



Neighborhood News

News and information for the residents of Wells Branch.
Vol 22, Issue 3, May 2014



YOUR VOTE is YOUR VOICE PLEASE VOTE ON or BEFORE MAY 10!

by Debby Thompson, President, WBNA

Early voting is now taking place for the Round Rock ISD and Pflugerville ISD bond elections. It is **IMPERATIVE** that you take the time to vote, whether this week or on Saturday, May 10.

We can't stress enough the need for **EVERYONE** in **WB** to get out and **VOTE!** We're especially fortunate in this election in that we have two mobile voting stations coming to Wells Branch between now and May 10 for Travis County!

Saturday, May 3, 8am-5pm • WB Rec. Center,
3000 Shoreline Drive

Sunday, May 4, 4-6pm • The Conservatory at Wells
Branch, 14320 Tandem Blvd.

Early voting is also available close to home at the Travis County Tax Office, 15822 Foothill Farms Loop in Pflugerville. Hours are Monday-Saturday 7am-7pm and Sunday noon-6pm through Tuesday, May 6.

Election Day, May 10, we'll have the Rec. Center & Northwest Elementary as our polling locations from 7am-7pm.

*Please note: The Community Center and Library are **NOT** polling locations for this election. You must vote in the county in which you are registered, but you can vote at any location in that county.*

All Travis County early voting locations are listed here: <http://www.traviscountyclerk.org/eclerk/Content.do?code=E.47>

All Williamson County early voting locations are listed here: http://www.wilco.org/Portals/0/Departments/Elections/EV_schedule_May10_sp_LH.pdf

All About School Bonds

RRISD Bond • Please see insert

There have been multiple requests for information on the RRISD School bond package. If you live in RRISD, please look for the detailed insert in this newsletter. Improvements are listed by school on the inside of the flyer so that you may see how your children are directly affected by this bond. The three bond propositions being offered impact our **WB CHILDREN'S EDUCATION** and **SAFETY** and **ALL** of our **PROPERTY VALUES**.

For additional info, please visit:

http://www.roundrockisd.org/about_rrisd/bond_programs/2014_bond_program/

See PISD Bonds on pg. 2

4thFest Silent Auction -

Volunteers & Items Needed!

Each year, the WBNA hosts a Silent Auction during the FourthFest celebration on July 4th.

This is our BIG fundraiser for the year - how we pay for the Easter Egg Hunt, National Night Out, our participation at Halloween and Luminary Fest as well as the meetings, candidate forums and safety demonstrations we host throughout the year.

We are seeking donations of merchandise, gift cards/certificates, theme baskets, services.... to auction. This is a great way to promote your business and serve your community at the same time. In return, you receive exposure for your business at the auction, through flyers, a special "Thank You" section in the September issue of the WBNA Neighborhood News and on our website with links to your site.

We need volunteers to solicit donations, help with set-up the day before, work for an hour or two during the auction, help out at check-out time, or help with clean-up the day after. Any time you can give will be appreciated!

If you have items or services to donate OR if you would like to help solicit items, please email us at silentauction@wbna.us.

Thank you in advance for helping to make (and keep) Wells Branch GREAT!



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Art Enrichment Summer Mini-camp 2014

Summer Art Mini-Camps, led by Dianne Koehler are back! Sign up for sessions early as they fill up fast. Each camp is \$40 and 40% of the fee is dedicated to programs in WB. All sessions will be held at the MUD annex at 14611 Wells Port Drive. Detailed course information is available at wellsbranchmud.com.

Beginning Artists (age 4 1/2-7 going into K/1st gr) 9-11:30am

- 6/10-12 Painting and Drawing
- 6/17-19 Make it with Clay
- 7/8-10 Wild & Wacky Art of Science
- 7/15-17 Seuss is back at camp!
- 8/5-7 Sharks and Creatures of the Deep

Jr. Artists (age 7 1/2-12 completed 1st grade) 12-3:30 pm

- 6/10-12 All About Birds - Painting and Drawing I
- 6/17-19 Make it with Clay
- 6/24-26 3D Art/Mixed Media/Murals
- 7/1-3 Stars 'n Stripes
- 7/8-10 Wild & Wacky Science Art
- 7/15-17 In the Wild--Canvases and More
- 7/22-24 Make It by Hand
- 7/29-7/31 Food Art from color to style
- (special time - 9am-12:30pm) *Not for kids with allergies
- 8/5-7 Sharks and Creatures of the Deep

PISD Bond

The Pflugerville ISD bond package, totaling \$287 million, provides new instructional space for current capacity issues as well as future growth, addresses aging campuses and infrastructure, increases safety and security and provides technology for students and teachers.

Because **Northwest Elementary** is almost 30 years old, **\$2,497,875** worth of improvements have been proposed in the follow areas: **Security, Technology, Campus Priorities, Roofing, Electrical, Plumbing.** Projected improvements for **Westview Middle School** total **\$1,007,017** and **Connally High School** is in need of **\$9,320,217** in maintenance, improvements and renovation.

Pflugerville ISD has an excellent website with each of the schools needs itemized. Use the link below for more details on how this bond could impact Wells Branch children .

<http://www.pfisdbond.net/northwest.html>

We've run out of room!

KUDOS!

We're so very grateful for each of our deliverers! You're the heart and soul of WB and what keeps the communication going. We apologize; Kudos for March delivery will appear in the June/July issue. Extra special thanks to those who did double duty and volunteered to deliver flyers for WB MUD for the Parks Master Plan meeting the very next week after distribution. You will be thanked in June as well!

Water Conservation Our first ever Wells Branch Water Conservation Weekend was a tremendous success! Please visit the WBNA Facebook page for pictures and a list of those who worked so hard to make it happen! Contact us at info@wbna.us if you'd like a Water Smart Yard sign for your yard.

FOL Garage Sale a Huge Success!

By Gus Kohn, President, FOL

The Third Annual Friends of the Library Garage Sale on Saturday March 29th was a resounding success, generating about \$2000 for library programs. Every vendor and customer I spoke with wholeheartedly enjoyed the beautiful weather and large crowds of people. It was a fun day with kids and dogs and people attending from all over.

We have so many to thank for their efforts. Please visit our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/WBFOL> for photos of the event and our long list of those we'd like to recognize and thank.



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Neighborhood Watch Alert-IMPORTANT!

Monday April 28th, a neighbor on Gaylord Drive was outside in the front yard when a FedEx truck (red and blue colored letters) made a stop next to her home. After the Courier delivered the package at her neighbor's home by placing it on the front porch (the recipients weren't home) and drove away, a small white four door vehicle pulled up and a white male got out, ran up to this home and took the package.

The witness felt that this didn't seem right so as the vehicle went down the street and turned around she took a picture with her cell phone and got the license plate number. This happened around 11:50am. She relayed this story to MUD Board Director, Tom Cheshire later in the day.

Tom called the neighbor (intended recipient) and gave her the details. Needless to say, no one was supposed to get this delivery for her. The Travis County Sheriff's Department was contacted through the non-emergency number and a report was started. Without the quick thinking of the witness to get the license plate number, this would never be solved. The picture she took is additional evidence for the case.

There may be others in the 78728 zip that could be potential victims as this thief was following the FedEx delivery vehicle.

If you were supposed to have a delivery this past week and didn't get your package, use your tracking number to check its status with FedEx. Tom has already alerted FedEx to this situation and advised them that their may be more victims. A UPS package was stolen from a WB porch yesterday afternoon as well. The TCSO is aware of this. This is an active investigation and no arrests have been made (YET) as of publication time. The vehicle license plate number was CSS 5654. TCSO has identified this person and his location. If you saw this four door white Mazda on your street after a FedEx or UPS truck was in your area, check with neighbors to see if they got their package. If not, have them check the tracking number with FedEx Express or UPS. If you or your neighbor did not receive your/their package, call 512-974-0845 #3 and get a report started. Then notify FedEx or UPS.

Republican Run - Off Election May 27

by Michele Samuelson

There will be several races on the Republican run-off ballot on May 27, but no Democratic races went to run-off. Registered voters who did not vote in either primary are eligible to vote on May 27, but those who voted in the Democratic primary in March cannot vote in the Republican run-off. As of press time, polling locations had not yet been posted. Please refer to the Travis and Williamson County sites listed in the Voting article for more information as it becomes available.

Pioneer Fest

Pioneer Fest was awesome as always and we have some wonderful pictures thanks to Chuck Walters and Madonna Johnson!

Visit the WBNA Facebook page to see life in the 1850s right here in Wells Branch!



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"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**

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GLENLIVET 12YR 750ML	
W/50ML EACH OF 15YR & 18YR	\$44.99
JACK DANIEL'S BLACK 750ML/1.75L	\$22.99/\$40.99
JAMESON 750ML/1.75L	\$24.99/\$48.99
JIM BEAM WHITE 750ML/1.75L	\$14.99/\$24.99
J.P. WISERS RYE/SPICED 750ML	\$15.99
WILD TURKEY 101 1.75L	\$35.99

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DRIPPING SPRINGS 1.75L	\$27.99
NEW AMSTERDAM REGULAR 750ML/1.75L	\$12.99/\$19.99
RUSSIAN STANDARD	
REG/PLATINUM/GOLD 375ML TRIO PACK	\$24.99
SKYY INFUSION 750ML (ALL FLAVORS)	\$15.99
SKYY 1.75L	\$23.99
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EL JIMADOR SILVER/REPO 750ML/1.75L	\$16.99/\$31.99
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PEPE Z SILVER 750ML	\$24.99

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MUD, HOA, POA, WBNA – WTH? Somebody tell me the difference, PLEASE!!! by Debby Thompson, President, WBNA with contributions by Chuck Walters, ACC Chair and former President, Wells Branch MUD Board of Directors and Dan Ernst, Stoneridge POA Board

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

Are you confused yet?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WBNA – Wells Branch Neighborhood Association - The Wells Branch Neighborhood Association is a social/civic organization that includes all addresses in Wells Branch whether "In-District" or "Out-of-District". We are NOT a governing body and do not collect taxes. We have no legal right to enforce anything. Membership dues, \$20 per year per household, are optional, but GREATLY appreciated. The WBNA publishes the **Neighborhood News** six times a year. Each issue is hand delivered to every house in Wells Branch, all 3,366, by volunteers. In addition to this, we put on the Easter Egg Hunt each year, hold a Silent Auction fundraiser during FourthFest, host National Night Out for the neighborhood, and host the Friday night activities during Luminary Fest in December. WBNA also hosts several meetings throughout the year featuring a variety of topics including safety, candidate forums, school bonds, and housing projects. Our website, WBNA.us posts neighborhood events, news, and information resources. We also maintain a Facebook page with photos from just about every WB event for the last several years. We encourage everyone to "Like" our page to receive updates and reminders on events in Wells Branch. The WBNA relies on dues, donations and advertising to fund our endeavors with the purpose of keeping the residents of Wells Branch informed and facilitating community spirit. We have a board consisting of six officers who are elected each January by a majority of WBNA members. We are strictly a volunteer-run organization.

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MUD, from pg. 4

In short:

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

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

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

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

Together, we all make Wells Branch Great!

Open Ears Concert

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, 14311 Wells Port Drive

Open Ears Concerts is a monthly concert series, mainly in acoustic genres. Join us and bring a snack to share and enjoy free fair trade coffee in a family-friendly, listener-oriented environment. **Doors open and Potluck begins at 6pm, show starts at 7pm.** While there is a suggested donation of \$15, no one will be turned away. See openearsconcerts.com

Saturday, May 3, 6 PM: John Prine Hoot Night

Clip 'n Save Pool Schedule

Katherine Fleischer Pool

May 5 - May 30

Open Swim	M-F	3-9pm
	S-S	1-9pm
Lap Swim	M-F	3-4pm
		7:30-9pm

May 31 - August 24

Open Swim	M-Th, Sa	10am-9pm
	F	4-9pm
	Su	1-9pm

Willow Bend Pool

May 5 - June 3

Open/Lap	S-S	1-6pm
Lap Swim	M-F	5:30-7:30am
	M-F	12-2pm

June 4 - August 24

Open/Lap	M-F	2-9pm
	S-S	2-9pm
Lap Swim	M-F	5:30-7am
	M-F, Su	12-2pm



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Mommy & Me Tea: May 10th at 10am
Mothers, grandmothers, aunts, neighbors, and friends are invited to enjoy tea, snacks, and reading time in the storytime room. Free and open to all ages.

Donuts with Dads: June 14th at 10am: Enjoy donuts, coffee/juice, and a book together! Free and open to all ages.



Sunshine Generation Dance Show: May 31st at 10am
A local kids dance group invites you to their spring song and dance performance. Free and open to all ages.

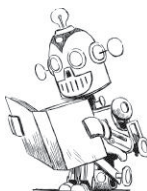


AUSTIN PLANETARIUM
SCIENCE MUSEUM & TECHNOLOGY CENTER

Summer Reading Kickoff with Austin Planetarium and Austin Astronomical Society: June 6th at 6:30pm: Join us for an evening under the stars to kick off a summer of reading fun! This is your first chance to pick up a reading log to start tracking your reading throughout the summer! Visit our website for more details and registration information. Free and open to all ages. *Online registration is required.*

A Summer of Science! June 6th thru August 9th

Fun and exciting programs and prizes for kids, teens, and adults throughout the summer include Wacky Science, Family Science Nights, Teen Nerd Nights, Reading Incentive Programs, Special Events, Book Clubs, and more! Pick up a Summer Reading brochure at the library or visit our website for more information.



Regular programs run through May 31.

Mondays at 10:30am: Baby Storytime (0-18 months)
Mondays at 11:15am: Toddler Storytime (18-36 months)
Tuesdays at 6pm & 7pm: Storytime & Craft (all ages)
Fridays at 10:30am: Toddler Storytime (18-36 months)
Fridays at 11:15am: Preschool Storytime (3-6 yrs)
Saturdays at 11am: Storytime (all ages)



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



Book Clubs

The library hosts 5 book clubs each month. Newcomers are always welcome. Check the library's website or calendar to see what we're reading.

Steamy Reads: 1st Wednesday at 6pm
Clueless Mysteries: 3rd Sunday at 3pm
Wine, Women and Words: 1st Thursday at 7pm
Fantastic Fantasy: 2nd Thursday at 7pm
Graphic Novels: (Ages 14+) 2nd Saturday at 1pm

Jewelry Making Workshop: May 8th at 6pm
Create a unique necklace/earring set to take home. Perfect Mother's Day gift! Registration & \$10 materials fee required. Space is limited.



Adult Computer Classes- FREE! Take charge of the digital domain with our knowledgeable instructors! *Registration required – Call or visit the library to sign up!*
-Saturday, May 3rd at 10:30am- Excel Intermediate
-Wednesday, May 7th at 6pm- Word Basics
-Wednesday, May 21st at 6pm- Email Basics
-Saturday, June 7th at 10:30am- Word Basics
-Wednesday, June 11th at 6pm- HTML Basics

English Conversation Group: Saturdays at 10:30am
May 3rd and 17th: Build your English skills in a relaxed, comfortable environment! Discussions are led by a native English speaker, and all skill levels are welcome!

Knitting Group: Thursdays, May 15th and June 19th at 6:30pm: Whether you're just learning the basics or refining your skills, our instructor can help you. We provide the needles and yarn!



Career Workshops: Make your resume catch the employer's eye. Then master the job interview with tips from a professional job coach! *Registration required.*
Saturday, May 5th at 12:30pm- Job Interview Workshop
Saturday, May 17th at 10:30am- Resume Workshop
Saturday, May 17th at 12:30pm- Job Interview Workshop

Weekly Programs June 7th through August 9th
Mondays- Baby Storytime, 10:30 (0-18m) & 11:15 (12-24m)
Mondays- Wacky Science, 3:30pm (age 5+)
Tuesdays- Storytime and Craft, 6pm & 7pm
Wednesdays- Arts & Crafts, 6pm
Wednesdays- Teen Programs, 6pm
Thursdays- Sign Language Storytime, 10:30am (all ages)
Thursdays- Family Science Night, 6pm
Fridays- Storytimes, 10:30 (toddler) & 11:15 (preschool)
Saturdays- Family/French Storytime, 11am (alternates)



The Million Page Challenge: If Wells Branch Readers turn in logs for 1 million pages of reading between June 6th and August 9th, we'll have an Ice Cream Social to celebrate!

Give a Kid a Summer comes to a close

by Debby Thompson

Each year, we ask for donations for *Give a Kid a Summer* to help fund Rec. Tags for neighbor kids who otherwise would not be able to afford it. Last year, our numbers began to dwindle so as a Board, we've decided to shift directions and help in another way. My husband Gus and I will cover our few remaining participants for this summer. We thank all of you who've contributed over the last several years. I wish I could share the wonderful stories of how you've made a difference in these kids lives! Unfortunately, for privacy reasons, we cannot. Please KNOW that you have given back and your efforts have made a tremendous impact on their lives.

What's next, you ask? Ensuring that the children of Wells Branch are ALL Water Safe!

WB MUD Asst. Aquatics Director Katie Hutcheson is on the Board of Colin's Hope, a water safety advocacy group. Unfortunately, many families in Wells Branch are unable to afford formal swim lessons for their children. Just \$40 can help to make a child **WATER SAFE**. WBNA will be collecting donations to pay for swim lessons for children whose parents are otherwise unable to afford them. Needs will be met on a first come, first serve basis.

Our goal is modest - Water Safety for 10 children. We hope that you'll help us out. All money received will go directly to pay for swim lessons. Any donation helps! Mail your check (in any amount) made out to WBNA with Water Safe Donations in the memo box to: WBNA, 2104 Klattenhoff, Austin, TX 78728.

You all have been so generous in the past; we thank you! Now this summer, let's save a few more kids! Donors will be recognized in the September issue of the WBNA News and throughout the summer via our Facebook page. Thank you in advance for taking this opportunity to help a child have a safer summer and learn skills they can use for the rest of their lives.

For more information or to register a child for swim lessons under this program, please contact Katie Hutcheson at 512-251-9814 ext. 111 or khutcheson@wellsbranchmud.com.

Keep Wells Branch Beautiful -

Texas Trash-Off 2014 by Katie Hutcheson

Saturday, April 12, 60 volunteers came out to the disc golf area to help clean up the trails!

15 folks gathered trash along the trail behind Northwest Elementary while the other 45 worked at the pond to clean up the trash in that area. While we didn't have lots of large trash as our trusty MUD staff take great care of our trails, many little scraps were picked up along the creek and behind the school! We also had some wonderful families who took our challenge to walk their blocks and pick up trash!

A big THANK YOU to ALL of our volunteers!!



Max Hatfield helps out his grandparents, Joan & Dave Mead pick up trash along Mocha Trail.



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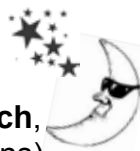
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Northwest Elementary School Grounds



Northwest Elementary News By Betsey Harper



I spend many of my free hours at the school with teachers, staff, and students. It amazes me every spring just how much our kids develop over one year, let alone from kindergarten to fifth grade. Did you know that our teachers and staff help your kids' development not just by books and planned lessons, but by the language of encouragement too? Most parents enjoy praising their children with phrases like "Great job!" and "That looks amazing!" But research shows that **encouragement** has a bigger effect than **praise** on a child's motivation. So what is the difference?

Praise:

- **Discusses results.** "Great job on the quiz! You got an A!"
- **Uses opinion words** such as good, great, terrific.....
- **Is typically given** when your child has performed as you had hoped he or she would.

Encouragement:

- **Notifies effort and progress.** "Look at that project, I can tell you've spent a lot of time on it! It must feel good to know you worked so hard!"
- **Uses descriptive words.** "You cleaned your room without being asked. Look at that clean floor and organized desk!"
- **Can be given regardless** of your child's performance. "That didn't work out the way you planned, did it? I can tell you are disappointed, but I know you'll try again next week. What do you think you might do differently next time?"

The big difference is that words of praise lead your child to rely on YOUR assessment of their accomplishments, while words of encouragement lead them to form THEIR OWN positive assessment of *THEMSELVES*. Encouragement makes motivation soar! Try it and notice the difference.

Final Countdown of Events:

- 5/03 – Wild, Wild West Celebration!
- 5/07 – PTO Meeting; new officers and t-shirt designs
- 5/16 – Parent Night Out - Movie Night
- 5/26 – Memorial Day; school closed
- 6/02 – 5th Grade graduation party at Main Event
- 6/03 – Last Day of School!

Check the school calendar, Facebook, NW listserv emails for notices for times and information on all events.

Memorial Day Casino Night

May 24 • 6-9pm • WB Rec. Center

Wells Branch MUD presents its annual Memorial Day Casino Night Saturday, May 24 from 6-9pm. An adult only evening of gaming for our residents, this event is for ages 21 and up only and IDs will be checked at the door.

Join us at 3000 Shoreline Drive as the MUD transforms the Rec. Center Gym into a casino using professional tables and dealers. Stick around following the gaming for more fun and the opportunity to "spend" your winnings on a variety of prizes.



Garden Guild

By Dianne Koehler

WB Garden Guild meets at the MUD Recreation Center at 3000 Shoreline on the 3rd Saturday of each month from 11:00am-Noon. Come early at 10:30 for plant trades, sampling of garden produce, garden/yard item sharing and just general meet and greet. The meetings are open to anyone with an interest in gardening.

May 17 - WB Home Garden Tour - Join us as we visit local gardens in Wells Branch. See great examples of shade, flower, and vegetable gardens. Meet at the Rec. Center on Shoreline at 9am. Maps will be distributed at that time. Watch the WBNA Facebook page and/or website for updates closer to the event. If you'd like to feature your garden on the home tour, please email dianne.koehler51@gmail.com.

June 21 - Organic Pest Control for the Home & Garden

Garden Guild meetings are posted on the WBNA website at www.wbna.us under Upcoming Events. Find a variety of helpful articles on gardening that we've put together under the tabs Community => Gardening in Wells Branch or visit my garden blog: <http://dianne-gardening-in-wells-branch.blogspot.com/> for more information.

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Wells Branch Architectural Control Committee

Submitted by Chuck Walters, Chairperson, ACC

The Wells Branch Architectural Control Committee (ACC) helps to maintain the value of the homes and property in the various neighborhood sections by reviewing improvements or modifications the owners wish to make to their property and assisting to be sure the requested changes are in compliance with the covenants (deed restrictions) that were agreed to with the purchase of the property and home during the closing process.

The covenants were created with the neighborhood by the original developers of each section. They provide the requirements on how the properties should be maintained to support a consistent design and standards. The covenants can be modified by owners by following the specific guidelines in the documentation and gaining the certified notarized approval of the owners in that section. The ACC and WB MUD must be notified in advance so any change has a smooth transition for the reviews by ACC and enforcement by WB MUD.

The WB ACC does not provide enforcement of the covenants. The WB MUD and HOAs (for those within an HOA) provide this function to help keep the property values from deteriorating and support the tax base to provide the services and maintenance of infrastructure and facilities. The WB MUD does not have the authority to create or change the covenant.

The WB ACC provides the review of requested changes to assist owners in adherence to these rules. Keeping a uniform collective environment helps to maintain the value in our investments for all property owners. Other neighborhoods have become 'run down' and lost value due to poor compliance and enforcement in those areas. Please do your part to support our standards to maintain our values and to keep Wells Branch beautiful.

The WB MUD facilitates the processing of requests and maintenance of the decisions to support the proper enforcement and records of properties with approved changes. The WB MUD maintains the covenant documents for each section; these can be found by selecting the section your home is located in on the interactive map at http://wellsbranchmud.com/general_information/covenants-map.html. All requests should be submitted to WB MUD for processing. There is an overview on the MUD web site under the Services menu tab with additional information on the process.

Announcing the NEW Re-Organized WB ACC

The Wells Branch Architectural Control Committee has been supporting our neighborhood from the days the developers completed the build out of various phases. A great thank you and appreciation goes to Mike Howe as Chairperson and various committee members over time who have provided this voluntary critical support to Wells Branch Municipal Utility District neighborhoods. The Committee is now transitioned to a new team effective April 1, 2014 to continue to provide this important service for the property owners.

The new members are Chuck Walters, Chairperson; Emily Berver, Member; David Lotspeich, Member. Submit requests and the committee will review them on an individual basis. The submissions should continue to be sent to the WB MUD that facilitates the processing of documentation.

The ACC is forming a 'Green Committee' to help develop guidelines for xeriscaping, rainwater collection, solar panels, metal roofing for structural changes and other green initiatives that will be in line with the covenants. We are looking for interested parties to assist in these efforts. If you're interested in serving on this committee, please send your contact info and why you'd like to participate to WellsBranch.ACC@gmail.com. The guidelines established will be posted to WBNA and WB MUD websites.

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Easter Bunny Visits Wells Branch!

Eggstra special THANKS go out to Lara Bennett for her devotion to our Easter Egg Hunt each year! Lara, WBNA Treasurer, plans and executes this event meticulously each year and we at the WBNA are incredibly grateful for her! To our ever patient Easter Bunny, Brendan Carlquist, THANK YOU! You were wonderful!! A big THANK YOU to Dianne Koehler & Piper Sharpe for planning and running the Easter craft table, too! Thank you, Chuck Walters, for manning the microphone and keeping the event as orderly as possible.

We'd also like to thank all our neighbors who volunteered their time stuffing over 7000 eggs, hiding the eggs, and helping out with the event from start to finish: Debby Thompson, Chuck Walters, Lara Bennett, Linda Baird, Donna Malone, Janet Maxey, Dianne Koehler, Madonna & Kristen Johnson, Owen Bennett, Emily, James, and Sarah Berver, Kaity, Nathan, and Hannah Kohn, Marisa, Mischa, & Tasha Sawatphadungkij, Pam Wachholz, Donita Ward, and Robbie Hearn. You all made the Easter Egg Hunt a true community event!

Please visit our Facebook page to view the rest of the photos from this event (683). Be sure and look at all of the photos as we had several photographers and your child may be in many areas throughout the album. Feel free to download photos of your family, tag pictures, and add any of your own. Special thanks to our photographers extraordinaire: Kristen Johnson, Madonna Johnson, Debby Thompson and Dianne Koehler.



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Babies, Babies, everywhere...Relocated Mills Pond Waterfowl Update By Betsey Harper

What a wild spring it's been! We are entering into the hatching season when momma chickens, ducks, geese and guineas start to strut their new born kin around the ranch.

So far this year, the geese have blossomed into great protectors of all fowl, not just their own. Baby G and GG have had 2 new goslings which hatched last week; one is a cross breed like Baby G with a lighter beak and the other has the darker dominate Chinese Goose traits except for the light coloring at end of her bill (see pic). While they are still small and not old enough to get into too much trouble, both parents are keeping close watch over them and defend them against all things. Within the last week or so, the goslings have doubled in size (and cuteness) and have started to develop their goose down, first feathers, and personalities. It won't be much longer and they will be off swimming, digging, chasing, and doing all things goose-related.



Our Angel duck, is sitting on a nest full of eggs (duck, guinea, turkey, and chicken eggs) with her little malformed wings spread over them for warmth and protection. Remember, Angel was the momma duck captured with a couple ducklings last year with wings that looked twisted backwards (she has extreme angel wing from a previously high carb or bread diet). She is the nicest, sweetest, smallest Muscovy duck and the best mother and protector of her mixed off-spring.

It's time for me to take a walk, check the grounds, and label nests and eggs again. Most ducks don't care where they lay their eggs like Angel - they're not so fastidious about it, my Mills Pond Runners especially, since they rarely go broody. These ducks will drop their eggs *wherever* - they're all over the place. Sometimes they'll have a favorite spot where most of the eggs are laid one week, but it's always moving around. And, yes, I tried the golf ball thing; I tried building them special nest boxes - which they would sometimes use for a week or two, before laying them someplace else again. Now, I've given up and I go hunting for the eggs in the mornings and check the ponds in the evenings. It's a wild thing, but better on a protected ranch than in our Wells Branch yards.

WB Business Receives Service Award

On April 15, Catherine and Chris Carby of Branch Bar-B-Que received the Business Partner of the Year award from Pflugerville ISD for their countless volunteer hours and contributions to Connally High School. Congratulations and THANK YOU for all that you do for our community!



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2014 April Extreme Clean!

Best attendance EVER! Way to go Wells Branch! We had 308 residents drop off recyclable materials & bulk trash at our quarterly Hazardous Waste Day Saturday, April 12. Many made five & six trips - it was amazing! Not only did we pack (and I mean PACK) four huge slide off dumpsters with waste, we literally kept tons of stuff out of the landfill. This collection day brought in more volume than EVER before; including but not limited to, two trailers overflowing with metal scrap for recycling, a 12' trailer & dump-truck full of hazardous waste, two 16' truckloads to Habitat & Easter Seals, a 26' truck full of electronics recycling & Styrofoam, & roughly 3000 lbs. of shredding (still waiting on final numbers).

The WBNA would like to thank the WB MUD Board & District Manager for supporting our quarterly recycling efforts. This is such a huge benefit for our community & we could not do it without the use of your facilities to host the event & trucks & staff to transport the hazardous waste. Every person I came in contact with that day was truly thankful for this opportunity.

We have to give a special THANK YOU to MUD Maintenance Supervisor Andy Rankine & all of his staff (Manny, Jacob & Braxton) for allowing us to invade the maintenance yard. I know it was crazy that day & took a couple of days to get the yard back to normal, but we do so appreciate y'all putting up with us & your extraordinary efforts to make it work with limited space.

Thank you to MUD Board President Donna Howe for organizing the Drug Take Back & the UT Pharmacy students for donating their time to this event. Thanks go out to Jim Hare with Progressive Waste Solutions for arranging free shredding for & Kevin Czachow & Sandy Schutze with Global Environmental Systems (www.gesrecycles.com) for providing re-purposing & recycling for electronics. This new addition to our quarterly collections absolutely overwhelmed us. We filled a 26' truck with computers & stereo equipment & they had to make a second



trip back for more! Final total for electronics to be recycled/repurposed came in at 6811 pounds! We'd also like to recognize Easter Seals, who've never let us down, & Habitat for Humanity in Williamson County & their hard-working volunteers who take just about everything we throw at them.

We're not allowed to collect & transport pesticides, fertilizers, or herbicides so we are eternally grateful to Dianne & George Koehler for collecting & re-purposing these items to residents (except for the really toxic stuff which was transported by an individual via private vehicle to the Hazardous Waste Facility—didn't want anyone to think we were putting that back out there).

Most of all, we thank our volunteers! These folks gave up their Saturday to keep toxins out of the landfill & help their community out. Ed & Kay Peterson have a tremendous commitment to the environment & are always looking at how they can do MORE for Wells Branch. WBNA Board Members Debby Thompson, Chuck Walters, Lara Bennett, Tom Cheshire & Donna Malone put their collective heart & soul into making this event a success. Marie Streusand was a tremendous help with hazardous waste & Owen Bennett was wonderful at sorting out the Habitat & Easter Seals stuff & breaking down boxes for us. Thanks to MUD Board Director Janet Maxey for supporting our efforts, bringing a delicious crock pot of baked beans & sorting Easter eggs for the WBNA Easter Egg Hunt the following Saturday.

Our next quarterly hazardous waste collection is Saturday, July 12 & will include Bulk Trash, Batteries, Oil, Paint, Anti-freeze, Metal, & Electronics.

The next Drug Take Back & Shredding will be Saturday, Oct. 11.

The WB MUD hosts Bulk Trash Days on the second Saturday of each month in between our quarterly collections.



WB Business Spotlight - The Shops at Wells Branch— By Gus Kohn

There have been several changes to the center at The Shops At Wells Branch located at the southeast corner of Wells Branch Pkwy. and MoPac Blvd. over the last few months. As an entry point to Wells Branch, it's important that we as a community support these businesses. While these merchants do not collect tax revenue for the Library or the ESD, the ongoing success and maintenance of this center have

an impact on our property values and the businesses and their owners are a vital part of the WB community.

Subway expanded to a new location within the center in September 2013, from the middle of the center to the anchor spot next to Walgreens. The new location offers much more dining space inside with all new furnishings. Carolyn Dunagan, Director of Operations tells me while they are very busy at lunch, the line moves very fast. Open late Monday through Friday from 7am to 11pm, Saturday 8am to 11pm and Sunday from 9am to 10pm, the new Subway offers catering and daily specials. Regular foot-long subs are on sale every day after 4pm and all day Sunday; buy two or more for \$5 each. Try their new crispy Flatizza flatbread or their all day breakfast menu. Come see their fresh new look! See their ad on page 8.

Chicoine Chiropractic Clinic, your Wells Branch neighbor since 2008, is one of the largest chiropractic families in Austin. They offer chiropractic and massage therapy and wellness care for athletes and kids, and specialize in prenatal wellness care for our WB moms-to-be. Chicoine Chiropractic performs school physicals and offers vitamins and nutritional supplements. They accept most major insurance plans and have other locations in Austin and Round Rock.

Chicoine Chiropractic: Our family caring for your family since 1989. See their ad on page 5.

Every Day Liquor, Jazzercise, Austin's Super Cheap Alterations, Advanced Smile Center -- Ellie Samani, DDS, **City Hair and Nails, Austin Area Home Store (apartment re-locators), Jumpoline** and **Bedeck Salon** were unavailable for comment.

Spicy Hut and **Spicy Mystery** have closed their doors.

Walgreens has been in the center since 2005 and now has new later hours; Monday through Friday 7am to midnight, Saturday & Sunday 8am to midnight and the pharmacy is open 9am to 9pm on weekdays and 10am to 6pm on Saturdays and Sundays.

Immunizations are provided with no appointment required for Shingles, Influenza, Pneumonia and Whooping Cough.

Assistant manager Jamie and manager Leon would like you to

know that they now have craft beers for sale, including Devils Backbone and Stash IPA; if they don't have what you're looking for, special orders are accepted. Visit their photo department for posters, banners for parties, calendars and canvas prints.

360 training.com, located in The Shops at Wells Branch for the past nine years, has offices all over the world offering online learning since 1994. They provide training for 15 industries including Bartending, Real Estate, Insurance Agents, OSHA training, Food Handlers, Database Administrator, Phlebotomy training, Dental Assistant training, Medical Coding And Pharmacy Assistant training to name a few. Visit their website for more information.

National American University, a 'Shops' resident for over six years now, has been in business since 1941 with 37 locations in the United States. Texas locations include Wells Branch, Georgetown, South Austin, and a Graduate Center at Far West. They offer classroom and online courses including Associate, Bachelors, and Masters Degrees as well as Doctorate degrees in a caring and supportive environment.

Their people set them apart; they help determine the specific needs of students and are very family oriented. Classes average 12 to 20 students in the classroom as well as online to provide a more personalized experience. Financial aid is available in the form of grants, loans and scholarships as well as G.I. Bill and vocational rehab benefits. They offer a large discount to active military. To enroll, contact the Director of Admissions, Sally DeWeber at 512-651-4700.

Dragon Garden, a popular dining spot in Wells Branch for many years, has been under new management for the past two months. Chinese food is their forte and they pride themselves on very reasonable prices, large portions and large egg rolls; their specialty is General Tso's Chicken and Sesame Chicken.

They are open Monday through Sunday from 11am to 2:30pm and Monday through Friday 4:30pm to 9:30pm. They offer delivery within 3 miles. Give the new Dragon Garden a try; I loved the Hot and Sour Soup!

Cianfrani coffee moved to the Center in early April. They offer great coffee, Dirty Chai Tea, flavored coffees, Caramel Macchiato and Russian Java as well as free Wi-Fi.

Open from 7am to 6pm Monday through Friday, their regular coffee is a Georgetown blend that is 25% Kona. They receive all their pastries fresh every day from Russell's Bakery and their breakfast tacos from Tyson's Tacos. Come visit this new gathering place in the neighborhood!

Pizza Hut management was unavailable for interview, but delivery or pickup may be done by calling (512) 388-5252.

Kumon, an academic enrichment program for preschool through 12th grade is open Tuesday 3:30pm-7:30pm and Saturday 9:30am-2:00pm. They offer free placement testing and appointments may be made by calling 512-252-3600. They boast to be "the world's most successful after school learning program".

Also in this center are **Taco Bell** and **McDonalds**; both were unavailable for comment.

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WB Eastside Butterfly Garden By Betsey Harper

Two years ago, four neighborhood girls, Sarah, Faith, & Grace Ward and Tessi Harper, from American Heritage Girls Troop TX0240, approached the MUD asking for space to create a Wells Branch Butterfly Garden with the help of Master Naturalist Shelley Palmer. I don't think any of us expected these four young girls (with the help of two younger brothers) to create such a special place. The girls researched butterfly habitats, nectar and host plants, and everything a butterfly needs so they could develop something special for our neighborhood.

With the Parks Master Plan in review by the MUD, the girls are very hopeful this will be added as a natural attraction and visited by families in years to come. Our Wells Branch Eastside Butterfly Garden has already been certified as a Monarch Way Station, North American Butterfly Association's Butterfly Garden and Habitat, Texas Bee Friendly, and as a Texas Parks and Wildlife Certified Backyard Wildlife Habitat.

Currently, we are scheduling a dedication in memory of our AHG Troop TX0240 sponsor, Corporal Kevin Aigner, who died while serving our community during the Steiner Ranch fires and to Wells Branch MUD, who allowed these girls the chance to build with their own hands something meaningful for our community and neighborhood. Look for the date this summer. To read more about the butterfly garden see www.wbna.us.



Drowning is Fast & Silent—Keep Kids Within Arms' Reach

By Alissa Magrum, Colin's Hope Executive Director

It's May. And in Texas, May means backyard barbecues, pool parties and summer just around the corner. May also means National Water Safety Month and an opportunity to tell parents that **DROWNING** is the number 1 cause of accidental death for children under 5, yet it is **PREVENTABLE!** Last year, more than 82 Texas children lost their lives due to drowning.

When my daughter Ella was 3, I didn't worry about drowning. She took swim lessons. We loved the pool, the lake and the beach. We spent long hot summer days keeping cool in the water. I worried about bike accidents and falls from the monkey bars. Then, 4 year old Colin Holst drowned in a busy public pool with lifeguards on duty and family and friends close by. My daughter went to preschool with Colin. Thankfully, Colin's family turned their tragedy into triumph and formed Colin's Hope to raise water safety awareness to prevent children from drowning. Colin's Hope has accomplished so much already but the work is far from being done because children are still drowning quickly and silently in bath tubs, pools, open water, toilets and even buckets..

Water is NOT safe. Water will never be completely safe BUT there are simple things you can do and small behavior changes you can make that can help your family to be **safer** around water. Read on and invest a few minutes of your time. Think about it -- we take 20 seconds every time we get in the car to buckle our babies into car seats to keep them safeR. We spend countless minutes reminding our kid to put a helmet on before they pedal off to keep them safeR on bikes and scooters. We do these small behaviors over and over because we know they can help prevent tragedies. Why wouldn't you also add layers of protection to prevent a water related accident?

Below are 10 simple things you can do NOW that will add water safety tools to your parenting toolbox (and to your pool bag) and help prevent your children from drowning.

1. **Take and share the Colin's Hope water safety quiz at <http://www.colinshope.org/quiz/>, it could save a life!**
2. **Talk to your kids about water safety** and tell them to NEVER get into water without an adult Water Guardian (that's YOU or another adult).
3. Understand that **DROWNING is FAST and SILENT.**
4. Be a Water Guardian. **Keep Kids in Arm's Reach** when near, in and around water.
5. Enroll in formal swim lessons and **learn to swim.**
6. Ensure that your pool and your neighbors **pools are fenced and have self latching/locking gates.**
7. Weak and non-swimmers should wear an approved and properly fitted **life jacket, NOT water wings or floaties.**
8. Teach kids to **stay away from pool drains** to avoid entrapment.
9. **Learn CPR.**
10. Visit www.colinshope.org and learn more.

Please share this life saving water safety information with your friends and family as we prepare for another long, hot Texas summer. **Together, we can achieve the vision of a world where children do not drown!**

In the words of Colin Holst -- Have the Best Day Ever!

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BIRDS, BIRDS, BIRDS coming and going....IN WELLS BRANCH By Wanda Holcombe

Migrating Birds are coming through Wells Branch and Birding Identification is growing in interest and learning. Four very well attended Birding Classes were provided by the Travis Audubon Society at the WB Library this spring and plans are in the works to hold more.

Bird Walks are being held monthly. Come join us to identify what is living and migrating through Wells Branch. We have found it helpful to start at the Mills Pond Kiosk (off Wells Port Drive) and walk from there together.

May Bird Walks:

Saturday, May 10, 8:00am with Heather Johnson
Monday, May 19, 8:00am with Sharon Richardson.

If you have any questions regarding the Bird Walks contact Heather or Sharon by email: Heather: frioswimmer@gmail.com or Sharon: srich816@austin.rr.com. We share our findings on the WBNA website for up-to-date reports, events and photos under the category, COMMUNITY/BIRDING: <http://wbna.us>.

A nature viewing station has been developed by Mills Pond. Stop by and take time to view and photograph the birds and other native inhabitants.

Have you seen any of these birds lately in your back yard or on the trails?

White-winged Dove • Mourning Dove • Blue Jay • Northern Cardinal • Lesser Goldfinch • House Finch • Eastern Screech Owl • Great Horned Owl • Carolina Wren • Bewick's Wren • Carolina Chickadee • Black-crested Titmouse Great-tailed Grackle • Black Chinned Hummingbird • European Starling • House Sparrow • Mockingbird • Downy Woodpecker • Red-bellied Woodpecker • Ladder-backed Woodpecker • Winter Birds: Yellow-rumped Warbler • Cedar Waxwing • Ruby-crowned Kinglet • American Goldfinch

To increase sightings, CREATE A BIRD-FRIENDLY HABITAT

- **Provide water year round:** A simple birdbath can be very helpful with our minimum rain fall and water restrictions. Add new water every 2-3 days in warm weather to prevent mosquito larvae from hatching.
- **Plant native plants:** Even with environmentally friendly park close by, it is still very helpful to provide a variety of native plants in your back yard to offer year-round food in the form of seeds, berries, and nectar. Evergreen shrubs provide excellent cover through all seasons. The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center has lists of recommended native plants for the Austin area: www.wildflower.org/col-lections
- **Remove invasive plants** from your yard: Many invasive plants out-compete with the native species favored by birds, insects and other wildlife.
- **Eliminate insecticides** in your yard: Insects are the primary source of food for many bird species and are an important source of protein and fats for growing juvenile birds.

For ongoing information on Bird Walks this summer in the Austin area, bird plant recommendations, educational classes, birding trips, children and youth summer programs....and more, more, more check out the Travis Audubon Society website: www.travisaudubon.org

Happy Birding,
Wanda Holcombe , Sharon Richardson
& Heather Johnson



*Bird is Red-bellied Woodpecker
Photo by Rob White

WB MUD Dog Fair by Matt Fuller, WB MUD Rec. Manager

WB had wonderful weather and a great turnout for our annual Dog Fair. I truly appreciate our neighbors sharing their dogs with us. Thank you to all the vendors who attended and donated gifts for our prizes. We are grateful for our local canine businesses and their support of our fair. Thanks to WB Community Church for providing caricatures of everyone's four-legged family members and a very special thank you to Madonna Johnson for photographing the event! Be sure and check out the WBNA Facebook page for more pictures!





Summer Movies in the Park!

Admission is FREE. Bring your blankets, chairs and snacks for the kids and enjoy these free family events. Pre-movie activities start at 8pm with the movies beginning at dusk. Community service groups will have refreshments available for purchase. Save the following Saturdays & check www.wellsbranchmud.com for the movie schedule.

June 7 • July 12 • August 9

Teen Nights at the Pool

Wells Branch MUD will be hosting several teen nights from 9pm-midnight at KF Pool this summer. These events are for teens ages 12-18. The cost of entry is \$3 for Rec. Tag holders and \$5 for Non Rec. Tag holders. Food and drinks will be provided. **June 14 • June 28 • July 26**

Clip 'n Save Recycling Calendar May 2014

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June 2014

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Library Box Project Earns Eagle Rank

Community member Trey Black, now an Eagle Scout with Troop 8787, led an Eagle project earlier this year to install and stock 12 library boxes throughout WB. The library boxes are a source of free reading material for neighbors and the culmination of 250 hours of work contributed by 24 volunteers and led by Mr. Black. When asked about his motivation for the project, Trey responded, "As a homeschooler, education and literacy have always been important to me and I wanted a project that was more than just manual labor. It was also a priority to do something that benefitted our neighborhood." So when you see one of the library boxes around the neighborhood, take a book or leave one that you think someone else might enjoy.

Trey's scouting career began at age six as a Tiger cub. He advanced through cub scouts earning his Webelos Super Achiever award and his Arrow of Light. In Boy Scouts, Trey has earned over 50 merit badges, his Den Chief Service Award, he's been inducted into the Order of the Arrow (OA - Scouting's honor society), earned the Vigil Honor for continued service and dedication, and has now earned his Eagle rank. Trey has held numerous leadership positions at the troop and OA lodge level, including his current position of Vice Chief of Inductions where he coordinates events of up to 600 people. Through scouting's high adventure program Trey has ridden horseback through the mountains of New Mexico, canoed the back country of Canada, gone scuba diving in the Florida Keys, trekked to the bottom of the Grand Canyon three times, and has spent well over 100 nights in the back country. In addition to the fun, Trey has contributed hundreds of service hours through scouting.

In the fall Trey will be attending the Engineering Honors Program at the University of Texas at Austin. Prior to that he will be an intern this summer at the Applied Research Labs at UT and will also be spending nine days at NASA running experiments on a Reduced Gravity Aircraft (the Vomit Comet!) as a member of the Austin Community College Microgravity Team.

Trey would like to thank all of the families who are hosting the library boxes, the many people who dedicated time and resources to the Eagle project, and the many adult volunteers who make the scouting program possible. He would also like to thank all of the Wells Branch neighbors who bought popcorn from him over the years!

You can see more pictures of Trey's Eagle project here:
<http://www.mdbii.com/eagle/eagle.html>

To download a map of Library Box locations, visit wbna.us





WB Armada Registration- 25th Anniversary Season

By Anne Bennett

The 25th anniversary season for summer swimming in WB is just around the corner!

Online registration is still open; see

<https://wellsbranch.swimtopia.com/>. We hope you will join us in swimming and celebrating this special, 25th anniversary season!

If you have any pictures and stories from seasons past that you would like to share, please send them, along with your express permission for their use, to board@wbarmada.org. We are working on a way to share these with everyone. Please continue to check our web page <https://wellsbranch.swimtopia.com/> for this and other information of interest.

Venture Scouting coming to WB

Coming this September for youth ages 14 to 21, Co-ed Venture Scouting! If you enjoy outdoor adventures (hiking, backpacking, camping) then Venture Scouting may be just what you're looking for. Watch upcoming issues of this newsletter for more details. An open house is planned for September for those interested in joining the new crew. Contact Daniel for more info at 512-413-0097.



WB 2nd Annual Disc Golf Tournament

May 17 • 9am-4pm (tee times from 9am-1pm)

Disc Golf Course on Owen Tech

It's ALL about FUN, not scores, so you win just by showing up and playing. The WB course is a short, fun course and very appropriate for players of all skill levels, young or old. Even if you've never played before, you're encouraged to come out and give it a shot! Groups of four will tee off every 10 minutes, from 9am until 1pm so call ahead to select a half-hour slot for arrival. Estimated time to play a round is 1.5 to 2 hours. The WB Disc Golf Course is located south of Wells Branch Parkway; parking is available along the street on Owen Tech Blvd., across the street from Whataburger.

Each player will receive a custom artwork disc golf disc and reusable water bottle as part of their registration. There will also be raffles, door prizes and awards for winners of each division. At the top of each hour, local disc golf players will hold short instructional sessions on disc golf rules and techniques for gripping the disc and throwing disc golf drives and putts.

A course map and scorecard are available at wellsbranchmud.com/discgolf. Register at the WB Rec. Center, 3000 Shoreline Drive, or by calling 512-251-9814. Fee: \$10 advance, \$15 day of event

Keep up with weekly events on the Wells Branch Disc Golf Club Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/>

2113 Wells Branch Pkwy

North Austin's
Newest
Live Music
Venue/Night Club

The Best
Drinks in Town

Happy Hour 4pm-7pm Mon-Fri
Live Music
Stop in for a cold one on your way home!
WC Clark
Blues Every Monday • 6pm

Bob Schneider
Friday, May 2 • 10pm

John Lockhart
Friday, May 9 • 8pm

Cyril Neville
(of the one and only Neville Brothers)
A New Orleans Master
World Class Show
Saturday, May 10 • 8pm

Joe Ely
Honky Tonk • Texas Country • Rock & Roll
Friday, May 16 • 9pm

No. 9 Orchestra
The Music of the Beatles
Friday, May 23 • 8pm

The Greencards
Grammy nominated fresh Bluegrass
Saturday, May 24 • 8pm

Reckless Kelly
Red Dirt/Texas Country Band
Saturday, May 31 • 9pm

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WBE Spring Fest a huge success!

by Sarah Marquez

This year's 9th Annual WB Elementary Spring Festival and Silent Auction was a huge hit! More than 1,000 families came out and enjoyed an afternoon full of live music, food and fun! From the cake walk to the dunk tank and silly string wars to human hamster balls there was something for everyone. Thanks to the time, energy and generosity of the community, teachers, WBE staff, parents, and students, we were able to raise approximately \$20,000 net revenue for the school.

This money is used to sponsor field trips for the students to learn beyond the classroom and experience places they may never otherwise go, as well as special programs such as the Science Fair, International Fair and Field Day. In the past these funds have allowed the WBE PTA to buy new literary materials for the students and audiovisual equipment for the school library. We look forward to spending these funds on the specific needs of this year.

Once again, a huge thank you to our amazing community and families that support our wonderful school. And to the WB MUD, Wells Branch Community Church and Wal-Mart, without you this would not be possible! Oh, and if you heard a helicopter and sirens around 4:30pm on April 12, don't worry it was just the Austin Police Department making a cameo at the event!!



PROFESSIONAL IN-HOME DOG TRAINING BOARDING & WALKING



Summertime is almost here!
Book early to assure your pets of the
very best care while you're away!

Contact Jennifer at (713) 419-8686
or luckystardogtraining@gmail.com
www.luckystardogtraining.com

WBE Greenfest Earth Day Celebration

by Dianna Gielstra and Tara Fisher-Munoz

The 1st Annual Greenfest, held at WBE's 2014 Springfest was a huge success! Greenfest is the celebration of Earth Day for the month of April, and the WBE Green Team opened up the school garden for the community to enjoy. Other activities included:

- Children in Nature Collaborative of Austin (CINCA) booth featuring the local preserves of Austin and their insects
- Whole Foods & their Kid Foundation sponsored a garden party and cooking demonstration in the garden; Adrienne Dickey-Merrill gave out free "Grow Your Own Bean" kits and participants mixed together a mango and black bean salsa that was served with tortilla chips
- Dianna Gielstra & Dianne Koehler gave tours of the garden
- Tree Folks donated *Fruit and Nut Tree Growing Guides for Central Texas* in both English and Spanish
- Green Ribbon Schools had a booth to talk about the Million Mile Month to encourage children and adults to incorporate more physical activity into their everyday lives
- The Green Team made & served whole fruit smoothies and offered healthy alternatives to attendees

Thank you Tara-Fisher Munoz, Teri Rivas, and Sylvia Brito for all your hard work in setting up, making smoothies, and clean-up. Your efforts are appreciated. Part of the exhibits demonstrated by the Green Team included an example of a raised bed created from a stock tank. The hoop house demonstration showed how the weather can be cheated in either winter or summer to grow produce year round in extreme cold or hot weather. These demonstrations were constructed by Dianne Koehler, and we are so thankful for her guidance and help in the garden. The labyrinth was a favorite challenge of children to walk around and solve the garden puzzle. Please see this article in its entirety along with pictures at www.wbna.us.

WELLS BRANCH

#1 REALTOR SINCE 1991

The **Andy Allen** Team

Of the total number of homes sold by the top four real estate agents in Wells Branch for 2012 and 2013, Andy sold a whopping **55%** of the Wells Branch homes!

Investment Seminars

Interested in purchasing investment property?

Free Investment Seminar

- Saturday April 5th
- Keller Williams Northwest Market Center
12515-8 Research Blvd., S100
Austin, TX 78759
- 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Take advantage of the current market to achieve your investment goals... we can help you!

For more information, or to RSVP, call Tom at 512-775-6789

For a **FREE** Market Analysis

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Tom@AndyAllenTeam.com today!

STATISTICS from last month:

ACTIVE LISTINGS: 1

Average List Price: \$245,000

SALES PENDING: 7

Average Pending List Price: \$203,100

SOLD HOMES: 2

Average Sold List Price: \$233,450

Average Sold Price: \$233,450

February Sales Price was 100% of List Price


KELLER WILLIAMS
R E A L T Y



How to Protest your Tax Appraisal - Helpful Links

submitted by Michele Samuelson

2014 Travis County Tax Appraisals are hitting the mailboxes this week. Below are some handy links with necessary information for protesting your appraisal.

First, the Comptroller's office has some general information about protesting: <http://www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax/protests.html>

Second, here is a link to the Travis County CAD's FAQ on protesting here: http://www.traviscad.org/faq_arb_protest.html

And the forms and info you'll need: <http://www.traviscad.org/arb.html>

A guide written in 2007 by Travis County realtors to help you understand how to effectively navigate the process locally: <http://crosslandteam.com/blog/2007/05/30/how-to-protest-your-property-value-at-travis-county-appraisal-district/>

And finally a guide to effectively protesting your property tax appraisal - this was written by the Galveston County Tax Assessor-Collector but the principles apply anywhere in Texas: http://www.co.galveston.tx.us/tax_offices/Information/dnload/Effectively%20Protesting%20Taxes.pdf

Find us on **facebook**



WB Leadership Academy Update

by Traci Synatschk

Wells Branch Leadership Academy is quickly approaching the end of an amazing first year!

We are excited about the changes we are bringing to the community, including opening the doors to Athlos Leadership Academy in Fall 2014! We will now have classes for Pre-K4 through 9th and will continue to add a grade each year until we serve PreK4-12th. Some of the lower grades are filling up fast so if you haven't already, we encourage you to visit www.athlosaustin.org and submit your application. You can also visit www.wbla.my-pto.org to learn more about the activities, events and support parents have participated in this year that makes WBLA such a wonderful place. Offering additional educational opportunities in a tuition FREE charter school environment helps make Wells Branch an even greater place to live and learn.



Food
Donation
Drop-off
Day

St. Andrew's Food Pantry

The St. Andrew's Food Pantry has started Food Donation Drop-off Days. Just drive-in & drop-off non-perishable food donations. It's quick, easy and makes a huge impact.

To find out when the next drop-off day will be, visit www.staopen.org/donatefood/. Together we can help feed our neighbors in need!



Community Calendar

SIGN UP NOW for Summer Programs at the Rec. Center!

Stuff2Do Camp • Art Camp • Volleyball & Basketball Camps

May 3, 9am-noon: Spring Youth Fishing Tournament, Mills Pond*

May 3, 6pm: Open Ears Concert - John Prine Hoot Night - St.

Andrews on Wells Port*

May 10, 7am-7pm: PISD & RRISD Bond Elections, Rec. Center, NW Elementary*

May 10, 8:00am: Bird Walk with Heather Johnson, Kiosk at MP*

May 15, 9:30am: Silver Branchers Day Trip - Ransom Center, WBRC

May 17, 9am: Garden Guild-Home Garden Tour, Leave from WBRC*

May 17, 9am-4pm: Disc Golf Tournament, Owen Tech*

May 19, 8:00am: Bird Walk with Sharon Richardson, Kiosk at MP*

May 24, 6-9pm: WB MUD Memorial Day Casino Night, WBRC*

June 5, 1pm: Silver Branchers Ice Cream Social, WBRC*

June 7, Dusk: Movie in the Park - TBD, KF Park*

June 14, 9pm-12am: Teen Pool Party, KF Pool*

June 21, 11:00am: Garden Guild - Organic Pest Control, WBRC*

June 28, 9pm-12am: Teen Pool Party, KF Pool*

JULY 4 • FOURTHFEST 2014 • ALL DAY, KF Park • Fireworks at dark

*See WBNA.us **See wellsbranchMUD.com

RECURRING

Farmers Market, Wednesday, 2:40-3:10pm WBE

Silver Branchers, Thursday, 1-3pm, WBRC



Meets 6pm Tuesdays at
the Live for More Center
in Bratton Square

Calendar Legend:

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!



HOW TO SUCCESSFULLY PROTEST YOUR HOME'S HIGH APPRAISED VALUE

Did your home's appraised value and taxes go up this year? Don't miss Tammy's helpful blog on the best way to fill out the protest form, what critical information you must request, how Tammy can provide FREE sold comp data, and much more. Like "Wells Branch Real Estate" on Facebook for priority in getting your sold comp data:

Blog: www.facebook.com/wellsbranchrealestate

JUDY RETIRES: Congratulations to Judy on 25 yrs. as a successful Realtor. She sincerely thanks her clients for their trust & says "Tammy will take superb care of you in the future." She looks forward to playing tennis, traveling, playing cello w/the Austin Civic Orchestra & more time with her 3 kids and 3 grandkids.



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Silver Branchers By Darlene Bauhs & Ron Robinder

The Silver Branchers began in 1988 as a group of seniors interested in meeting for fun and fellowship. The current group has continued this tradition and would like to extend an invitation to any and everyone who might be interested in making new friends. Meetings are held every Thursday from 1-3pm in Room 4 of the Wells Branch Rec. Center, 3000 Shoreline Drive. Membership is free. All residents 55 years and older are welcome. Both individuals & couples are invited. For more information, call 251-9814 or just stop by.

May 15 the Silver Branchers are taking a day trip to the Ransom Center and plan to have lunch at Eastside Cafe. The van will depart from the Rec. Center at 9:30am. Contact Matt Fuller at mfuller@wellsbranchmud.com for details or to reserve your spot on the van.

June 5 the Silver Branchers will host their annual Ice Cream Social. It's a fun way to get to know everyone - we hope you'll join us!

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 2014

May 2014

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