



Neighborhood News

News and information for the residents of Wells Branch.
Vol 21, Issue 6, Holiday 2013



JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE HOLIDAYS IN WELLS BRANCH

By Debby Thompson, President, WBNA

Holiday traditions in Wells Branch continue to grow. We hope you'll take this opportunity to reconnect with family, friends and neighbors and reach out to new folks who've recently joined our community. To all the regulars, we look forward to seeing you and if you've never attended a community event here, please make time to come and join your neighbors in the festivities.

Dedication Grove & Thanksgiving Potluck - November 23

We kick off the season with our Thanksgiving Potluck. Before the dinner begins, Wells Branch staff and residents will congregate around Dedication Grove (by KF Pavilion) to recognize new pavers added in memory and achievement. The dedication will begin at 3:30 p.m. Following the dedication, Wells Branch neighbors come together once again for our annual Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner. Fellowship will be held from 6-8pm at the Recreation Center, located at 3000 Shoreline Drive. Everyone is encouraged to bring a dish to serve 10. The turkey, ham, dressing, potatoes, bread, and beverages will be provided and served by the WB MUD.

WB Holiday Celebration Weekend! • December 13-15

We have a fun-filled holiday weekend planned for December 13-15 in Wells Branch as several of our community organizations have joined together to host holiday events.

Luminary Festival • December 13 & 14

Experience the glow of the holidays as our trails light up with luminaries around Katherine Fleischer Park on December 13 & 14. Bring a canned or non-perishable food item for the food drive! Once again, the WBNA will be hosting Friday night's events and the Wells Branch MUD will host Saturday evening. Santa will be visiting the Homestead Cabin both nights from 6-9pm with FREE photos provided again this year by WB Community Church.

Craft tables will be set up Friday night inside the Community Center and children will have the opportunity to make jewelry boxes for gifts, decorate ornaments, and color. Dianne Koehler, the women of WB of WB and numerous volunteers will be on hand to assist the children with crafts and keep refreshments flowing.

Join us outdoors for a caroling hayride or a trip around the trails on our holiday express train to see the luminaries up close. This year, we'll be starting the hayride and train at 5:30pm so bring the little ones and come early. There will be plenty of time to do the hayride, train and still get to the library for Pajamarama on Friday night!

Saturday night, the MUD will have live entertainment from Jessica Shepherd inside the Community Center and a Holiday Dance Program. There will also be live entertainment outside both nights and indoor refreshments for all to enjoy in the CC. Times are to be announced, so keep an eye out on the website www.wellsbranchmud.com for performance dates and times.

Polar Express Pajamarama • December 13

All aboard, for WBCL's yearly Polar Express Pajamarama! Friends of the Library will sponsor Polar Express Pajamarama at Wells Branch Community Library on Friday, December 13 at 6:00pm & 7:30pm. Enjoy holiday crafts, hot cocoa and cookies, a bedtime reading of The Polar Express and a special visit from Santa! Advance online registration required and begins November 30th

Holiday Home Decorating Contest is BACK!

Break out the tinsel and holly—deck the halls, yard, trees, cars, dogs, cats—you get the picture! Let's show some good 'ole WB spirit! The WBNA is bringing back the Holiday Home Decorating Contest and judging will begin on Friday, December 13. For more details, please visit our website at www.wbna.us. If you'd like to help out, email Lights@wbna.us. Be sure and watch for the "Winners" as we post signs in their yards! Categories

See Christmas on page 2

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Meet & Greet the Candidates for State Representative District 50

The WBNA greatly appreciates Celia Israel, Rico Reyes, Jade Chang Sheppard, and Mike VanDeWalle taking the time out of their busy schedules to come visit with the residents of Wells Branch.

We'd also like to thank each of you who took the time to represent Wells Branch and meet the candidates for State Representative District 50. We had a great turnout.

Attendance at these functions and getting the vote out helps establish our neighborhood as an informed, involved community. Whichever candidate is elected, we want them to know Wells Branch.



Christmas from page 1

include: Most Original, Most Traditional, Most Elaborate, Best Use of Lights, and Most Energy Efficient.

Northwest Elementary Breakfast with Santa • December 14

A holiday tradition, Northwest Elementary once again hosts Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 14 from 9am-Noon. The PTO will be serving a pancake breakfast with sausage and orange juice for \$3. They'll have a market set up inside with vendors and craft tables, and don't forget the best part: a visit with Santa!

Christmas on Angel Street • December 15, 5pm

A modern musical theatre parable for people of all ages reaffirms the TRUE meaning of giving and is scheduled for presentation at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church (14311 Wells Port Dr.) at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 15, 2013.

Christmas on Angel Street tells the story of two orphans who live alone in a room behind the local hardware store. Their only means of support is money made by the older sibling who sells newspapers at the corner of Angel St. and Grand. The older sibling wants to find money to purchase a special Christmas present for the younger sister. This situation leads them to involvement with The Colonel and the members of the Angel Street Gang, and subsequently to an encounter with a kind and loving gentleman and his daughter which teaches a profound moral lesson that will stay with the two children for the rest of their lives.

This original musical was written by Conne Cross Smith and Tom Mitchell. Tom currently serves as Director of Music Ministry at St. Andrew's. The presentation is offered as a gift to our community without admission charge. We will be having cookies & hot chocolate after the presentation. We hope you will join us in celebrating Christmas in Wells Branch!

GET REGISTERED!

New Address? Name Change?
Email VOTE@WBNA.US and we'll come to you. Let's get WB registered and turn out the VOTE in the March General Election! Last day to register is February 3, 2014 for the March 4, 2014 election. Contact us or watch for our table at upcoming holiday events.



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Election Turnout In Wells Branch

By Michele Samuelson

Elections in odd-numbered years rarely see high turnout, and this November's election was no exception. Whether because of a lack of education on the issues facing them, or disinterest in the election itself, voters largely chose to stay home. In fact, statewide, over 91% of registered voters did not cast a ballot for the November 5 election.

Here in Wells Branch, our turnout percentage was slightly better than it was statewide. Information was only available for the four Travis County precincts included in Wells Branch. Because only a portion of Williamson County precinct 138 is in Wells Branch, specific turnout data was unavailable at press time.

The Travis County portion of Wells Branch consists of precincts 215, 216, 225, and 229. The total number of registered voters in those precincts is 10,199 (lower than what it was last year). The total number of ballots cast was 1159. This means approximately 11.4% of registered voters in Wells Branch turned out to vote, either during early voting or on election day.

This is significantly lower than our turnout for the general election last November, and it is easy to understand why – the 2012 general election included the presidential election, and so voters are more likely to show up at the polls. What should bother all of us, however, is that the November 5, 2013 election was about issues and a race for state representative that affect us all much more immediately than a national race.

Most importantly, votes cast in the race for House District 50 differed from the votes cast in each of the amendment proposition choices, and they varied for each amendment as well. The total number of voters who showed up to vote in each precinct does not tell the entire story, but it is a start.

Turnout and percentages per Travis County precinct in Wells Branch were as follows:

- Pct 215 – 312 voters – 14.99% turnout
- Pct 216 – 110 voters – 4.55% turnout
- Pct 225 – 372 voters – 10.05% turnout
- Pct 229 – 365 voters – 18.26% turnout

Increasing voter turnout is a crucial civic duty for our neighborhood. We have learned that one way to have our needs addressed by our local elected officials is to show them that we are engaged, and the easiest way is by voting. The WBNA works to inform voters of their choices in a non-partisan manner, and we encourage new ideas and your participation informing our neighbors, registering voters, and reminding each other to vote.

Run-Off Date Set for District 50

Gov. Rick Perry set Jan. 28, 2014, as the special election date to fill the Texas House District 50 seat vacated by Rep. Mark Strama of Austin. Celia Israel (D) and Mike VanDeWalle (R) will face each other in the run-off.

Early voting for this election will be held from January 20 to January 24.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS! TEJAS LIQUOR #2

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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	\$25.99
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JAMESON 750ML/1.75L	\$23.99/\$48.99
JIM BEAM WHITE 750ML/1.75L	\$13.99/\$23.99
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TULLAMORE DEW 750ML	\$18.99
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VODKA

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DEEP EDDY 1.75L	\$26.99
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RUSSIAN STANDARD 1.75L	\$24.99
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FLOR DE CANA 1.75L (SILVER/GOLD)	\$20.99
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Opened in May 2013, Emancipet Pflugerville provides low-cost spay/neuter and preventive care services to keep pets healthy and happy. Emancipet is an Austin-based nonprofit whose mission is to make spay/neuter and preventive veterinary care affordable and accessible for all pet owners. Since 1999, Emancipet has provided more than 183,000 spay/neuter surgeries at little or no cost to pet owners. Emancipet's staff of highly-trained veterinarians and veterinary technicians are committed to providing safe, compassionate care to all of the pets who visit the clinic.

For more information about Emancipet's low-cost services and ways to get involved, visit www.emancipet.org or call 512.587.7729.



Silver Branchers Holiday Update

By Darlene Bauhs

The Silver Branchers have planned a Christmas luncheon for their last gathering for 2013. Arrangements have

been made to meet at Zed's on Thursday, December 12, at 1:00pm. All seniors are welcome! Contact Darlene Bauhs at 512-252-8126 to reserve your spot or for more information on the luncheon. Regular meetings will resume in January.

Each Thursday, the Silver Branchers meet from 1:00 to 3:00pm at the WB Recreation Center on Shoreline Drive. Residents 55 years and older, are welcome. For additional information call the Wells Branch MUD at 251-9814.

Holiday Safety Tips by Debby Thompson, WBNA President & WB Neighborhood Watch Coordinator

With the bustle of the holidays just around the corner, now is the time to make sure we're taking every precaution to keep our homes and ourselves as safe as possible. We usually see an increase in opportunistic crime this time of year; we need to be especially vigilant.

Keep your blinds and drapes closed when away, even if only for a short period of time.

Keep your house well lit at night (backyard included). A motion sensor activated light is an inexpensive deterrent.

If your Christmas tree is displayed in front of a window, don't pile the presents around it. Store the gifts in another area away from view when the blinds or drapes are open.

Do NOT put the empty boxes for the new computer, TV, stereo system, etc. on the curb for the trash. Take the time to break down every box and put it inside your trash can/recycling bin so that it is concealed, even if you have to hold it over to the next week. People start cruising our neighborhood on Sunday afternoons to see what has been put out. The less they know, the better.

Door-to-door solicitations increase tremendously this time of year. Always look out the window or peephole before opening the door or answering a knock. Never open the door all the way, especially if you have a Christmas tree and/or presents in plain view.

While shopping this holiday season, remain aware of your surroundings at all times. If unsure of your safety, ask a store attendant to have security walk you to your car. You can't be too safe. This goes for trips to the grocery store as well.

When unloading your car at home after a day of shopping, lock it between trips to and from the car.

There has been an increase in car break-ins in Travis County in the last few months. Don't leave valuables in plain view, even if your car is locked. Take them in the house or put them in the trunk out of sight **BEFORE** arriving at your destination.

Always lock your car. Never leave your car running unattended or leave your keys in the car or ignition. If you keep a garage door remote control in your car and don't park it in the garage each and every time you return home, hide the remote. Thieves check visors and this gives them instant protected access to your home.

If you plan to be away:

- Let a neighbor and/or block captain know you'll be out of town and when you'll return. They should have the following: your emergency contact information; contact information for anyone with access to your house (pet sitter, etc.); when they should be expected; what they look like and a description of their vehicle(s).
- Let only those who **NEED** to know, know when you are going out of town.
- **Don't share vacation plans on social media.**
- Arrange to have your lawn cared for if you are going to be away.
- Don't hide keys under doormats or flowerpots or in similar places.

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"Safety" from page 4

- Put your lights, stereo or TV on timers.
- Leave a car in the driveway or ask a neighbor to park in it.
- Don't cancel your paper or mail deliveries; ask that your neighbor pick them up every day.
- Leave a key with a friend or neighbor; ask that the house be checked at regular intervals.
- Keep your house well lit at night (backyard included). A motion sensor or photocell activated light is an inexpensive deterrent.
- Store all your valuables.
- Consider asking friends or relatives to live in your home while you are away.
- Ask your neighbor to put trash in your trashcan and to put it out for collection and away when they put theirs away.
- File a Close Patrol Request. The filing of this form alerts patrolling officers so that they may pay close attention to one's residence. To do so: Contact the Travis County

Sheriff's Office at 854-9721. Ask to make a Close Patrol Request. You will be asked for information on those caring for your home while you're away i.e. make and model of their vehicles, name, description and times they should be at your home.

- A comprehensive list of Safety Tips as well as numerous articles by the Travis County Sheriff Deputies are available on our website, wbna.us under Safety.
- If you are not already, become a Wells Branch Neighborhood Association member. "Like" us on Facebook for community updates. The more community involvement and connectedness there is, the safer we all will be.
- Most of all, be aware of your surroundings and look out for your neighbors. If you see or hear something suspicious, call 911. The Sheriff's Department would much rather answer a false alarm than deal with a tragedy later.

We live in a **GREAT** community **AND** a **SECURE** neighborhood. Let's all do our part to keep it that way. **Here's to a safe and happy holiday season!**

SAVE the DATE • January 11 • 13905 Thermal

Hazardous Waste & Bulk Trash Collection • 8am-5pm

Habitat for Humanity & Easter Seals Donations • 8am-2pm



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Sun 1pm-6pm

The library will close for the following holidays:

November 27- early closure at 4pm

November 28 and 29- closed

December 24, 25 and 26- closed

December 31- early closure at 4pm

January 1, 2014- closed



Polar Express Pajamarama:
Fri, Dec 13th at 6pm & 7:30pm
All aboard, for our yearly Polar Express Pajamarama! Enjoy holiday crafts, hot cocoa and cookies, a bedtime reading of

The Polar Express and a special visit from Santa! Advance online registration required. Registration begins November 30th.

Adult Craft: Sat, Dec 14th at 1pm. Make a miniature version of your favorite holiday book out of felt- the perfect gift for any book lover. Registration required.

Children's Holiday Dance Show: Sat, Dec 14th at 11am. A fun holiday dance performance that the whole family will enjoy.



Ornament Workshop: Sun, Dec 8th at 1:30pm & 3pm: Create and decorate one-of-a-kind ornaments with family and friends. Tickets available at the kids' desk starting Dec. 1st.

Special Storytimes

Semillitas de Espanol: Mon, Dec 9th at 10:30 & 11:15 (during baby bookworms) Learn Spanish vocabulary through songs and activities.



Heartsong Music: Wed, Dec 18th at 9:30 & 10:45: Children and their caregivers explore music together.

Resume Workshop

Saturday, December 14th at 10:30am

Learn how to tailor your resume to a specific job opening. Bring a copy of your resume and a job posting to the class. Registration required.

Interested in helping the library? We need regular volunteers to make everything run smoothly.
Contact volunteer@wblibrary.org

Knitting Group

December 19 & January 17 at 6:30pm

Whether you're just learning the basics or refining your skills, our instructor can help you. We'll even provide the needles and yarn!

eBook Basics

Wednesday, January 15 @ 6pm

Discover how to borrow the library's eBooks on your eReader, tablet or laptop. Our librarian will walk you through the process. Bring your eReader or laptop if you have one. Registration required.



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

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) Sat. at 11am



Computer Classes

Confused by computers? Stumped by software? Take charge with our computer classes, taught by knowledgeable instructors. Registration required.

- Wed., Dec 4 @ 6pm: Excel Basics
- Sat., Dec 7 @ 10:30am: Word Intermediate
- Wed., Dec 18 @ 6pm: Excel Intermediate

Book Clubs

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

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

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

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

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



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WBNA Pumpkin Painting in the Park

By Debby Thompson

Thanks go out to **Dianne Koehler**, our WB neighbor and owner of Wooden it be Wonderful, for bringing her goodies (paints, brushes, rags, etc.) and enthusiasm to the park to play! It wouldn't be Halloween in Wells Branch without pumpkin painting!

Thank you **Tom Shiery with Andy Allen, Realtor**, for bringing out all the pumpkins. They all found good homes and the **Pumpkin Patch was wonderful!**

Many, many thanks to the volunteers: Chuck Walters, Mari Noga, Lara Bennett, Owen Bennett & C.J., Kat Sands, Amber, and the ladies of WB of WB: Christiane Boehme-Lunsford, Linda Baird, Tammy Le, and Claire who all helped tremendously; we appreciate your time!

Last, but not least, **thank you to all our neighbors who contributed to the St. Andrews Food Pantry.** We delivered two very full bags of groceries to the pantry today along with a \$95 donation. We had really great timing - the cupboard was bare when we got there.

Photos of the event are posted on the WBNA Facebook page. Feel free to download, share or tag any of your photos. Please let us know if there are any we need to remove. Thanks, Wells Branch!



Celebrate Thanksgiving.



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WB Disc Golf Green Team Participates in National Public Lands Day Event

By Brian Litke

More than 20 volunteers planted 7 trees and spread 8 cubic yards of mulch at the WB Disc Golf Course on National Public Lands Day, September 28, 2013.

The event was led by the Wells Branch Disc Golf Club and supported by two WB MUD staff who helped distribute the mulch and dig holes for trees. The Austin Parks Foundation donated 8 yards of free mulch to the Wells Branch greenbelt to mulch around existing trees to help them resist drought and retain the rains we receive. We had over 20 volunteers participate, including WB residents, disc golfers, Austinites, and even MUD board member Bob Bauhs and former MUD board president Chuck Walters.

TREES PLANTED:

- 2 Crepe Myrtles 15 gal. (red flowers - both at tee box #6)
- 1 Monterrey Oak 15 gal. (tee box #13)
- 1 Texas Cedar Elm 15 gal (fairway #7)
- 2 Chinkapin Oaks 5 gal. (sidewalk N & S of practice basket)
- 1 Mimosa 5 gal. (creekside left of #6 fairway)

We hope you'll make plans to visit the disc golf course soon and see all the improvements. Check out our Facebook pages under Wells Branch Disc Golf Green Team and Wells Branch Disc Golf Club. I hope to see you out on the course!



Photos by Travis Wayne Baker



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Friends of the Library News



Raffle to Fund Polar Express Pajamarama!

The Friends of the Wells Branch
Community Library are holding a raffle
to raise funds to pay for the annual Polar

Express Pajamarama parties and other library programs.

Tickets are 1/\$5 and 5/\$20. The drawing will be held on
December 16; you need not be present to win. They'll be
drawing for SIX GREAT PRIZES including a 64GB = WIFI iPad
Mini. Tickets will be on sale at Pajamarama and Luminary Fest
in the Community Center on Friday night, December 13 or
contact the FOL at friends@wblibrary.org to purchase tickets.

Spider Guy a Spooky Success!

FOL members enjoyed a special "Members
Only" Meet & Greet in October with Dave
Moellendorf, "The Spider Guy". David was
great with the kids and parents alike, inter-
acting with each of us and his crawly
friends. The Spider Show was a great suc-
cess, especially if measured by the screams of fright and
delight by the kids (and a few adults) attending.



The Friends Of The Wells Branch Community Library would
like to thank Dave from Zookeeper (9012 Research Blvd) in
Austin for providing the opportunity to meet him and his
menagerie of arachnids in such a pleasant, non-scary manner.

The Members Only Meet & Greet and the extra Spider Show
were provided by the FOL through funds generated from the
Garage Sale held last May. For more photos of this event,
visit our new Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/WBFOL>. Be sure and "Like" us to get notices of upcoming
events!

KUDOS! KUDOS!

So THANKFUL for all of you who pitch in every
time you're asked and deliver the Neighborhood
News. Your commitment to our community
keeps our neighbors informed. It increases turn-
out at all of our events and helps everyone feel
connected to one another. YOU build community
every time you deliver. Each and every one of you are VERY
MUCH APPRECIATED! Thanks to all of you for making & keeping
Wells Branch Great!



**June Apprill, Daniel Barnekow, Emily Berver, Carey, Shannon,
Porter & Abigail Best, Joyce & Mike Best, Linda Bilstein,
Christine Bloemsma, Zack Bolden, Kathy Brown, Garland
Bullock, *Miriam, *Melissa & *Briana Garate, Dave Gezana,
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Marisa, Mischa, & Tasha Sawatphadungkij, Ethan Shaffer,
Michael & Jordan Shepler, Peggy Simmons, Scott Smith, Virgil
Smith, Debby Thompson, Jill Traffanstedt, Mike, Annemarie, &
Thomas Weis, Steve Wilson, Wally Wingfield, Pamela &
Bre'Anna Woodward**

*Volunteered to do additional sections – THANK YOU!

Last, but not least, thank you to all who contribute articles and
share information. Your investment of time and energy in our
community is well spent!

If you would like to deliver the newsletter, please contact our dis-
tribution team at info@wbna.us or 656-0654. 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.

Wine Tasting with Chet Garner

The Friends Of The Wells Branch
Community Library hosted an evening Wine
Tasting event in October with a presenta-
tion by Chet Garner, PBS' *The Daytripper*.
Mr. Garner kept everyone entertained with
his stories of Texas travels especially as they
pertained to Texas Wine.



The FOL would like to thank Urology Austin for their support
in providing the opportunity for Chet Garner to speak and
UFCU (University Federal Credit Union) for making it possible
for our attendees to sample Texas Hill Country wines from
Pilot Knob Vineyard of Bertram. Buddha's Brew shared sam-
ples of their Kombucha beverage as well. Special thanks to
FOL VP, Pamela Woodward, for putting this event together.

Well attended and enjoyed by all, the FOL intends to sponsor
more adult targeted events in the future.



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Mills Pond Fowl Update By Betsey Harper

I started off this year with 80+ chickens, 16 turkeys, 9 geese, 12 ducks, 27 guinea hens, and a pair of wild pheasants, before acquiring the Mills Pond fowl. Every bird is unique, named by my kids, and banded with birth year for record keeping purposes. They have grown up together as one flock.

Then I acquired the Mills Pond fowl and pecking order was disturbed. Here's what I learned in the past months.

- The turkeys act like they are in charge; but the geese rule and when they don't get their way, they are very, very loud complainers!
- Healthy Muscovy ducks lay eggs everywhere, protect like geese, and roost like Grackles in trees at night. If they didn't scare me at least once a week, something is out of place.
- The Rouen and Runner ducks don't really fly; love to eat snails, slugs, and the neighbors cow corn crop; are very messy; and, like to be muddy or dirty.
- The Mallards are not as domesticated as the others, and spend the day in the neighbor's pond, but fly back every night before dusk.
- The chickens have become faster on their feet, good at dodging other fowl especially when running with a special treat.
- The geese don't like any intruders; the ducks and guineas like to attack and play games with snake trespassers until they are dead; the same can be said for a turtle, several gophers and mice, and an unfortunate baby skunk.

- The geese and ducks love to listen to music and like to sing (squeak happily) when my son belts out a song. Some do a warble-thing which we suppose is dancing!

In all, the fowl have adjusted well and are happy and healthy. They no longer fight me on wing or toenail trimming days and I've assumed the role of their leader. We even have several communal nests that are shared. The sun was shining on the eggs when I took this picture, which helps keep them warm so the birds can leave for a short time. The very large white eggs are goose eggs; the more hidden egg is a duck egg; and the darker ones are chicken eggs. I'm sure there are more nests we can't find, especially ducks nests; I've learned they like to hide their eggs and babies too.



What do I like best? There is nothing better than after a long hard day at work, having 200+ cheerful and excited little feathered friends rushing to see me. They really do have individual personalities and I treasure them all.