:30am

Learn to create a professional resume and tailor it to specific job postings. You MUST bring your current resume to class. Registration is required.

Knitting Group: October 17th

3rd Thursday of the month at 6:30pm

Our instructor will help you work on a beginning project. The library will provide needles and yarn.

New After-School Program: Try-It (ages 5-12) Mondays at 3:30pm starting October 7th



Kids will learn something new each week. Program plans include yoga, self-defense, gift wrapping, magic, sushi rolling, knitting, illustration, astronomy, cupcake decorating, first aid preparedness, magic tricks, marbles, and more.

Storytimes

Baby Bookworms

0-18 mos. - Mon. at 10:30am

12-24 mos. - Mon. at 11:15am

Traditional Storytime

Toddlers - Fri. at 10:30am

Preschoolers - Fri. at 11:15am

Storytime & Craft (all ages)

Tues. at 6:00pm & 7:00pm- free tickets available 30 minutes before program

Saturday Storytime (all ages)

Saturdays at 11am



Book Clubs



Steamy Reads: 1st Wednesday of each month at 6pm. Read and discuss a new steamy romance over a steamy coffee/tea/cocoa and sweets.

October 2nd - *Dragon Actually* by G.A. Aiken

November 6th - *Be With Me* by Maya Banks

Clueless Mysteries: 3rd Sunday of each month at 3pm. Share your sleuthing skills & solve the mystery with us.

October 20th - *The Deep Blue Good-By* by John D. MacDonald

November 17th - *The Art Forger* by Barbara Shapiro

Wine, Women and Words: 1st Thursday of each month at 7pm. Newcomers are always welcome.

October 3rd - *The House at Riverton* by Kate Morton

November 7th - *The Yellow Birds* by Kevin Powers



YA for Grown-Ups: 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:00pm. Teen books for the young at heart.

October 10th - *Trickster's Choice* by Tamora Pierce

November 14th - *The Burning Sky* by Sherry Thomas



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

Interested in helping the library? We need regular volunteers to make everything run smoothly.

Contact volunteer@wblibrary.org

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WB Garden Guild by Dianne Koehler

Gardening in Texas is a 12 months a year activity. It doesn't matter if you just have a lawn and a few shrubs or if you have massive flower or vegetable gardens or somewhere in between. With the recent drought we are experiencing greater challenges but are not deterred from our plantings. The Wells Branch Garden Guild is open to anyone interested in plants and plantings and leans toward being as ecologically friendly as possible with yard treatments, water use, fertilizer use, native plants and trees, and many other themes. We sponsor a couple of plant swaps each year and tastings of some of the great things that neighbors have grown in their gardens.

- This fall we'll discuss:
- October** - Making compost in a variety of ways including use of our fall leaves.
 - November** - Guest Speaker - Choosing and planting trees: when to plant shade trees, fruit trees and what kinds work well here in our area.

We meet at the Recreation center the 3rd Saturday of each month from 11-12:30pm. Come at 10:30 to trade plants, seeds, gardening supplies, and chat with others.

For links to our Facebook page and blogs, and more information, please go to www.wbna.us.



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WB Ladies–Sweet Monday is BACK!
by Laura Decker

You don't have to dress up or bring your wallet. Just grab your girlfriends for a **FREE Girl's Night Out** the 2nd Monday of every month from 7:00-8:30pm at the Community Center, 2106 Klattenhoff. **FREE Childcare provided!**



October 14 • Game Night
Bring your own game to share or play one of ours.

November 11 • Coffee House

See wbna.us for more information. Please call or email Laura Decker at 512-550-9255, lauradecker@outlook.com for questions and to RSVP for childcare.

WBMUD Board of Directors Reduce Tax Rate; City of Austin Raises Water Rates
by Margret Wingrove, Crossroads Utility Service

The Board of Directors approved the 2013-2014 fiscal year budget at the meeting held September 3.

- The budget is supported by a \$0.46/\$100 valuation tax rate, which is \$.01 less than last year's tax rate.
- The water and wastewater rates were increased to reflect the increased rates charged to the District by the City of Austin. In addition to a 7.81% increase in water rates, the City is assessing a surcharge of \$0.15 per thousand gallons of water. Wastewater rates will increase 2.59%.
- The new rates will become effective with water usage beginning October 14 and will be reflected on the bill received December 1.
- The monthly base fee will not be increased. The District Board of Directors has voted to continue to absorb the increase of more than \$200,000 annual base fee charged by the City.

Even with the increased rates, the District is still below the City's highest residential rate tier.

For questions, contact Margret Wingrove, Crossroads Utility Services at 512.246.5908 or MWingrove@crossroadsus.com

Water Commodity Charge	(per 1,000 gallons per month)
0001-6,000	\$4.96
6,001-12,000	\$6.18
12,000-18,000	\$9.70
Over 18,000	\$11.58
Wastewater	(per 1,000 gallons per month)
times the customer's winter average, as established under the General Policies	\$8.01



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Grand Opening
Saturday, October 5th

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10AM-6PM • ALL SANDWICHES

Located in **The Market at Wells Branch**,
(on the end next to Walgreens).



From Recent MUD Board Meetings

by Debby Thompson

Please remember, the WBNA (Wells Branch Neighborhood Association) and the Wells Branch MUD are two different entities; ours is a volunteer community group, the other, a governmental body. In the interest of our shared residents, we do our best to report on MUD events and Board meetings in an objective manner so that each of you are aware of current topics and can research those that interest you for yourselves and form your own opinions. There is a wealth of information on the MUD website: www.wellsbranchmud.com. For more information on any of the topics below, please check there first. Information may be in the form of a featured story or in the MUD Board Meeting Minutes or Board Packets. If you have difficulty locating what you're looking for, contact me at info@wbna.us and I'll do my best to point you in the right direction.

Regular MUD Board meetings are held the first and third Tuesday of each month at the Community Center on Klattenhoff unless otherwise posted. All residents are invited to attend. Meetings begin at 6:30pm. Agendas are posted the week prior to the meeting at www.wellsbranchmud.com.



Youth Advisory Team

The first Youth Advisory Team (YAT), led by MUD Board Directors Maxey and Petronis, has come and gone and left us with lots of great ideas for future youth targeted activities in Wells Branch. Thanks to Kat

Sands, Zaiah Palmer, Alyssa Weaver, and James Berver for your time spent brainstorming on making Wells Branch better for future generations of kids! Credit goes to YAT for the teen pool parties, teen laser tag, and the return of the rock wall at Fourth Fest. We look forward to seeing your suggestions for classes at the Rec. Center come to fruition and hope you will be involved in the Park Master Plan planning sessions. In

KUDOS! KUDOS!

Thanks to all of you who delivered our June/July issue. You were AMAZING! Summertime is always rough because so many of our "regulars" that we depend on are out of town, but we put the word out and y'all really stepped up and got the newsletter out on time for Fourth Fest. Many, many thanks to our new delivers and to all of you who offered to do extra sections. We just can't say **THANK YOU** enough!



Laura Armbrust; Daniel Barnekow; Henry & Owen Bennett; *Emily Berver; Carey, Shannon, Porter & Abigail Best; Shannon & Durbin Black; Zack Bolden; Karen Buerkle; Ashley Burrell Burns; Delian Filip; Miriam, Melissa & Briana Garate; Cynthia Hannon; Don Harrell; Suzanne Hoffman; Travers Hough; Jennifer Jones; Dan, Kim, Brendan & Sarah Lanicek; Brian & Rachel LeBansky; Ray, Samantha, & Alexandra Lee; Brian Litke; Erik Macdanz; Sivaram & Arjuna Manda; Dave & Joan Mead; Angela Orth; *Arlie Pfeifer; Teri Rivas; Kim & Kat Sands; Yvette Shelton; Peggy Simmons; Scott Smith; Virgil Smith; Emily Spiars; Scott Swain; Debby Thompson; Jill Traffanstedt; Mike, Rebecca, & Brianna Weis; Pamela & Bre'Anna Woodward

*Volunteered to do additional sections – THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who contribute articles and share information. We set a new record this month with over 20 residents sending in articles. Keep up the good work!

As always...

Thanks to all of you for keeping Wells Branch Great!

If you would like to deliver the newsletter, or have questions about the process, please contact our distribution team at info@wbna.us or 512-656-0654.

addition, we hope this was a positive learning experience for each of you.

Rec. Center Expansion Meeting

The WB MUD hosted two community input sessions with architect Ben Heimseth to facilitate plans for the additions to the Rec. Center. Many thanks to the residents who gave of their time to participate in this endeavor. The Board is currently working on a contract with Mr. Heimseth to determine scope of services and will then move forward into design process. Watch the MUD website in the coming months for updates on progress.

Art Camps Raise Funds for MUD Programs



Dianne Koehler's wonderfully creative art camps for our WB children raised \$3,440 for future MUD programs while keeping 212 kiddos entertained and employing seven youth helpers. Great job, Dianne!

See MUD meetings on page 20



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Fire Safety from page 3

electric and ionization) should be installed in homes.

- Test alarms at least monthly by pushing the test button.
- Smoke rises; install smoke alarms following manufacturer's instructions high on a wall or on a ceiling. Save manufacturer's instructions for testing and maintenance.
- Replace batteries in all smoke alarms at least once a year. If an alarm "chirps", warning the battery is low, replace the battery right away.
- Replace all smoke alarms, including alarms that use 10-year batteries and hard-wired alarms, when they are 10 year old or sooner if they do not respond properly.

Source: www.nfpa.org

MANDATORY Water Restrictions

WB is now under mandatory restrictions, please see chart below. FAQ's are posted at www.wellsbranchmud.com. If you have any questions, please contact Crossroads Utility Services at 512-246-1400 or Wells Branch MUD at 512-251-9814.

Residential		Commercial	
Hose-End Sprinklers BEFORE 10 AM or AFTER 7 PM	Automatic Irrigation BEFORE 5 AM or AFTER 7 PM	Hose-End Sprinklers BEFORE 10 AM or AFTER 7 PM	Automatic Irrigation BEFORE 5 AM or AFTER 7 PM
Even Address Sunday	Even Address Thursday	Even Address Tuesday	
Odd Address Saturday	Odd Address Wednesday	Odd Address Friday	

Crime Talk from page 2

away with it! This information makes it easy for you to protect your property. All you have to do is keep your property from appearing to be an easy target. A perfect example is burglary, either burglary of vehicle (BOV) or burglary of residence (BOR).

Over sixty percent of the BOV reports state that the vehicle was left unlocked. About fifty percent state that there was property (laptops, purses, cell phones, backpacks, etc.) sitting in plain view inside the vehicle. Both of these things create an opportunity for a crime to occur. It takes very little effort for you to keep your vehicle from becoming a crime of opportunity. Always lock your vehicle. Never leave property in the seat or center console where it is visible from outside. Never ever leave your keys in the vehicle, especially while it is running if you leave the vehicle. It does not matter how long you will be away from the vehicle. This situation creates a dream come true for the criminal acting on opportunity. It is also against the law!

Approximately fifty percent of the BOR reports state that a door was left open. Most of the time it is the garage door that is left open. If a person walks into your garage and takes property, they have committed burglary, not theft. The fact that they entered your residence raises the crime. Leaving the garage door open is like leaving an invitation out for a crime of opportunity. It is amazing how many garage doors the deputies see open in the middle of the night while they are driving around their patrol district. The deputies will always stop and try to make contact with the homeowner but it may be too late. Always keep your doors closed and

See Crime Talk on page 14

Wells Branch is AWESOME!!! Special THANKS to ALL who participated in our July 4th Silent Auction!

by Debby Thompson, WBNA President

The Wells Branch Neighborhood Association would like to thank our community for coming out and supporting our organization. We had an incredible turnout and raised a record amount to fund our neighborhood activities over the next year. Our Fourth Fest Silent Auction brought in \$5,204.62! Last year, we grossed \$2,781.00 (which was a record) and we nearly doubled that this year. Y'all ROCK!!!

As most of you know, this is our big fundraiser. Its purpose is to raise enough money to pay for National Night Out, the annual Easter Egg Hunt, participation in Halloween events, Friday night at Luminary Fest in December and to help with our educational/safety programs. We exceeded our goal thanks to all of YOU! Whether you were a donor, a buyer, a volunteer, or the WB MUD who let us use their facilities, you all made a tremendous difference and the WBNA is grateful!

When you see the neighbors listed below, please thank them for supporting our community. In addition, we hope you'll patronize these businesses and join us on October 1st for Wells Branch's National Night Out Against Crime.

AJ Cyclery

10019 W. Parmer Ln. #102
Austin, TX 78717
512-351-3179
ajcyclery.com

All Things Kids

703 Main St.
Georgetown, TX 78626
512-868-2659
allthingskidsusa.com

Andy Allen Team

Keller Williams Realty
Tom Shiery
512-775-6789
austinhouses.com

Arbonne, Debbie Brown

Wells Branch Neighbor
512-422-2372
deborahbrown@myarbonne.com

Austin Aquarium

13530 N 183
Austin, TX, 78750
austinaquarium.com

Austin Bazaar Music

2306 W. Howard Ln. Ste C
Austin, TX 78728
Brandon Tuber
800-511-1322 x 105
austinbazaar.com

Austin Chiropractic Wellness

Trevor & Mandy Botts
Wells Branch Neighbors
13740 N Hwy 183, Ste L4
Austin, TX 78750, 512- 257-3627
austinchiropracticandwellness.com

Austin Dent Co.

Noe Garcia-Robles, Owner
Wells Branch Neighbor
512-567-4224

Austin Ghost Tours

Gina Plummer,
512- 853-9826
austinghosttours.com

Austin HomePage Real Estate

David & Lori Lotspeich
Wells Branch Neighbors
David, 512-636-8801
Lori, 512-636-5765
buywellsbranch.com

Austin Marriott North

2600 La Frontera Blvd
Round Rock, TX, 78681
512-733-6767
marriott.com/hotels/travel/aus-no-austin-marriott-north

Austin Pet 1st Aid

Adette Sark
austinpetsfirstaid.com

Shannon & Carey Best **Wells Branch Neighbors**

Bloemsma's Bees
Charles & Christine Bloemsma
Wells Branch Neighbors
512-576-4534
bloemsmasbees.com

Blue Starlite Urban Mini Drive-In

1901 E. 51st St., Austin, TX 78723
bluestarlitedriven.com

Branch BBQ

1779 Wells Branch Pkwy.
Chris Carby, Owner
512-990-5282
branchbbq.com

CABi, Carol Anderson by **Invitation, Jennifer Mladenka,** **Independent CABi Consultant** **Wells Branch Neighbor**

817-881-8163
jennifermladenka.cabionline.com

Capital Cruises

209 Barton Springs
Austin, TX 78704
Shannon Shaddock
512-480-9264
capitalcruises.com

Care Spot

500 Canyon Ridge, #J350
Austin, TX 78753
Kaitlyn Moore, 512-253-4931
carespot.com

Cartridge World

500 Canyon Ridge Rd. #B-200
Austin, TX 78753
Grant Kuentsler
512-833-8490
cartridgeworldusa.com/store245

Chicoine Chiropractic

Nicole Edwards,DC
Shelly Hogan,DC
Wells Branch Neighbors
3407 Wells Branch Pkwy. #625
512-255-1777
chicoinechiropractic.com

Chuckling Hound

142 Northside Ln
Cedar Creek, TX 78612
Adette Sark
chucklinghound.com

Cianfrani Coffee Company

109 W. 7th St., #105
Georgetown, TX 78626
Mukesh Patel, Owner
512-930-3996
chianfranicoffeeinc.com

Complete Nutrition

500 Canyon Ridge
Austin, TX 78753
Matt Zimmerman
512-821-9120
completenutrition.com/
stores/6056

The Conservatory at WB

14320 Tandem Boulevard
Austin, TX 78728
512-388-0010
Catherine Flournoy
conservatoryseniorliving.com

Lee Cramer, Agent

State Farm Insurance
2013 Wells Branch Pkwy,
512-251-3473
LeeCramer.b4hp@statefarm.com

Damsels in Defense

damselinddefense.net

Dany's Liquor

2700 W. Pecan St., #303,
Pflugerville, TX 78660
Desh, Roopa & Aman Dhingra
512-251-7650
danyliquor.com

Dove Chocolate Discoveries

Erin Caffey
Wells Branch Neighbor
512-470-4547
chocolatier.erin@yahoo.com

Carmina Eaton, Agent

State Farm Insurance
Wells Branch Neighbor
4201 W Parmer Ln, Bldg. B #170
Austin, TX, 78727
512- 244-6641
statefarm.com/agent/US/TX/
Austin/Carmina-Eaton-
K82K71YS000

Einstein Brothers Bagels

12400 N IH 35
Austin, TX 78753
Roz, General Manager
512-973-0226
einsteinbros.com

Esther's Follies/Velveeta Room

525 E. Sixth Street
Austin, TX, 78701
esthersfollies.com

The Expedition School

34 Robert Martinez Jr St.
Austin, TX, 78702
expeditionschool.com/stand-up-
paddle-program

Express Cut 9

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Nasrin, Owner
512-251-8939

Exquisite Wood

Brett Lunsford
Wells Branch Neighbor
512-571-7632
Brett_Lunsford@yahoo.com

Family Pair Real Estate

Horizon Realty Austin
Tammy Le, Agent
Wells Branch Neighbor
512-773-3214
familypair.com

Firestone

2500 W. Parmer Ln., #170
Austin, TX 78727
Jeff Hunter, Mgr., 512-388-6060
firestonecompleteautocare.com

Four Seasons Chinese Restaurant

Jack & Tracy, WB Neighbors
14735 Bratton Lane, #255
512-251-0827
fourseasonschinese.com

Front Row Sports & BBQ

14735 Bratton Ln.
Roy Arellano

Gourmet Texas Pasta

2013 Wells Branch Pkwy. #119
Kim, the Pasta Pixie
512-487-8241
gourmettexaspasta.com

**Handy Man Ben
Ben Dion**

Wells Branch Neighbor
512-769-9151

Michael Hovis

Friend of Wells Branch

Travis Hough

Wells Branch Neighbor

iFly

13265 North US 183 Ste A
Austin, TX, 78750
512-774 - iFLY
austin.iflyworld.com

Inka Chicken

1707 Wells Branch Pkwy.
Rick Jordan, Owner
512-252-2222; inka-chicken.com

Joy Peppers, Joy Smith

Wells Branch Neighbor
512-517-1552
joypeppers.com

KEYE-TV CBS

Chicage Windler
Austin, TX; keyetv.com

Lake Travis Zipline Adventures

14529 Pochontas Tr.
Volente, TX 78641
Brian, 512-614-1996
ziplakettravis.com

Kim Lanicek

Wells Branch Neighbor
512-589-5443
kimlanicek@gmail.com

Claudia Lardizabal, Artist

512-775- 8106
claudialardizabal.com

Longhorn Steakhouse

2702 Parker Rd., La Frontera
Round Rock, TX 78681
Mary Jones, Mgr., 512-246-7474
longhornsteakhouse.com

Massage + Yoga

**Michael & Summer
Wells Branch Neighbors**
14735 Bratton Lane, #207
512-200-4250
sites.google.com/site/massage-
plusyoga/

**Mattress Firm**

12901 N IH-35 Svc Rd NB
Austin, TX 78753
D. Bell & Roland Castillo
512-989-9473
mattressfirm.com/stores/texas/
austin/parmer_and_i-35_clear-
ance_center.aspx

Janet Maxey

Wells Branch Neighbor

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President; 512-791-4701
meetingplanningpros.com

Miles of Strength, Jeff Bates

Wells Branch Neighbor
milesofstrength.com

Mutti's Crafts, Christiane Boehme

Wells Branch Neighbor
Janni_boehme@hotmail.com,
512-774-8576

**Open Ears Concerts,
St. Andrew's Presbyterian
Church, Matt Hiland**

Wells Branch Neighbor
14311 Wells Port Dr
staopen.org/events/open-ears

Papa John's Pizza

2113 Wells Branch Pkwy.
Melanie Herren, Mgr.
order.papajohns.com

Paramount Theater

713 Congress Ave,
Austin, TX, 78701
512-472-5470
austintheatre.org

Pei Wei

12901 N IH-35 Svc Rd NB
Matt Felthausen, David Liu
512-691-3060
peiwei.com

Ramos Authentic Tex Mex

14611 Burnet Rd.
(corner of Merriltown)
Fidel, Owner, 512-246-0727
yelp.com/biz/ramos-restaurant-
austin-3

RealNet Team, Keller Williams

**Realty, Dave & Linda Baird
Wells Branch Neighbors**
512-238-8881
RealNetTeam.com

Red Lobster

2702 Parker Rd., La Frontera
Round Rock, TX 78681
Bret Roberts, General Manager,
512-600-0145
redlobster.com

Rob White Photography

**Roberto White
Wells Branch Neighbor**
512-251-2108
bolas1@aol.com

Sarah Roberts

512-650-5086
sarahroberts.myiworks.com

Salt & Time

1912 E. 7th St.
Austin, TX, 78702, 512-524-1383
saltandtime.tumblr.com

Snip-its

2711 La Frontera Blvd., #220,
Round Rock, TX, 78681
512-244-9696
snipits.com

Sport Clips

12901 N IH-35 Svc Rd NB
Austin, TX
Valerie; 832-248-1551
haircutmenparmeri35austinTX .com

DeLane Spriggs

Wells Branch Neighbor

Starbucks

603-B Louis Henna Blvd
Round Rock, TX 78664
starbucks.com

Subway

3407 Wells Branch Pkwy #750
(The Market at Wells Branch)
Carolyn Dungan
512-218-4662

Subway

500 Canyon Ridge
Austin, TX
Bobbie Kuhl, 512-803-4718

Super Cuts

12901 N IH-35 Svc Rd NB
Austin, TX
Rita, 512-252-9041
supercuts.com/salondetail/
default.asp?salonid=80412

SuperCuts Parmer @ MoPac

2500 W. Parmer Ln., #150
Austin, TX 78727
Masad, 512-255-5881
supercuts.com/salondetail/
default.asp?salonid=8795

Tech Ridge Vision

500 Canyon Ridge Rd. #L-50,
Austin, TX 78753
512-837-3200
Tarra Reitmeyer
techridgevision.com

Tejas Liquor #2

2113 Wells Branch Pkwy. #700
(Next to Raggedy Anne's & Papa
John's)
Desh, Roopa & Aman Dhingra,
512-989-9437
tejasliquor2.com

Terex Auto Body

1600 W. Howard Ln.
Rex, Owner, 512-250-9316
terexautobody.com

Texas Rollergirls

Austin Convention Center
Cease Ann Desist
texasrollergirls.org

Alberta Thompson

Friend of Wells Branch

Debby Thompson

Wells Branch Neighbor

John Thompson

Wells Branch Neighbor

Thundercloud Subs

2500 W. Parmer Ln., #160
Austin, TX 78727
Rachel Young
512-255-2013
thundercloud.com

Tokyo Steak House

201-D Sundance Pkwy.
Round Rock, TX 78681
Kolde Nguyen
512-388-7896
tokyosteakhouseaustin.com

Top Golf

2700 Esperanza Crossing,
Austin, TX, 78758
512-222-5950
topgolf.com/austin/

Vida Green Consulting

**Tara Munoz
Wells Branch Neighbor**
vidagreenconsulting.com

Whole Earth Provision Co.

1014 N Lamar Blvd
Austin, TX, 78703
Bert Peeples
512-476-1414
wholeearthprovision.com

Wooden it be Wonderful

**Dianne Koehler
Wells Branch Neighbor**
512-827-8547
sites.google.com/site/woodenit-
bewonderful

Bre' Anna Woodward

Wells Branch Neighbor

Pamela Woodward

Wells Branch Neighbor

We also thank our many donors
who wish to remain anonymous.

Thank You's continued on page 12



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Seniors: Join the Silver Branchers!

The Silver Branchers would like to extend an invitation to all residents 55 and older who might be interested in getting out for a little fun and fellowship. Each Thursday, they meet from 1-3pm in Room 4 of the Wells Branch Rec. Center, 3000 Shoreline Drive to play dice games and card games.

This past month's activities included a trip* to the Blanton Art Museum on September 26; more day trips are in the works. Membership is free.

**Day trips are open to all Wells Branch residents and usually run the cost of admission plus lunch. For more information, call 251-9814 or just stop by.*

Thank You's from page 11

Last, but not least, the WBNA would like to thank all of our Silent Auction volunteers, special thanks to our Silent Auction Chairs Gus Kohn, Debbie Brown, and Pamela Woodward; our die-hard volunteers Dianna Allison, Linda Baird, Caroline Beard, Jacob Dawson, Don Harrell, Alex Hendrix, Dianne Koehler, Donna Malone, Becky Moore, Katie Moore, Joy Smith, John Thompson, Alberta Thompson and Chuck Walters; our wonderful photographers Madonna Johnson and Tom & Debbie Zimmer. You all were amazing! If I've left anyone out, please accept my sincere apology and let me know, we'll get you properly recognized!

Thanks so much EVERYONE for making it happen!!!



Once again, the Wells Branch MUD put on an incredible 4th Fest! Thanks go out to the MUD Board members, staff, all of the community service groups and vendors who played a role and most of all, our great neighbors who came out to celebrate! Please see the WBNA Facebook page for more event photos.

Duck and Goose Update by Betsey Harper

The adopted Mills Pond ducks and geese are all healthy and well-adjusted to their home in Elgin. With all the nice weather and not so unbearably hot summer, most of the young hatchlings have grown and flourished. The biggest news is that Baby G has a sibling! From the three eggs that Momma, Papa and Baby G watched over, a single gosling was born. As you may remember, Momma is White Embden or Czech and Papa is a Brown Chinese goose. Baby G takes after both parents, but more so like his father, with greyish feathers, and has his mom's orange colored bill with his dad's strongly developed basal knob.

The five month gosling is all white, with an orange bill and proud Papa's basal knob. We have named her "Evangeline" because she is simply stunningly beautiful, friendly, and loves our kids.



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*Certain restrictions apply, call for details. If your home is listed with another broker, please disregard.

Help WBNA support our LOCAL Food Bank!

The WBNA would like to recognize the service our **local** St. Andrew's Food Pantry brings to our immediate community. This fall, we'll have collection boxes at each of the following events so that you may donate to our neighbors in need.

Extreme Clean Day - Hazardous Waste Collection, 13905 Thermal
Saturday, October 12, 8am-5pm

Halloween Pumpkin Painting at the Park, Gazebo on Alpha Collier
Saturday, October 26, 10am-1pm

Halloween Trunk or Treat
WBNA Booth (Graveyard Photos),
Thursday, October 31, 6-9pm

WB MUD sponsored Thanksgiving Potluck, Rec. Center, 3000 Shoreline
Saturday, November 23, 6-8pm

Luminary Fest, KF Park
Friday & Saturday, Dec. 13 & 14, 6-9pm
Donation bins will be at the
Community Center

Remember folks, your donations stay in Wells Branch!

St. Andrew's Food Pantry

The St. Andrew's Outreach Ministries programs provide food assistance services to those in need. The program originally served only a couple dozen people, and has now grown to provide help to over 3,300 people a year. The program is filling a critically important need in WB.

The Outreach Ministry Food Pantry is offered twice a month (2nd & 4th Saturday of each month from 10am-12pm). We provide canned food, along with limited perishable food items to those that would otherwise not be able to make ends meet. Basic hygiene items are also provided upon request.

Since the program is solely sustained through volunteer support and private financial & food donations, we continue to struggle to meet the ever-growing need. If you would like to volunteer or make a financial donation, please contact Wendy Valdez at 512-251-0698 or admin@staopen.org. We also accept non-perishable food donations. Donations can be brought by the church located at 14311 Wells Port Dr. during our office hours (Mon-Fri from 9am - 1pm).

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

by Christiane Boehme Lunsford

The Women of Wells Branch Business are back! Our goals are to get the word out about WB women's businesses while emphasizing the idea of "Stay Local, Buy Local". We want to help one another as business owners by sharing experiences and learning from each other, plan events to represent the businesses of the Women of Wells Branch, and promote the group to other female business owners. All women who run their own business are invited to join the group and help one another build and develop their businesses. Just about anything you're looking for can be found right here in Wells Branch: custom desserts, baby gifts, cosmetics, hand-made jewelry, pet sitting services, personal training, tutoring...the list goes on and on! We are working on a database of businesses run by woman here in Wells Branch. Next time you are in need of something, take a look there before ordering it online, at the store, or outside of

See WB of WB on page 18

buywellsbranch.com

David Lotspeich Broker/Owner



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Larry Amidei, Agent

14611 Burnet Road #201

Austin, TX 78728

Bus: 512-218-9747

Fax: 512-218-9954

malisa.lamidei@farmersagent.com

Effie Center Austin:

The After School Spot for High School Students

Starting Tuesday October 1st the Effie Center Austin program kicks-off at Live for More Center from 4:30-6:00pm everyday after school.

What is the Effie Center Austin? The Effie Center (EC) is a community service nonprofit working to enrich young lives through community support. We are an after school program for high school students that was first started in the Dallas – Fort Worth area. Starting Tuesday October 1st (2013), we will open our doors to local Austin students! We welcome students Monday – Friday after school from 4:30 -6:00pm. The Effie Center Austin program will be hosted in the Live for More Center, located at 14735 Bratton Lane Suite# 125, Austin, TX 78728 in the heart of the Wells Branch neighborhood.

Don't let your teen go home and plop on the couch to watch endless hours of TV after school. The EC is the after school spot! Everything that we provide is FREE of charge. The Effie Center Austin provides a safe, drug free place for high school students to connect, learn, and build community. Students can come hang out with friends...relax, have a snack, and play a game of ping-pong or foosball. We offer weekly GROW Talks, 20 – 30 minute seminars given by members of the community that provide useful information and tangible take-aways for students. These seminars will be held once a week and will cover topics such as multiple intelligences, college prep milestones, interesting careers, resume building, job interview tips, volunteer opportunities, learning styles, and much more. Our volunteers are here to mentor, provide academic assistance, and have fun. The center is a welcoming place where students get support and encouragement from the surrounding community.

How can you help the Effie Center impact young lives?

Give! Volunteer! Spread the word! This program needs your financial support to enrich the lives of local high school students. Volunteer by giving of your time and talents. Give a GROW Talk! Do you have an interesting job or useful wisdom to impart to students? Join us in spreading the word to neighbors, local teens, and their parents. Like us on Facebook and Twitter. Check out www.EffieCenterAustin.org.

For more information, to make a donation, or for volunteer opportunities please contact Dr. Nikki Williams (Director, Effie Center Austin) at Nikki@EffieCenterAustin.org or (512) 565-0387. All volunteers are required to have a thorough background check.

Crime Talk from page 9

locked. Leave your outside lights on all night. Keep large bushes and shrubs cut back so that your property is clearly visible and there are no dark hiding places.

In several of my public talks I have told people to try and think like a criminal. Try to put yourself on the other side and visualize how you would commit a crime. Look at your property and other property in your neighborhood. Which one looks like the easiest target? Why does it look easy? Once you identify these things, take active steps to change them. Make your neighborhood safe by keeping it from looking like the easy target.

Lastly, I cannot say enough good things about Neighborhood Watch Programs. It is a statistical fact that areas with strong neighborhood watch programs have less criminal activity. Why, because neighbors make it a point to meet each other and become friends. This relationship creates a natural concern for each other and friends look out for each other. It is as simple as that. If I do not know you I may not think that something looks out of place and I will not make that call. If I am friends with you I will notice that strange person at your house or that strange car in your driveway and I will make the call to ensure everything is alright.

Wells Branch is a very safe neighborhood. I believe that this is largely due to the fact that there are many strong neighborhood watch programs that do a great job. The Wells Branch MUD takes a very pro-active stance to law enforcement and hires off duty deputies to patrol the parks and trail system on a daily basis.

Wells Branch has one of the lowest rates of crimes against persons in the county. The rate of crimes against property goes up and down. Statistics show that these crimes go up in the summer while school is out and then back down as summer ends. My opinion is that during the summer time the young adults and kids have plenty of free time and tend to take advantage of the crimes of opportunity.

I hope that we can work together to combat crime in Wells Branch. I know that if you can help by eliminating the opportunity for crime and the sheriff's office can be pro-active and visible on the streets, we can make a difference! Stay Safe!

***For more info on home safety and neighborhood watch, please visit: www.wbna.us=>Safety=>TCSO Safety Series and be sure and download "Safe Neighborhoods, Secure Homes" under the Home Security Measures tab.**

News from Northwest Elementary

by Betsey Harper



Welcome back families to an exciting new school year! We are very proud to announce that our Northwest Elementary students performed well on the STAAR tests last year, meeting or exceeding state standards and earning three distinctions: Mathematics; Reading/English Language Arts; and, Student Progress! A Big Congratulations to all the administrators, teachers, students, and parents at Northwest Elementary!

We are very excited about the new school year, and all the things our students will learn. They are already hard at work every day increasing their reading and writing skills, they are excited about social studies and science, and they are building their understanding of mathematical thinking. And all too soon, our new robotics program and piano lessons will begin. As the fall colors around our neighborhood start to turn bright yellow and red, here's a look at what will be taking place at Northwest:

10/02: PTO meeting; open to all parents, free childcare.

Guest speaker: Kermit Ward from Westview

10/14: No School; Columbus Day

10/25: Popcorn Friday; \$1 popcorn sold after school

10/25: Costume Party; PTO volunteers & chaperones needed

11/06 – PTO meeting; open to all parents, free childcare.

11/15 – Parent's Night Out; drop your kids off and enjoy the night

11/22 – Popcorn Friday; \$1 popcorn sold after school

11/27 – 11/29 – Thanksgiving Holiday; no school

Do you want to have some fun? Want to meet some nice people? Want to show your pride in our school? Have a couple hours to spare? Join the NW PTO! Together in partnership, we will continue to improve our service to our community and achieve our educational goals for all our little Northwest Stars!



Like us for Northwest updates!

www.facebook.com/PISDNorthwest

WB Elementary School PTA's Go Green Team

by Tara Fisher-Munoz

We are excited to begin another successful year in the school garden. We would like to invite neighbors and community members to join our Green Team at Wells Branch Elementary. Our first meeting of the year was held on Wednesday, September 18, but it's never too late to join! If you are interested in being a Garden Leader and/or Assistant in the gardening classes or if you have any questions about our program, please contact me at tfishermunoz@yahoo.com. I look forward to hearing from you! Visit <http://gogreen.wells-branchpta.org/index.html> to learn more about the WBE Go Green Team!

Wells Branch Elementary's Organic Gardens and Farmers Market were featured recently in an episode of KLRU's



Central Texas Gardener. If you missed getting to see (or DVR) the program, watch it now at: <http://www.klrutv.org/ctg/ontour/9904/>. Watch for our Farmers Market to return in November!

Piano Lessons

- Professional Teacher: BM, MM, DMA
- Students include local and state winners
- Beginning to Advanced
- Ages 4 & up
- Private piano and theory lessons

Sukyee Woo 512-252-9819

sukyeewoo@yahoo.com



Wells Branch Explorers



Wells Branch Elementary News!

by Belinda Cini, Principal

What a fabulous beginning of the 2013-2014 school year we have had at Wells Branch Elementary! Over 1,000 students are actively engaged in learning in our PK-5 classrooms.

We are so excited to welcome so many new families to our learning community and invite you to participate in the upcoming special events at WBE:

10/8, 6:30-8pm: PTA Meeting and Health and Fitness Fair

10/15: New Student Luncheon

10/17: Photo Texas Fall Pictures

10/25: First Quarter Marking Period ends

10/30: Reminder—early release, school dismisses at 12:45

11/7, 6-7:30pm: International Fair

11/12, 6:30pm: PTA Meeting & Veterans' Day Performance

Have a fabulous fall semester at Wells Branch Elementary, where we will be extraordinary!

WB Leadership Academy Opens!

by Traci Synatschk, PTO President

Introducing the Wells Branch Leadership Academy (WBLA)! WBLA is a new charter school located at the corner of Burnet and Shoreline that opened its doors on August 19 to more than 300 students, grades PreK-8. A festive balloon release and morning assembly with Yvonne Nava from KVUE helped the new students start school off with a bang.

WBLA is a publicly funded charter school that aims to educate children on core concepts of education, creating a firm foundation to build upon in future years. The WBLA Parent Teacher Organization is working to support this endeavor through volunteer and financial support, and is currently looking for local businesses interested in online or event sponsorship. Businesses or residents interested in supporting WBLA can visit www.wbla.my-pt.org and create an account. Click on My Sponsorships and create your own ad to promote your business or service (please note, all sponsorships are subject to PTO Board review and approval). Local businesses are also encouraged to reach out to wblapto@gmail.com if they are interested in donating a gift, service or item for our upcoming Winter Silent Auction. All sponsors will be recognized on our website and in newsletters throughout the year.

We are excited to be expanding the educational offerings in Wells Branch and are looking forward to successfully partnering with the local community to benefit our children!

Test your limits! Have fun! Join the Boy Scouts!

by Greg Jewett, Communications Chair, Troop 1409

Boy Scout Troop 1409 wants you! If you are between the ages of 11 and 18, now is the time to join the fun and excitement! Scouting combines camping and backpacking, outdoor games and sports, academics, leadership skills and more in a fun and exciting program that helps boys test their limits both physically and mentally.



Interested boys and parents are encouraged to attend any of the Troop 1409 meetings at the WB Annex at 14611 Wells Port Drive on Sundays from 2-4pm. Please visit our website: www.troop1409.com or send questions to info@troop1409.com. You are also welcome to call the Scoutmaster, Roger Gray at 512-351-0804.

The Boy Scouts of America comprises more than one million volunteers working together for the sole purpose of helping its nearly three million youth succeed in life. Young boys grow up fast. Give your son a valuable gift by encouraging him to join Scouting today. The time you invest in him today will make a difference in the person he becomes tomorrow.

Wells Branch Campfire Club

by Teri Rivas



Wells Branch Campfire Club is a unique club experience for boys and girls 3 and up! The club is age appropriate and especially designed for outdoor exploration, community service, respect for others, personal

and team development. All age groups will have an opportunity to participate in hikes, community service projects, neighborhood events and campouts!! It would be great to have your family join us. New members are welcome to attend a meeting and join at any time. Meetings are held every Sunday from 4:30 - 5:30p at the Camp Fire office located at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 14311 Wells Port Drive Austin, Texas 78728. We can't wait to meet you! Wo-He-Lo! Please visit our website, or e-mail us at one of the addresses below to learn more about our group.
www.wellsbranchcampfire.org or campfire@runward.com

Want to learn new and exciting things, and have FUN while you do?

by Mendy Barnett

Then Cub Scouting is exactly what you are looking for! Cub Scout Pack 140 is your friendly neighborhood Pack. We have been around since 1985, and are chartered by the Wells Branch Homestead. We personally invite you to join us, because here are just a few of the fun things you will learn and do:

- You will build Pinewood Derby cars, race them, and learn about good sportsmanship and being respectful.
- You will go camping, eat s'mores, tell stories around a campfire and learn about cooperation & being responsible.
- You will volunteer for a local service project and learn about perseverance and being a good citizen.

You will earn achievement badges, activity belt loops, and learn about courage and being healthy. You will receive a free scout uniform which includes a scout shirt, neckerchief, neck slide, hat, belt and handbook.

Scouting is fun and can fulfill all your dreams. Please join us! For more information, please contact us at info@pack140.org. We also offer financial assistance; for more information, contact scholarship@pack140.org.

New Cub Scout Pack in WB

By Kevin Reese, Committee Chair Pack 728

Wells Branch is *growing*! There are at least two new apartment complexes going up right now; all destined to be a part of our WB community. While WB is expanding in population, it's also developing stronger community resources. One such resource is Wells Branch Community Church's (WBCC) new Live for More Center at Bratton & Merrittown.

WBCC has chartered a new Cub Scout Pack as well, Pack 728. Cub Scouts is for ALL boys ages 6-11 and their families. Four goals of Cub Scouts are: Character Development, Spiritual Growth, Physical Fitness and Community Service.

Every child can benefit from Scouting. It's important to find the Pack or Troop that's right for you. Visit and check us out; Pack 728 meets every Wednesday night, 6:30 at the Live For More Center, 14735 Bratton Ln., next to Polvos. We'd love to meet you or hear from you! Feel free to e-mail your questions to cubpack728@gmail.com.



American Heritage Girls

by Kevin Ward

American Heritage Girls was started in 1995 and has been growing like wildfire since. It is a scouting equivalent to the girl or boy scouts, but it is structured a little different. AHG is a girls organization (ahgonline.org) and designed to work with girls ages 5-18 to build women of integrity through service to God, family, community and country. AHG aims to build confidence as girls grow, is faith-based and usually chartered by churches.

Our Troop is chartered through Hill Country Bible Church (HCBC) Pflugerville with Pflugerville Rotary's help with start up costs for which we are grateful. We had planned for about 20-30 girls to start however we were blessed with 54 girls so our challenges continue as we plan, seek ongoing financial assistance (for scholarships so we never have to turn any girl away because they cannot pay dues for materials, uniforms, etc..) and leadership support as we seek parents to help lead our girls. We hope you'll consider joining us.

Meetings are held at HCBC Pflugerville, 303 E. Pflugerville Parkway every other Thursday from 5-7pm. For more information, please contact Beth Gintella at 512-673-3740.

To read more about our Chapter beginnings, please see our extended article at www.wbna.us.

Business Spotlight-Merrilltown Square

by Gus Kohn

This is the second in the series of articles about the various shopping areas in our neighborhood. Remember that sales tax paid within Wells Branch benefits both the Library and the Fire Department (ESD#2). When we "Shop WB" we all benefit.



Merrilltown Square, 14611 N. MoPac at Merrilltown has businesses that have undergone some recent changes.

Texas Bar And Grill has been a Wells Branch neighbor for 30 years. Owner Jerry Berman offers the Austin equivalent of Cheers. A Neighborhood Club offering Live Music, Karaoke, Billiards, Darts and Texas Hold'em with two poker tournaments every night at 7:00 and 9:30pm for the past seven years. The tournaments are free to play and open to the public. Prizes and points are awarded and games are often played to benefit charitable causes. The next benefit is for the American Heart Association on September 29th at 3pm. Please come and play for a good cause.

Their new kitchen features specialty burgers, wings with homemade sauces, beer battered chicken strips and onion rings freshly made to order. There is a patio seating area outside. Their phone number is 512-255-2229.

They are the only company sanctioned by the **Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission** for their V-sweeps games (like slot machines) that **MUST** pay all prize levels after a certain number of plays. "This is a legal sweepstakes game that directly benefits the **Veterans of Foreign Wars**", says USMC Vietnam veteran Berman. Texas Bar and Grill is a smoker friendly establishment.

Ramos Mexican Restaurant's new owners Fidel and Aida Garcia came from the successful Ramos #2 location in Bastrop to improve the Wells Branch restaurant's quality of food and service and have been running the restaurant since February 2013. They have an upgraded full bar area with a new Happy Hour from 2 to 6 Monday through Friday and a full menu serving authentic Tex-Mex food. Fidel tells me that their specialties include Chile Rellenos and mouth watering Fajitas. They now also serve breakfast all day with delicious Breakfast Tacos. See coupon on page 12.

Their phone number is 512-246-0727 and they are open 7 days a week from 7am – 9pm Monday through Saturday and 8am – 3pm on Sundays. They would like to say how happy they are to have the neighborhood participation and welcome more neighbors to come in and see what they can do. They want to let everyone know that the smoke smell from outside has been eliminated in case folks were staying away because of a bad past experience.

Crave Catering owners Kim & Kirk Price have been in business since 1999 and are a full service catering company specializing in customized events (weddings, corporate, social, fundraisers, etc). They offer complete event management from custom menus to rentals to service staff. Crave takes the skill and expertise that has made them the elite service providers in Austin catering and pair it with an unmatched personal touch to make sure your event contains the most important element, too often overlooked by many: **YOU!**



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the Best Smoked
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Parties NOW!**

**Custom smoking
available, too!**



**1779 Wells Branch Pkwy., Austin, TX 78728
(512) 990-5282
www.branchbbq.com**

Sales manager Meredith Pollard tells me that everything they do is custom, she says "We like to get to know our clients to ensure the menu is a reflection of them!" She may be reached at 512-828-5797 M-F, 9-5 by appointment.

Winner of the ISES – Best Caterer 2013, The Knot – 2013 Best of Weddings, and Weddingwire – 2013 Bride's Choice awards, Crave Catering is the neighborhood choice for personalized catered affairs, www.crave-catering.com.

Capitol Liquor owner Salmon Mekruia has run the store in Merrilltown Square for the past 10 years. Customer service person Mentie offers customers "Service with a Smile" and they offer complimentary add-ons such as mixers, etc., based on purchase as well as a 5% military discount. Their full service liquor store is conveniently located and open M-S from 10am-9pm. Closed Sundays.

Farmers Insurance Group has been in this location for 15 years and offers commercial and personal auto, home, life, flood, and renters insurance as well as annuities. Their renters insurance is as low as \$10/month. They offer auto and home discounts as well as multi line discount insurance. Need your motorcycle or boat insured? Call Malisa at 512-218-9747 for a free quote. See ad, page 14.

Curves has helped millions of women get healthier with their 30 minute fitness solution. In just 30-minutes, you work every major muscle group and burn up to 500 calories through a proven program of strength training, cardio, and stretching. Owner Sudha Solankee loves what she does because as she says she "CHANGES LIVES"!

Sudha is offering the first month's membership free. Call 512-238-9899 for more information. Open Monday through Saturday, various times.

Speedy Stop convenience store offers a large selection of sundries as well as Shell gas and anchors the center.

Four Seasons

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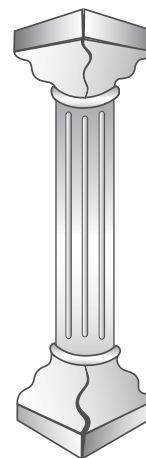
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FOL Raffle to Fund Polar Express Pajama-rama!



The FOL will hold a raffle to raise funds to pay for the annual Polar Express Pajama-rama party in December. Prizes include an iPad Mini. Tickets will be available beginning October 1; \$5 for one or \$20 for 5. Please see the Friends of the Wells Branch Library Facebook page for more information or e-mail Friends@WBLibrary.org.



Friends' Ice-Cream Social

The Friends of the Wells Branch Library (FOL) would like to thank all those who attended the ice cream social on August 25.

Quite a few people came out to beat the heat and enjoy a nice cool treat. The FOL would also like to thank Culver's at 2240 W. Braker Ln. for partnering with us to provide their premium creamy frozen custard. Almost 150 cups of chocolate and vanilla custard with & toppings were served to the friends & neighbors who gathered in the story room.

Donita Carlquist, Library Director, welcomed the guests and shared how the Friends of the Library is a non-profit group which supports the library by advocating and fundraising for the library's needs and volunteering when needed. Donita described how the scheduled FOL sponsored activities compliment the library's activity schedule and patron interests.

Lara Bennett, FOL Board Member, announced some of the upcoming events including two (2) shows by the Spider Guy on October 26 with a special members only meet and greet and a Wine Tasting (ages 21 & up) on October 26 from 7-10pm with PBS' The Daytripper, Chet Garner.

You may become a Friend of the WBCL by joining FOL today. The FOL is a 501 (c)(3) charity and all gifts are tax deductible. Let us know if your employer does charitable matching, which can increase the value of your donation. Applications can be obtained from the circulation desk at the WBCL.

WB of WB from page 13

WB. Remember, one half cent of sales tax collected in WB goes to support our community library and another half cent to the ESD (fire department). Those pennies add up. Money spent in WB supports WB in more ways than one!

We live in such a caring and supportive community; it will only get better as our group continues to grow.

To join or learn more about us, you can visit our blog, wbofwb.blogspot.com; like us on Facebook, Women's Business of Wells Branch or contact us via email, christiane_boehm@outlook.com.

If you are a woman with a business here in Wells Branch we would love to hear from you and share the information of your products with all of our neighbors.



Open Ears Concerts



Open Ears Concerts, hosted by St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, is a monthly series that presents established and emerging artists, mainly in acoustic genres such as folk, bluegrass, world, and jazz. Bring your family and friends, and a snack to share and enjoy free fair trade coffee in a family-friendly, peaceful, listener-oriented environment.

While there is a suggested donation of \$15, no one will be turned away. St. Andrews is located at 14311 Wells Port Drive.

Saturday, Oct. 5, 6 PM: Karen Mal and Tom Prasada-Rao

Tuesday, Nov. 5, 6 PM: Kerrville Folk Festival Winners, TBD

For information, please go to www.openearsconcerts.com.

Andy Allen Team Pumpkin Patch

Thank You Wells Branch!



Come Visit us at the Pumpkin Patch...Fun, fun, fun for all!! FREE Pumpkin and more...

- **FREE Home Listing Sweepstakes**
- For Wells Branch residents only
- Presence not required in order to win
- Date: Saturday October 26th, 2013
- Time: 10:00am until 12:00pm
- Location: Katherine Fleischer Park (off Alpha Collier)

 **'Like' us on Facebook and fill out an entry form to enter!**

(OR email your name, email and address to: Tom@AndyAllenTeam.com)

FREE PUMPKIN!

(512)775-6789



New Kiosk Design for Park System

Submitted by Bob Bauhs, WB MUD Board Director

Earlier this spring, the WB MUD Board voted to construct an informational kiosk at the pond. The IT committee consisting of Bob Bauhs, chairman, Joe Petronis, and Chris Donnelly invited some citizens with artistic and computer talent (Salvador Aguirre, Brian Litke, Jennifer Jones, and Steve Weikal) to help with Kiosk designs. Salvador got us started with an outline of general design objectives. One consistent idea was that the Kiosk should consist of both static data (i.e. trail map, educational concepts, and design illustrations) and variable data (tree plantings, seasonal changes, restoration projects, coming events, etc.)

Steve Weikal presented the idea of a directly attached "back panel" with top and bottom borders to convey basic information. The middle portion of the "back panel" would be open space (between the borders) to which we could attach various standard sized "front panels". The open space could contain as many as 6 smaller "front panels" or just 1 large "front panel."

Richard Fadal provided design sketches and pictures of plants and trees; Steve Weikal produced a collage of the plants; Jennifer Jones created the trail map; Chris Donnelly kept it all organized on the computer. This was a complex project that turned out to be a lot of fun as the team members inspired each other with creative ideas. We are excited that this design standard will be useable as more kiosks are added throughout the park. You can see the initial results in the accompanying pictures.

We hope you'll stop by the pond and have a look for yourselves!



This side of the kiosk consists of one "front panel" that depicts the overall conceptual design for the pond, and then shows the phase 1 design in more detail.



Team members Joe, Bob, Chris, Steve and Jennifer show off the fruits of their labor. This alternate side of the kiosk consists of the "back panel" that is populated by several smaller panels: a trail map, an illustration of the riparian zones, a picture collage of plants, and a blank panel for posting official notices.



Community Calendar

- Sept. 30, 7:30am: Birding at Mills Pond
- Oct. 1, 6-9pm: NNO, Gazebo at KF Park
- Oct. 5, 6pm: Open Ears Concert, St. Andrews
- Oct. 8, 6-8pm: Open House Fire Station No. 2, 15300 Bratton Ln.
- Oct. 12, 8am-Noon: Drug Take-Back, 13905 Thermal
- Oct. 12, 8am-Noon: Free Shredding, 13905 Thermal
- Oct. 12, 8am-2pm: Habitat & Easter Seals Collection, 13905 Thermal
- Oct. 12, 8am-5pm: Hazardous Waste & Bulk Trash Collection, 13905 Thermal
- Oct. 12, 9am-Noon: Fall Youth Fishing Tournament, Mills Pond
- Oct. 14, 7-8:30pm: Sweet Monday, Game Night, WBCC
- Oct. 19, 11am-12:30pm: WB Garden Guild - Composting, WBRC
- Oct. 23, 6:30pm: Free Tour of the Homestead
- Oct. 23, 7-9pm: Frontier Night, WBCC
- Oct. 26, 10am & 11am: FOL sponsored Spider Guy, WBCL
- Oct. 26, 10am-Noon: Pumpkin Patch, Gazebo at KF Park
- Oct. 26, 10am-2pm: Pumpkin Painting, Gazebo at KF Park
- Oct. 26, 7-10pm: FOL Wine Tasting, 21 & up, WBCL
- Oct. 31, 6-9pm: Halloween Trunk or Treat, KF Parking Lot
- Nov. 3, 2am: Daylight Savings Ends
- Nov. 5, 7am-7pm: Vote!
- Nov. 5, 6pm: Open Ears Concert, St. Andrews

Silver Branchers meet each Thursday from 1-3pm at the Rec. Center.



Meets from 7-8pm on Tuesdays at the Library.

MP=Mills Pond; WBCC-Community Center on Klattenhoff;
WBCL=WB Comm. Library; WBRC=Rec. Center on Shoreline
KF=Katherine Fleischer Park on Klattenhoff

Have a free event to share? If so, send the details - date, place & time via email to: info@wbna.us.

PLEASE NOTE: Events put on by for-profit entities do not qualify for this space.



Your Wells Branch Neighbor & Specialist!

"What I Love About Wells Branch" Contest

Submit your photo or video showing what you love most about Wells Branch. The deadline to submit is 10/13/13. 2 winners will be selected & receive gift cards. Your photo or video may be selected for the honorable mention video montage. Get creative & have fun!

For full contest rules, visit "Wells Branch Real Estate" on Facebook

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



Tammy DeWitt Le, Realtor®
Wells Branch Resident
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www.familypair.com



We all remember Bear, who was the owner of Tim and Laura. They would take him for his 'walk' in the 'hood in his red wagon as his legs were weak. Sadly sweet Bear died on June 6th. He had spent the last few days of his life at his favorite place - the beach - running on the sand, chasing birds and smiling.

Find us on **facebook**

MUD meetings from page 8

Dam Maintenance

Small tree and vegetation removal at Mills Pond Dam will take place during the next few weeks. This is a required maintenance action for the proper care and operation of the Dam.

2nd Annual Aquathon

The Aquathon was a huge success! Please see www.wbna.us for results, winners and a link to photos.

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 2013

Sept. 2013

I am: _____ renewing my membership _____ a new member

Name(s) _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

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

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