



Neighborhood News

News and information for the residents of Wells Branch.
Vol. 25, Issue 6, Holiday 2017

Happy Holidays from the WBNA!

by Debby Thompson, President, WBNA

The holidays are right around the corner! We hope you'll join us in celebrating these wonderful Wells Branch traditions. Reach out to the new folks so they feel welcome. Take time to reconnect with family, friends and neighbors. We look forward to seeing each of you at the festivities!

Polar Express Pajamarama

Saturday, December 2 • 6:00 & 7:00pm

All aboard, for Wells Branch Community Library's yearly Polar Express Pajamarama! Enjoy holiday crafts, hot cocoa and cookies, a bedtime reading of The Polar Express and a special visit from Santa Saturday, December 2 at 6:00pm & 7:00pm! Register at wblibrary.eventbrite.com.

Luminary Fest

Friday & Saturday, December 8 & 9 • 6:00-9:00pm

Sponsored by WB MUD Parks & Rec. Dept.

Experience the glow of the holidays as our trails light up with luminaries around Katherine Fleischer Park on December 8 & 9. Santa will be visiting the Homestead Cabin both nights from 6-9pm with FREE photos provided by WB Community Church.

WBNA sponsored craft tables will be set up both nights inside the Community Center and children will have the opportunity to create ornaments and color. Dianne Koehler and numerous volunteers will be on hand to assist with crafts and MUD staff will keep refreshments flowing.

Join us outdoors for a caroling hayride or a trip around the trails on the holiday express train to see the luminaries up close. We'll be starting the hayride at 5:30pm both nights so bring the little ones and come early.

Saturday night, Jessica Shepherd will host the kids' karaoke inside the Community Center with continued crafts and refreshments for all to enjoy. Wells Branch Community Church Band will perform outside the Buffalo House both Friday and Saturday and St. Andrew's Chorale will be caroling throughout the park from 6:00-7:30pm on Saturday night.

Join in helping to light the luminary candles on Friday and Saturday at 4:00pm. The MUD will have lighters on hand but feel free to bring your own long lighter. On Saturday, meet in the KF parking lot to pick up the new candles. Wagons are encouraged to help carry the replacement candles along the trail. **See you there!**



Holiday Home Decorating Contest

Judging begins Sunday, December 10!

Break out the tinsel and holly! Deck the halls, yard, trees, cars, dogs, cats... Let's show some good ole WB spirit! The WBNA is sponsoring the Holiday Home Decorating Contest again this year! Judging will begin on Sunday, December 10 with winners announced on Saturday, December 16. For more details, please visit our website at wbna.us. If you'd like to help judge or nominate a home, email lights@wbna.us. Be sure and watch for the "Winners" as we post signs in their yards and feature the homes on Facebook and wbna.us! Categories include: Most Original, Most Traditional, Most Elaborate, Best Use of Lights, Most Energy Efficient, Visible from Space and Most Patriotic.

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TCSO Town Hall Meeting
Tuesday, November 28 • 7pm
WB Community Center on Klattenhoff
wbna.us for details

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Music at St. Andrew's

**Open Ears Concert featuring Eliza Gilkyson
Sunday, December 3 • Show starts at 12:30pm**

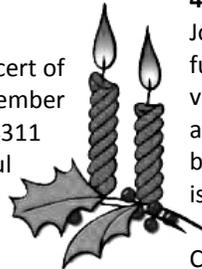
Open Ears Concerts, hosted by St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, is a monthly series that presents both established and emerging artists, mainly in acoustic genres. Bring your family and friends, and a dish to share in an alcohol free, family friendly, listener oriented environment. Potluck lunch immediately following service.

While there is a suggested donation of \$25, no one will be turned away. Visit staopen.org for more info.

**St. Andrews Presents an Evening of Music
with The Austin Handbell Ensemble
Monday, December 11 • 7:30-8:30pm**

Join friends and neighbors for a holiday handbell concert of cross-continental carols and classics on Monday, December 11 at 7:30pm at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 14311 Wells Port Drive as they present "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year" Winter 2017 Concert.

For ticket information, please visit their website at austinhandbells.org/events/.



Christmas Eve Services • December 24

**WB Community Church
9:00am & 10:30am**

Wells Branch Community Church will have Christmas Eve services for the whole family at both 9:00am and 10:30am. All are welcome! Join in the celebration of the true meaning of Christmas as WBCC sings carols and creatively remembers the Christmas story. For more information about Wells Branch Community Church or their Christmas Eve service please visit wellsbranchchurch.com. Childcare available for Pre-k and under.

**St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church • 14311 Wells Port
4:30pm Family Oriented & 7:00pm Candlelight Service**

Join the St. Andrew's congregation in a joyous celebration full of music and love this Christmas Eve. Their 4:30pm service is child and family oriented and at 7:00pm, they'll hold a candlelight service. From WB neighbor and St. A's member, Yvette Shelton, "Singing 'Silent Night' while the church is darkened and each person holds a candle is a truly blessed way to celebrate Christmas." Visit St. A's Christmas Eve and find out for yourself.



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Measuring Your Impact by Brian Litke

How do you measure your impact on the world, positive and negative? I can't help but think if we had a scorecard of sorts, it would help us focus on doing positive things and reducing our negative impacts. The scorecard might be different for each person, based on their focus. Maybe we all have a few items in common:

Positive Impacts:

- People I've been nice to (said a friendly hello, opened doors, helped them move)
- Requests for help I've responded to
- Plants added to the ecosystem (I'm doing great on this one)
- People/animals whose lives I've saved (a lofty measurement, for me, probably 0 so far)
- People in emotional distress or who are being bullied/abused that I really listened to and tried to help
- People I have fed
- People I have taught a skill to
- People I have made laugh
- Renewable energy I created
- Rainwater collected to reduce aquifer use

Reducing Negative Impacts:

- How many pounds of trash do I contribute to the landfill annually?
- How much pollution have I introduced into the ecosystem?
- How much water have I consumed from the aquifer?
- How many creatures have I killed for no reason (nonfood killing, because frankly, I like to eat meat - sorry vegetarians, I know you're scoring higher than me on this one)

Some may have Career Associated Goals:

- Crimes prevented (police)
- Fires put out (firemen)
- Children taught (teacher)
- Art shared with the world (musician, artist, author)

Just some examples, but something I've long thought about. What will you put on your scorecard? At the end of the year, what impact have you had to improve the world around you?

Jubilee Academies

(Athlos & WB Leadership Academy) by Sylvia Brito

Fall Fest raised \$12,500 for the school! Thank you to all the wonderful teams of people who made this possible!

Upcoming Events

- December 2 | 9:30am | Santa Breakfast
- December 14 | 4:00-8:00pm | Urban Air Spirit Night

Our charter school welcomes applications from K - 8th grade. Visit our website for more information. <http://www.athlosaustin.org/>. Interested in volunteering? Please see <http://www.ala.my-pto.org>.



Happy Holidays

and a Jaysus New Year!

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Wells Branch Garden Guild

by Dianne Koehler

Wells Branch Garden Guild will be taking the month of December off this year. Meetings will resume in January, when the Garden Guild will kick off 2018 with a discussion of "That Sidewalk Strip & What to Do with It!" Everyone has a strip between the sidewalk and street but there's always a dilemma of how to deal with it. We'll look at a variety of treatments including plantings, materials, and more on January 18 at the Wells Branch Rec. Center, 3000 Shoreline Drive, at 11am. Come early at 10:30am to chat and exchange garden items. All are welcome!

At our February/March meeting we'll discuss pesticide use, our children, pets, ourselves, and the environment. Date TBD. Watch for updates on our Facebook page **Wells Branch Garden Guild**.

WB Photo Club by Margaret McGhee-Sufke

October was the 3rd anniversary of the WB Photo Club and in true community spirit, our club members helped photograph the rescheduled National Night Out event in lieu of a meeting.

As the year winds down and the holiday engagements pick up, our group is going to suspend the December meeting so that we may focus on holiday images. Starting in January, we are going to cover some new topics and offer additional meet-ups with more hands on sessions.

We meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 6:30-8:30pm at the WB Rec. Center, 3000 Shoreline Drive, Rm. 100/101. Our group includes part-time professionals, keen amateurs, general hobbyists and several beginners. Everyone is welcome. For more info, contact me at mmsufke@gmail.com.

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Birding in Wells Branch:

Preparing Your Yard for Fall Birding

by Wanda Holcombe

Autumn is a fantastic time to make your yard wildlife-friendly by adding food, water, cover and a place for animals to raise their young!

Leave some **leaves on the ground**. They benefit wildlife and your garden. A leaf layer several inches deep is a natural way to care for birds. The leaf layer is its own mini ecosystem! **Several wildlife species live in or rely on the leaf layer to find food. Many butterfly and moth species overwinter as pupae in leaf litter.** If you rake up and throw away all of your leaves this fall, you'll be getting rid of these beneficial and often beautiful insects too. Butterfly and moth caterpillars are a critically important food source for birds in the spring when they are feeding their babies. Rake leaves off the lawn if needed, but use them as mulch in your planting beds. **For the entire article, visit the National Wildlife Federation website at nwf.org.*

Migrating birds/ducks are coming. Join us for Hosted Bird Walks in Wells Branch on the 2nd Monday & 3rd Saturday of each month at 8:00 am, weather permitting. Check the WBNA calendar at wbna.us for any date or time changes. We gather at the Gazebo at the Mills Pond.
Beginner Birders Welcome.



Travis Audubon Society provides birding classes, hosted bird walks, special birding events and monthly program meetings: <https://travisaudubon.org/>. Check out what native plants attract birds to your yard per your zip code at the Audubon website <https://www.audubon.org/native-plants/search?zipcode>.

Happy Birding!

Wanda Holcombe | wandah70@gmail.com

Sharon Richardson | sharonrichardson@gmail.com

Heather Johnson | frioswimmer@gmail.com

Paul Wadehra | paul.wadehra@gmail.com

Karen Hagemann | khalhagemann@hotmail.com

Silver Branchers by Darlene Bauhs

The Silver Branchers will celebrate their final meeting of 2017 with a Christmas luncheon at MiMi's on the Arbor Walk on Thursday, December 7 at 1pm. For reservations contact the Recreation Center at 512-251-9814.

Each Thursday, the Silver Branchers meet from 1-3pm at the Recreation Center on Shoreline Drive. Residents 55 years and older, are welcome. Meetings and games resume on Thursday, January 4.

We hope you'll join us!

Try out our new Express Bus Service!

by Rachel LeBansky

I rode the new Express Bus route 980 to work at UT this week. The buses are new, very comfortable, have Wi-Fi, and phone chargers. This new route travels along the express lane on Mopac. You pick up the bus at the New Life Church parking lot. The area is well marked with signs. You park in the lot, but catch the bus on the street (Century Park Blvd). The bus serves the downtown area, the Capitol area, and UT. There are 11 trips in the morning, and 11 trips in the evening. At least based on my experience Wednesday, the traffic was very light in the express lane and we cruised at highway speeds all the way in and back again in the evening. The bus station is called the New Life Park and Ride. It's very easy to get to from Wells Branch and will be even nicer when the light at Howard and Wells Branch Pkwy becomes operational. A couple of the 980 runs each morning and evening also go up into Round Rock.

Several new buses also now operate in Round Rock, including Route 50 which you can pick up at the Howard station (the rail station). They are adding almost 100 new parking spaces there. The 50 has stops at the Round Rock Premium Outlets mall, Austin Community College, and others. The new 52 route is picked up at the Techridge Park and Ride and goes up into Round Rock as well.

For more information see: <https://www.capmetro.org/metroexpress/>

BUY NOTHING

Give
Share
Build community



Local Buy Nothing Group Established

by Erin Ramsey

The Buy Nothing Project is a global movement that offers people a way to give, receive, share, and lend to their neighbors while fostering local community. By using Facebook as a platform, the movement has created hundreds of hyper-local groups of "gift economies" all over the world, where neighbors are encouraged to give freely and share creatively.

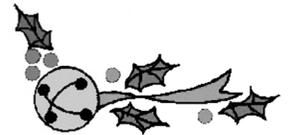
Members may post anything they would like to give away, lend, or share among their neighbors. Everyone is encouraged to ask for anything they'd like to receive for free or borrow. Buying, selling, trades, or bartering are not allowed. Because members "give where they live" and can only join one Buy Nothing Group at a time, we believe our groups strengthen the social fabric of their communities, and place value on the wealth of personal, human connections and trust between neighbors.

You can find the newly established group on Facebook, by searching "Buy Nothing Wells Branch/Willow Run/Northridge Acres, TX". Members must be over 21 years old and live within the boundaries of the group to join, or an admin can help connect you with the local group for your particular neighborhood.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



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Ways to Give Back this Holiday Season



Meals on Wheels

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It is a gift to serve, and a rare chance to directly help individuals in your community one meal at a time. The holiday season is when Meals on Wheels has their greatest need, since many of their regular volunteers go out of town on vacation.

The training video is short and after that, you can pick up meals for delivery at a convenient location. When a substitute driver is needed, Meals on Wheels will contact you in the morning and ask if you're available that day. If you can deliver, they'll give you the route details. If you're not, just let them know! It's that simple!

Visit <https://www.mealsonwheelscentraltexas.org/> or call 512-476-MEAL(6325) or for more information.



Drive a Senior

Thinking about helping others? Have a little extra time this holiday season?

Want a flexible volunteer schedule? We need YOU! You can choose when, where, and how you volunteer. Drive a Senior (DaS) is a community non-profit that provides free transportation to seniors who no longer drive. We are looking for volunteer drivers and people who can help with client phone calls/scheduling. Contact us and help a neighbor remain independent. Email nc@driveasenior.org or call 512-302-5980.



Travis County Brown Santa

Help spread the joy of Christmas by donating or volunteering with Brown Santa. Visit their website for more information and donation suggestions by age at traviscountytexas.gov/brown-santa. You can also call 512-24-SANTA (512-247-2682), or email traviscountybrown-santa@gmail.com to volunteer or donate.

Donation barrels are available at the Wells Branch Recreation Center on Shoreline through December 8 when they move to the Community Center for Luminary Fest. Pick up will be Monday, December 11 at the Rec. Center. Unopened non-perishable foods and new toys are appreciated!



Toy Drive for Military Kids

Santa is looking for some very special elves to help collect toys for military kids! Join #TeamElf and sponsor a holiday toy drive at your business, place of worship, school

or civic organization and make it a magical Christmas for our soldiers and their families! See celebrationoflove.org/events to learn more.

Volunteers needed! Contact info@celebrationoflove.org for more information! This year's toy drive goes through December 3, 2017 with volunteer opportunities through December 9, 2017.



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October 29, 2017 - March 31, 2018

Open/Lap	M-F	4-8pm
	S-S	1-6pm
Lap Swim	MWF	12-2pm

Please note: These are general guidelines. Hours are subject to change. Visit: wellsbranchmud.com/pools for current information and specific exceptions. Pools will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. Pools may be closed due to inclement weather. During heavy storms or below freezing temperatures, check the website or call the pools to confirm if they are open. If you have any questions about pool operation, please feel free to contact the Aquatics Supervisor Katie Hutcheson (khutcheson@wellsbranchmud.com or 512-251-9814 x111).

WB MUD Swim Across Texas Program

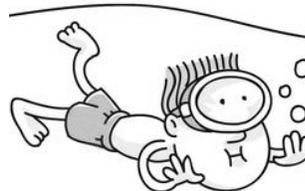
by Katie Hutcheson, WB MUD Aquatics Supervisor

Swim Across Texas is underway!

WB MUD will collect lap swim mileage from November 1, 2017 to February 28, 2018. Together you'll calculate and track your mileage. For example: Wells Branch to Wimberley is 55 miles, Wells Branch to Fredericksburg is 67 miles or Wells Branch to College Station is 88 miles. You can pick a city of your choice to swim to if you have another destination in mind. The top three swimmers with the most mileage on February 28 will receive an individual Recreation Tag for the following year.



There's no initiation fee; just email Katie at khutcheson@wellsbranchmud.com and let her know you are interested. After you finish your daily lap swim at Willow Bend, email Katie to let her know your mileage. On March 1, 2018, the top three swimmers who have swum to the farthest city from Wells Branch (most miles) will win! There will be a map on the bulletin board at Willow Bend Pool with posted results updated weekly.



You can enter anytime but the earlier the better if you want to be one of the top three at the end of February! Any questions, please contact Katie at 512-251-9814 ext 111 or khutcheson@wellsbranchmud.com.

WB Walking Club by Katie Hutcheson

Winter hasn't hit yet! Get out and take advantage of this beautiful weather we're having! Temps are crisp in the morning and the trails are beautiful. Check out the fall colors and get a jump start on your New Year's resolutions. Start walking now! WB Walking Club meets in front of KF Pool at 7:30am **AND** 8:30am on Tuesdays & Thursdays and utilizes the Wells Branch MUD trails. The 7:30am group walks at a faster pace and for longer distances while the 8:30am group is best for beginners or those who'd like to take it a little more slowly and enjoy the scenery.

For more info, contact Katie Hutcheson at khutcheson@wellsbranchmud.com.

WB Running Club by Kara Myers

The Wells Branch Running Club is a completely free and fun group of community members who meet every Tuesday and Thursday at 5:45am at the Gazebo in KF Park. Work-outs are tailored to meet the needs of every individual with members running at all different paces. Come join the fun!

We are now on Twitter @wellsbranch_run and Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/wellsbranchrunclub/>

Call, Text, or E-mail :
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Aquafit Classes

by Katie Hutcheson, WB MUD Aquatics Supervisor

WB MUD offers Aqua-fit classes year-round each Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 1-2pm at Willow Bend Pool. This class requires the MUD Multi-class card; for more information visit wellsbranchmud.com.

Please wear swim attire, bring a water bottle and towel. If it is raining or below 55° we will not meet. Otherwise, we are there year round. See you at the pool! For more information, contact Katie Hutcheson at 512-516-2621 or khutcheson@wellsbranchmud.com.



Pioneer Pals

by Gwendolyn Johnson, WB Homestead Curator

Calling all preschoolers and their caregivers! Join Ms. Gwendolyn on the Homestead lawn each Wednesday at 9:30am for this fun, weekly story-time program. We read stories, sing songs, make crafts, and play. It's free to attend and no

registration is required. Join the fun and make some new friends while you're at it! (There will be no Pioneer Pals on Dec. 20 and Dec. 27 because of the winter holidays.)

For more information, contact Gwendolyn Johnson at gjohnson@wellsbranchmud.com.

Stay Fire Safe this Holiday Season

by Allison Strupeck, PIO/Community Outreach Coordinator
Pflugerville Fire Dept./Travis County ESD No. 2

As you prepare to celebrate the holidays, Travis County Emergency Services District 2 encourages you to put safety at the top of the gift list! This time of year, we often become rushed, distracted or tired, when home fires are more likely to happen. Follow these tips from ESD2 to help keep your family and visitors safe this holiday season.

STAY WITH THE STOVE

Thanksgiving is the #1 day of the year for home cooking fires, followed by Christmas Day and Christmas Eve. Remember to always stay with the stove whenever you are using it, and never leave the house with the oven on (turkey, anyone?). Keep the handles of your pots and pans turned back away from the edge of the stove, so they aren't knocked or pulled down. Always keep the area around the stove completely clear of flammable items such as hot pads, paper towels, cookbooks, and decorations.

REDUCE THE RISKS OF TURKEY FRYERS

Turkey fryers are risky because they use a lot of cooking oil at high temperatures. Hot oil can be released during cooking, and the burners can ignite this spilled oil. If you decide to fry, remember to not to overfill the pot with oil, choose a smaller turkey (up to 10 lbs), and ensure it's completely thawed and patted dry before cooking. Only fry on a flat surface in the open, well-ventilated outdoors.

CAUTION WITH CANDLES

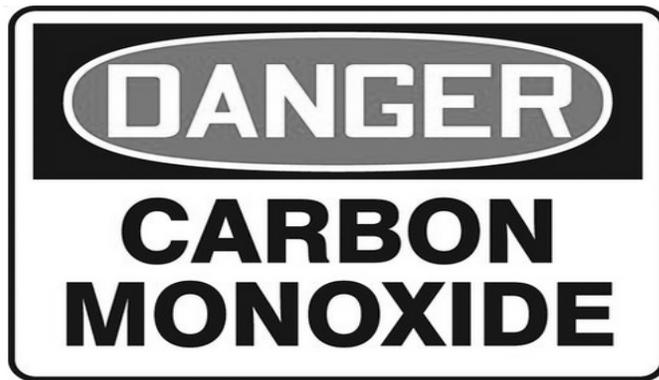
Use candle holders that are sturdy and won't tip over easily. Better yet, use flameless, battery operated candles! Keep candles at least a foot from anything that can burn – such as decorations, towels, and curtains. Never leave children or pets alone in a room with a lit candle. Always blow out all candles when headed to sleep or leaving home.

ADD WATER DAILY TO REAL TREES

When shopping for a real/live Christmas tree, look for one with fresh, vibrant green needles that are hard to pluck and don't easily break from the branches. It shouldn't be shedding any needles when you buy it. Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 1 to 2 inches from the base of the trunk. Position it away from exits and at least three feet away from any heat source, and remember to add water every day to the tree stand. Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving your house or going to sleep.

LIGHT IT RIGHT

Look on the manufacturer's label or box to check if the lights are designed for indoor or outdoor use. ONLY use outdoor-approved lights outside, and only use outdoor lights on a real/live Christmas tree even if it's indoors. Follow the instructions for the maximum number of light strands to connect. Replace any strand with a frayed/broken cord or loose bulb connections. When hanging up lights, use clips (not nails) to help prevent cord damage, and work with a partner if you have to get on a ladder.



STAY WARM SAFELY

Before you curl up with a good book by the fire, be sure to get your chimneys cleaned by a professional and your heating equipment inspected every year. Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from portable space heaters and fireplaces. Ensure your fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop any sparks from flying into the room. If you have any type of fuel-burning equipment for heating or cooking in your home, you should install at least one carbon monoxide (CO) detector on every level of the home to help prevent CO poisoning. Never, ever use an oven to heat a home.

TEST ALARMS MONTHLY

If a fire does start, the lives of your family and visitors may rely on a smoke alarm to alert you in time to escape safely. Remember to push the test button on all smoke and carbon monoxide alarms every month, replace alkaline batteries at least once a year, and replace any alarm older than 10 years. For more information on alarms, please visit ESD2's Frequently Asked Questions webpage at www.PflugervilleFire.org/faq, or call their non-emergency Smoke & Carbon Monoxide Alarm Hotline at 512-251-2801; messages are usually returned the next business day.

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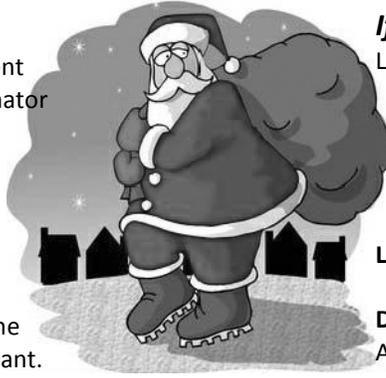
Happy Holidays!

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Holiday Safety Tips

by Debby Thompson, WBNA President
& WB Neighborhood Watch Coordinator

With the bustle of the holidays just around the corner, make sure you're taking every precaution possible to keep your home and family safe and secure. We usually see an increase in opportunistic crime this time of year; please remain 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 trashcan/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 about what you have inside, 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.

Always lock your car. Never leave your car running unattended or leave your keys in the car or ignition. If you usually 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 or take it inside. Thieves check visors and this gives them instant protected access to your home.

Keep your garage door closed at all times and keep the inside door from your home to the garage LOCKED.

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.

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.



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.

Put your lights, stereo or TV on timers.

Keep your house well lit at night (backyard included)

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.

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 - 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 posted on our website, <http://wbna.us> under the Safety tab. There's also a wealth of information available at <https://www.tcsheriff.org/community/outreach-unit>.

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.

Join the community listserv aka 'The Google Group' by sending your name, physical address and email to wbneighbors@gmail.com.

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!



Don't Become a Target this Holiday Season

by Captain Craig Smith,
Travis County Sheriff's Office

The holiday season is here and the countdown to Christmas has begun. We all associate this time of year with happiness, joy and giving gifts. Unfortunately, the season brings out those with criminal minds as well. Crimes involving thefts always rise during this season. Thieves take advantage of the gift giving and ruin so many people's joy.

I speak at many events about public safety and I hope to share a few things to help keep you and your family safe during this holiday season. I always start by explaining my view of the criminal mind. I have interviewed hundreds of criminals and one thing always stays the same. Criminals seek out the easiest target. I have never interviewed a criminal that told me they attempted to commit a crime when the odds were against them. This is very important because it makes it simple to avoid becoming a victim. The moment you take yourself and your property out of the "easy target" zone, you've lowered your odds of becoming a victim significantly! It goes to say, "If it is predictable it is preventable!"

Thefts occur daily when vehicles are left unlocked. Sometimes we forget and our vehicle is left unlocked by accident, it happens. There are thieves out there that walk the streets and parking lots checking for unlocked doors. Breaking windows draws attention, but opening unlocked doors appears perfectly normal. Always remembering to lock your doors is a huge step. Don't leave items visible in your vehicle. Leaving computers, bags, purses, or any other item of value is an invitation to a thief. Never leave your valuables visible in your vehicle.

Your home is also a target. Just like vehicles, homes that are left open are an invitation. It is very common to see garage doors open with no-one around. It only takes a few seconds for a thief to walk into your open garage and walk out with your property. Bicycles have become very popular items to steal. Always lock your doors and close your garage. Keeping your home lit up at night will also help. Leave your porch light on all night to light up dark areas.

Lastly, be careful with your trash. Nice gifts come in nice boxes. By placing the boxes of your gifts at the curb, you are letting everyone know what is inside your home. Cut up your boxes and put them in the trash. Watch out for your neighbors and let them know if you see something that could make them appear to be an easy target.

For more safety information, check out the Travis County Sheriff's Office website: <https://www.tcsheriff.org/community/outreach-unit>.

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Honoring Veterans

with a Day of Fun by Brian Litke

Twenty veterans and sixteen supporters participated in a Day of Disc Golf for Veterans at Wells Branch on October 28, 2017. Veterans played for free, and supporters paid \$15 to play. All participants received a custom-stamped event disc and a pizza dinner after the round. The Wells Branch Disc Golf Club supplied trophies and prizes for participants.



Keeping WB Beautiful at It's My Park Day

by Brian Litke

Volunteers helped keep our greenbelt looking great by spreading mulch around trees to reduce the effects of drought and by planting a Live Oak tree at the WB Disc Golf Course on November 4. Volunteers also planted several dozen Inland Sea Oats bunch grasses along the creek to help retain soil, and the Sea Oats should seed themselves in the area for years into the future. Thank you to WB MUD staff member Katie Hutcheson for leading an arbor day activity, WB MUD Board member Shelley Palmer for purchasing the Inland Sea Oats, and the WB Disc Golf Club for purchasing the tree. Many thanks to the hard working volunteers who shared their labor with a smile.



KWBB events for December and January

by Katie Hutcheson

Sunday, December 3, from 2-4pm, we'll focus on invasive plant removal and trash pick up from in and around the creek beds. Meet at Mills Pond.

Sunday, January 7, we'll offer an educational session (subject TBD) from 2-4pm in the Rec. Center, 3000 Shoreline Drive.

For more info, visit our webpage at wellsbranchmud.com/parks-a-recreation/keep-wb-beautiful or contact Katie at 512-251-9814 ext. 111 or khutcheson@wellsbranchmud.com.

European Dance Guild

by Daniel White

Come learn something NEW (or OLD, as the case may be). The European Dance Guild meets on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, from 6 to 8pm in Room 104 of the Rec. Center, 3000 Shoreline Drive. The meeting is free and open to the public. No previous experience is required. Every dance is taught before it is danced to music. If you can walk, you can do this type of dance. If you have any questions, please contact Daniel White at 512-413-0097.

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BSA Cub Scout Pack 140 by Tonya Riley

Pack 140 has gotten off to a great start with our new Scouts earning their Bobcat badges and their first achievement recognitions. We would like to thank everyone who supported our Scouts during the recent popcorn sale. The funds raised through selling popcorn allow us to do things such as our derby races, purchase recognition loops, pins, and badges, and keep our program costs low.

Service is a basic tenet of Scouting, as noted in our Scout Oath: "to help other people at all times." Pack 140 is looking for ways to become more involved with our Wells Branch Community. If you know of a community service project that could use the help of our Scouts, please let us know.

We welcome new Scouts to join us at any time! Contact the pack through our website, www.pack140.org. We are also in need of adult volunteer leaders. We would love to have those who have gone through the Cub Scout program in the past (no matter how long ago!) to help our current Scouts have the same type of fun, memorable, learning experience that you did.

BSA Cub Scout Pack 728 by Shannon Best

The cubs in Pack 728 have had a busy fall and have even more planned for wintertime.

We've camped at Berry Springs in Georgetown, helped plant Inland Sea Oats and trees at the WB Disc Golf Course and sold popcorn! We'll have our Thanksgiving Feast in another week and our Cookie Exchange in December. We'll also assist TCSO with Brown Santa by wrapping gifts for families. Interested in joining Pack 728? You can email us at wbpack728@gmail.com.

BSA Venture Crew 1409 by Jill Douglass, Advisor

Columbus Day weekend the crew ventured to Carlsbad Caverns in New Mexico. While we enjoyed watching the bats fly from the caverns, we noted that our local Austin bats are just as impressive. The caves were worth the long drive, and we enjoyed the cool weather inside while we marveled at the cavern formations. We ended the trip with an impromptu cooking contest. The winning team featured jalapeno jelly stuffed tortillas.

The team voted and decided to attend Winter Camp at the Philmont Scout Ranch during Spring Break. Winter camp features snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and snow shelter building. We will be learning a lot on that trip!

Venturing is a youth development program of the Boy Scouts of America for young men and women who are 14 – 20 years of age. Contact Jill Douglass (512-293-9022 / jdouglass@crew1409.com) for questions about the Crew. Visit <http://www.crew1409.com/> to learn more!

BSA Troop 1409 by Di Michelson

This fall, Troop 1409 Boy Scouts attempted a canoe trip on the Colorado River near Colorado Bend State Park, but the water was too low to go the planned distance. Instead, they enjoyed a fun campout with time paddling on the water. They also participated in Webelos Woods with other Troops in our District. This event is an opportunity to teach Webelos from community Packs, Scouting skills. This year the boys taught the younger Scouts how to build a survival kit and what to do if you are lost in the woods: **STOP: Stop, Think, Observe, Plan**. Most recently, a few of the Scouts volunteered their time and made banana boats for dessert for the campers at the WB MUD Parks & Rec. Dept. sponsored Pioneer Family Campout.

Plans for the next few months include the Fall Court of Honor and Christmas Party, Winter Camp at Lost Pines Scout Reservation, and a Webelos Invitational Campout in January. We are also actively working on merit badges after each meeting. If your 11-18 year old boy is interested in joining the troop, contact Daniel White, 512-413-0097.

Soccer, Soccer, and more Soccer

in Wells Branch by Chris Connell, VP, WBSA

The Members of Wells Branch Soccer Association (WBSA) extend a HUGE THANK YOU to the Community, the Wells Branch Municipal Utility District (MUD), The MUD Directors, The MUD Team, TexasScapes, and so many more.

Having access to the Wells Branch Soccer Complex this season has been out of this world. With more than 40 teams and over 400 players across multiple age groups, The Wells Branch Soccer Complex offers these teams, the players, and Family, access to some of the best fields in all of Texas!

As the Fall 17 season comes to an end, the Spring 18 season comes to life.

Check out the WBSA website and get registered for the Spring 18 Season. Take advantage of our Black Friday Special - Register on November 24, 2017 and get a \$25 Discount off of your child's registration for the Spring 18 Season. <http://wellsbranchsoccer.com>

We hope to see you all on the pitch very soon!



Ismail Elfath, Resident of Wells Branch, FIFA Level 1 Referee, Center Referee for a U16 Boys S2 game here at home during the Fall 17 Season.



Holiday Schedule

All Pflugerville ISD schools will have early release Thursday, December 21. Elementary school students will be released at noon, middle school students will be released at 12:45pm, and high school students will be released at 1:30pm. Students will be on Winter Break from Friday, December 22 through Monday, January 8, returning to class on Tuesday, January 9.



Northwest Elementary

PTO NEWS:

Support your school's PTO when you shop online! AmazonSmile is the charity portal for Amazon. By shopping through AmazonSmile, 0.5% of eligible purchases go to our PTO.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The PTO's annual holiday store is approaching. We need volunteers to set up, run, and break down the store. The holiday store will be open during school hours on December 6-8. Our students love being able to purchase low-cost gifts for family and friends. If you are able to give an hour or two towards staffing the store, please contact a PTO officer or the school office at 512-594-4400.

Your PTO would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving Break and a wonderful Winter Break!

Upcoming Events

- December 6 - 8 | PTO Holiday store open for students (check with school for schedule)
- December 8 | 6:00-8:00pm | Polar Express movie night
- December 12 | 6-6:30pm | 3rd grade music performance
- December 12 | 6:30-7:30pm | PTO meeting in library



Westview Middle School

Our 2017-2018 school year is off to a great start! We hope that you're involved and stay connected to what's going on at Westview. Come be part of our PTO! Everything we do positively enhances school life for our students, families, teachers, and school.

Ways to Stay Informed

Westview MS Website: <http://www.pfisd.net/wms>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WestviewMsWildcats/>

Upcoming Events

- Tuesday, December 5 | 6:30pm | Winter Band Concert
- Wednesday, December 6 | 6:30pm | PTO Meeting
- Friday, December 8 | 4-6pm | School Dance
- Thursday, December 14 | 7pm | Winter Orchestra Concert
- Tuesday, December 19 | 6-8pm | Winter Choir Concert

Connally High School Cougars

As the holiday season fast approaches, the Cougar Family is reflecting on what we are most grateful for: our talented employees, our wonderful students and our outstanding community. Thank you all for your hard work and support. We hope each of you have a joyful, abundant Winter Break.

Adopt-a-Child, a Connally High School tradition, is scheduled for **December 15**. Approximately 80 students from PfISD elementary schools will visit classrooms at CHS for Christmas parties put on by Connally High School students and teachers. Classes will decorate, provide food, play music and games, and give the children Christmas gifts. CHS Adopt-A-Child day always makes a child's Christmas enjoyable and provides Cougar Students and Staff with an unforgettable opportunity to spread joy.

The Big Event, 2018 is Scheduled for March 2, 2018. During the BIG EVENT, students and staff will perform community service projects around the city as a way to say "thank you" to the community for support of Connally students and our Cougar Community. We are still looking for more job sites for our students to perform community service (<https://goo.gl/zUVCCa>). Last year, students went to various locations: Lake Pflugerville, parks and trails, neighborhood community centers, etc. and performed community service: picking up trash, cleaning benches and playscapes, sweeping, shoveling, spreading mulch, etc. For more information about the BIG EVENT visit: <http://www.pfisd.net/Domain/1455>

Stay informed about Connally:

- Join the CHS Campus Academic Advisory Council
- Download the Connally App: <https://goo.gl/RWz5Qg>
- Become a PTA member—www.chspta.org; connallyhspta@gmail.com
- Connally Website—www.pfisd.net/Page/450
- Facebook—www.facebook.com/Connally-High-School-1458721827756675/

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WBE Arts Integration Academy

by Blythe Jewell Gander, President, WBE AIA PTA

We'd like to send out a huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who volunteered, donated, and came out to support our Moveathon fundraiser and International Fair! Both of these events were great fun and we couldn't do them without the tireless work of our volunteers, teachers, students, and families who help us make them a success, year after year.

As always, you can visit our web site at wellsbranchpta.org for updates - or visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/wellsbranchpta/. We also have Twitter now! Follow us @wellsbranchpta!

Here' a quick list of what's coming up:

November 29 | 7:30am | Coffee Chat
November 29 | Chick Fil A Spirit Night
November 30 | Photo Retakes
December 7 | STEAM Fair Night
December 19 | WBE AIA Showcase
December 22 - January 8 | Winter Break
January 9 | Students return to class

Have a safe and wonderful holiday season!

WBE AIA Farmer's Market

by Dianne Koehler, Garden Curriculum Coordinator

5th Grade classes have crops well underway and ready to open the Farmer's Market at WBE AIA weekly beginning in December. The kids have worked really hard on growing plants from seed and will have a good selection of winter greens in addition to favorites like broccoli, cauliflower, onions, radishes and beets. Our first batch of hot pepper vinegar is ready to bottle for your marinades and we'll also have dried herb packs to cook with in colorful packages for the holidays. The WBE AIA Farmer's Market sells only organic vegetables grown and harvested by the students and is located at the corner of Town Hill and Merriltown at 14650 Merriltown Drive. Items will be \$1-2 per quart bag with some items slightly higher at times. We want to keep things affordable! Watch for updates on the WB Google Group and Facebook pages and be sure and stop by and support our student gardeners. We hope to see you there!

Deerpark MS PTA

Ranger Dates to Remember -

December 8 | Winter Wonderland Dance
December 12 | 7pm | Winter Band Concert
December 19 | 6:30pm | PAC | Choir Concert
December 22 - January 8 | Winter Break
January 9 | Students Return to School

LIKE us on **Facebook** at DeerparkMSPTA
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JLJ STEAM Academy PTA

by Stephanie Hilchey, Secretary, JLJ STEAM PTA

Trailblazers thank you for a wonderful start to the school year! Please continue to get involved at Joe Lee Johnson Elementary STEAM Academy by joining the JLJ PTA at www.jljpta.org

Along with our monthly email newsletter, we will be posting frequent announcements and updates on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/jljpta/>. Follow us!

Upcoming Events at JLJ!

December 15 | TBA | PTA Community Movie in JLJ Cafeteria
December 22 - January 8 | No School | Winter Break
January 9 | Welcome Back Students!
January 15 | No School | MLK Holiday

We want you as part of our Trailblazer Community as we strive to Walk Arm-in-Arm with our Children! Driving the Dream!

JLJ Steam Academy Garden News

by Heather Johnson, Garden Curriculum Coordinator

Howdy neighbors! Joe Lee Johnson elementary students would love your old black, plastic nursery plant pots. The students are soon to be digging up herbs (especially basil) to store in the green house over winter. The more pots they have, the more plants they can transplant! We are especially interested in the little 4" pots. I will pick up donations, or you can drop them at the school.

We can always use volunteers! Anyone interested in helping out with the students in the garden, please contact me at JLJGarden@gmail.com

Thank you Wells Branch for helping the children!

JLJ has done a great job of repurposing our hay bales left-over from the WBNA Pumpkin Patch. Second Grade had pumpkin painting on November 2 and the hay was used for pictures again! The children cut zinnias and marigolds they had grown from seed in the spring and decorated the hay bales. And just look at the wonderful pumpkins the kids grew - all on one vine!

After the photo opts, the picture spot was dismantled and students began conditioning the bales with fertilizer to plant in as raised beds. Each fifth grade class will get a bale, one will go to the "Can you dig it?" Garden Enrichment Module, and one to the "Eating the Garden" Enrichment Module. The enrichment modules meet once a week, Fridays at 8am, and have students from all grades participating in learning together. It's great to see the bigger kids helping the wee ones.



Three Easy Steps to Become Comfortable with Home Technology by Travis Merchant

In 1895, there were only two cars in the entire state of Ohio.

And they collided.

The moral of the story is that new technology has always been challenging for people. Never has this been more true than today. The Internet, smartphones, digital television, and a whole host of other home technologies have rapidly and drastically transformed our lives. This change has happened, is happening, and will continue to happen. The speed of change will only increase.

How can you keep up? How can you make all of this technology work for you and not just be a constant chore? I've spent years thinking about these questions and talking to hundreds of people about them.

What I learned is that the first and most important thing is to approach new technology with the right attitude. The old adage is true: "The difference between an obstacle and an opportunity is your attitude toward it."

So how do you develop a positive attitude toward home technology? Good news! The answer is as simple as 1-2-3:

1. Know you are not alone! All of us feel overwhelmed when dealing with something new. You'd be surprised at how many CEOs, doctors, and other very accomplished professionals I've met who couldn't understand email, Facebook, or how to use a digital home thermostat. The last thing you need to do is feel embarrassed.
2. Know you won't break the Internet! You will make mistakes, say, setting up your new tablet. We all do. The good news is that all of them are fixable. Pressing the wrong button will not "ruin everything."
3. Know that new technology has already addressed most of your concerns. Paying your bills online, for example, is something a whole lot of us are nervous about. But did you know that, since online bill pay started, online security has improved a hundred fold? In fact, *paying your bills online is now safer than sending payments through the mail!* (Think of the mailbox break-ins we've had to deal with.)

Keeping these three simple things in mind is the key to developing the right attitude toward home technology. And the right attitude will bring technology into your life as a blessing, and not as a curse that it so often can feel to be.

Just like the drivers in Ohio more than a century ago, we are dealing with something new that is both exciting and intimidating. With a good attitude, we overcome our initial fears and quickly learn to enjoy what technology has to offer.

By the way, neither driver in that car crash was hurt. And neither will you be as you learn to "drive" the new technology in your life.

Have a question about home technology? Please feel free to call me at 512-662-9156, or email me at TravisTechs@gmail.com.

Mr. PC's Computer Corner: Data Breaches & Identity Theft by Dave DeVore

Equifax was in the news recently and not because the company wanted to be. At last count, over 145 million Americans had their personal information compromised in an attack that lasted for months before being detected. We are just beginning to grasp how big this data breach is, all other previous security breakdowns pale in comparison. When you factor in that a significant portion of the population is children or those with no credit history, this means most of the credit worthy U.S. population is potentially at risk.

What can you do to see if your data was stolen and if so, what can you do to protect your finances and good name? Navigate to www.equifaxsecurity2017.com for the latest news about the incident, to request a scan to see if you might have been impacted and to sign up for a free year of credit monitoring. I did this right after the attack was announced and was relieved to find that it didn't appear that my information had been compromised. I was promised an email with further instructions. As of this writing, 3 weeks later, I still haven't received anything. I'm not holding my breath. As for the credit monitoring, I could sign up for it but probably won't. The experts that I respect say that it would be at least as effective to put a freeze on all your accounts with each of the three credit reporting bureaus.

Hooray! There was a complete shakeup at the top of Equifax during the writing of this article. The new CEO, Paulino do Rego Barros Jr. wrote this opinion piece in the Wall Street Journal that you can read at:

<http://webreprints.djreprints.com/4197300009442.html>. In it, he offered to extend to the end of January the signup for free TrustedID monitoring. He also pledged to offer a new free credit freeze service they are developing to anyone that requests it. If this man had been in charge at the beginning of this incident, I might not have begun to write an article prepared to blast Equifax for the breach and for the poor response since it was discovered. From a cyber-security viewpoint, there is no excuse for the laxity that led to this massive break-in. The new leadership at Equifax is signaling the possibility of a happy ending to the story.

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FOL News

by Tracy Simon, President, FOL

Sales of our limited addition ***The Best of Wells Branch 2018 Calendar*** are going strong. Calendars are in stock and ready for delivery! Look for us at Polar Express Pajamarama at the Library on December 2 and Luminary Fest on December 8 & 9. To order a copy and extras for gifts, go to wbfriends.org. Remember all sales benefit Wells Branch Community Library programming.



Thank You to all who made the **FOL Community Garage Sale 2017** so successful. Our vendors had a wide variety of items for sale and the sense of community was grand! Booth rentals combined with those who donated goods to the FOL booth helped to raise money to support library programs. Our efforts would not have been successful without the help of our fantastic volunteers: Marie Streusand, Debbie Zimmer, Susan Soderstrom, Alberta Thompson, Minerva Gomez, Chuck Walters, Lara Bennett, Ralph Simon, David Mead, and Sanna Bloemsma. The members of Boy Scout Troop 1409: Rich Michelson, Greg Jewett, James Jurach, Evan Jewett, Mason Cherry, Andrew Michelson and Connor Michelson were invaluable as always. Thank you to Kona Ice, Johnny Beans, Papa Johns, and Travis County Constable's Office Pct. 2.

The Friends of Wells Branch Community Library are looking for dedicated library patrons to join the Board of Directors. Our annual meeting and elections will be held on December 13 at 6pm in conjunction with the WBCL Family Craft Party. We are seeking to fill two positions. Like us on Facebook to stay up to date on announcements. For further information, please contact Tracy Simon at trnomis@sbcglobal.net.

FOL Financial Series Recap Resources

by Debby Thompson, President, WBNA

Earlier this year the FOL and WBNA hosted a series of financial seminars. Each discussion focused on a specific aspect of financial planning. In November, a special "Reader's Digest" version of the presentations as a "catch-up" was offered. This closing session recapped the highlights of each topic while guiding folks to additional financial educational resources. The video may be viewed in its entirety on the FOL (Friends of the Library) Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/WBFOL/videos/1497069053675979/>. Copies of the handouts and notes from ALL the sessions are available for download at <http://wbna.us/community/fol-financial-seminar/>. Special thanks to Margaret McGhee-Sufke for putting this series together for the Wells Branch community.

Harmony Science Academy - Pflugerville

by Clarissa Davila, Outreach Coordinator

Harmony Public Schools focus on science, technology, engineering and mathematics curriculum with hands-on and project-based learning projects. Harmony Science Academy is located at 1421 Wells Branch Pkwy, Suite 200 behind the Wendy's and serves grades 6th - 12th grade. Harmony School of Science is located at 11800 Stonehollow Dr. Ste. 100 and serves grade Kindergarten - 5th grade. *Transportation is available between the two campuses. Call for specific routes.

December 8 | 1st annual Posada Navideña from 6-9pm, Cost: \$2.00 per family, Enjoy tamales, buñuelos and refreshments for sale. Hosted by the The Spanish Honor Society.

December 20 - January 3 | No School | Winter Break

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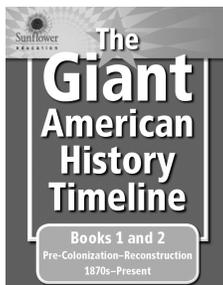


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WB Writer's Corner

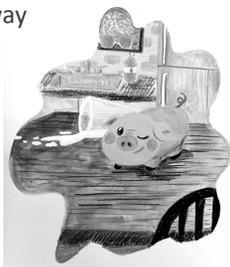
Wells Branch is fortunate to have so many talented writers! Here are a few of our neighbors' most recent accomplishments.



Neighbors **Cindy and Dan Barnekow** run a mom-and-pop educational publishing company, SunflowerEducation.net. They just came out with a new book that helps kids make big timelines of American history to post on the wall. The GIANT American History Timeline is available at <https://www.sunflowereducation.net/the-giant-american-history-timeline>. If you enter the promo code WELLSBRANCHROCKS you'll get 25% off your entire purchase.

Doug Schwartz, author of whimsical fiction and a Wells Branch resident, collaborated with Austin illustrator Jordan Beckvonpeccoz on their first children's book, *Spilt Milk!* When a small girl with a big imagination plays around the dinner table, the milk spills and floods the town! Join Monkey Pants and her worrisome brother, Anson Pants, as they seek a way to clean up the milk flood. If anyone can overcome circus folk coming to take her away or surfing cows seeking revenge, it's Monkey Pants and her creative problem-solving abilities.

Spilt Milk! will be available in time for the 2017 holiday season. For more information on the book's release and other special events, please visit Doug's author website at: checkeredscissors.com.

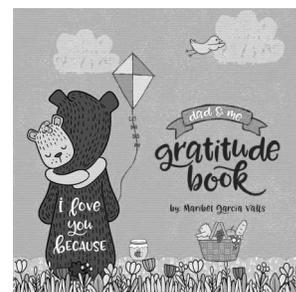


Maribel Garcia Valls, MPH, ACC is an author, public speaker, and founder of Bee Happi Press. As a local resident of Wells Branch, Maribel is a yoga and meditation teacher, mother and military wife. She is passionate about teaching happiness, yoga, meditation and all things alike. During her husband's last military assignment away, she created a "gratitude journal" for her husband and children to communicate back to forth to each other.

The concept was born when her husband sent their son and daughter some hand-written letters on a loose leaf piece of paper. The letters were written with love on a personal level and that made the children feel so special. Thus, inspiring the creation of an 8-book series called, "I Love You Because: Gratitude Book."

This book series is in English and Spanish, and has a version for Mom, Dad, Grandma, and Grandpa. This beautiful journal is about expressing gratitude. The left side of the book is for dad. The right side of the book is for his daughter or son. The book can be used to share feelings of happiness and gratitude with kind words, memories, drawings and pictures. There are journal prompts on each page.

"I Love You Because: Gratitude Book," is now available on Amazon. Maribel is also the author of "Just Breathe: A 90-Day Meditation Journal and Coloring Book" and "The Happy Seed." For more information about these series, other books, and events, please visit Maribel's website: www.beehappi.com.



KUDOS!

Thanks to all of you who delivered our Fall Newsletter. It was huge! You ALL were GREAT! Because of you, EVERYONE in Wells Branch knew about our amazing fall events. Each and every event was well attended.

June Apprill · Bob Bauhs · Anne, Winston, Brady, & Colton Bennett · Emily Berver · Shannon & Durbin Black · Kathy Brown · Joy Bryant · Jim & Creola Burns · Phil & Dana Carter · Kim Clark · Chris & Alex Connell · Nicole, Jackson, Corbin, and Alivia Edwards · Delian Filip · Audrey Foushee* · Michelle Gadush · Miriam, Melissa, & Briana Garate · Glen Garey · Dave Gezana · Noe Gonzalez · Carla & Alexander Gordon · Katie Halling · Chris & Millie Harper · Jack & Mary Hendren · Travers Hough · Bruce Jones · Jennifer Jones · Gus Kohn* · Christina Lee · Sherry Lindig · Brian Litke · Nancy Loomis · Donna & Steve Lyons · D'Arlyn Marks · Joan & Dave Mead · Jeremy, Chevonne, Mina, & Marleigh Read · Thomas & Amanda Reed · Jennifer & Audrey Ricci · Jon & Jessica Ridge · Barbara & Christopher Romero (visiting from San Diego) · Mark Schneider · Julie & Doug Schwartz · Virgil Smith · DeLane Spriggs · Sharon Sproat · Jeff & Jeannette Stevens · Marie Streusand · Mark & Margaret Sufke · Debby Thompson* · Mike, Rebecca, & Maura Weis · Daniel White *Delivered more than one section

As always, thank you to all who contribute articles and share information. Our newsletter continues to grow because of you. Keep the articles coming! Special THANKS to Kim Clark, Malita Jones, and DeLane Spriggs for recycling and donating their HEB bags for newsletter delivery!



Thank you, Wells Branch

for making the 2017 Pumpkin Patch such a success. It was an honor to provide the pumpkins & meet you and your families! As real estate professionals, we know the importance of community and are proud to have sponsored the WB Pumpkin Patch for the second year.

We want to be your advisors for everything real estate and with more than 30 years combined experience, we can answer your questions, help you with the pros and cons and guide you smoothly through any real estate transaction. Please don't hesitate to call!

Happy Holidays!

Pam, Christopher, and Jay
Your Real Estate Advisors

Pam Wachholz
GRI, REALTOR®
HomeCity Real Estate
PamSellsTXRealEstate@gmail.com
512-925-5309

Christopher Stapleton
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512-413-5064



St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church **Holiday Ministry** by Yvette Shelton
OPEN MINDS, OPEN HEARTS, OPEN HANDS

Holiday Tamales

Make this holiday season special with delicious tamales for entertaining and giving! Naturally gluten-free, these tamales are a welcome treat at just \$15 per dozen. Choose from pork, jalapeno pork, chicken, bean (not vegetarian), and vegetarian (vegan).

Tamales sale proceeds go to Manos de Cristo which provides children, adults, and seniors access to emergency food/clothing relief, quality low-cost dental care, and adult education classes.

Order your tamales by December 1 by phone 512-251-0698 or by email admin@staopen.org. You'll be notified in early December when to pick-up your order at St. Andrew's, 14311 Wells Port Drive. Payment is due at that time.

Enjoy your holiday tamales while helping Manos de Cristo assist those in need.

Children's 'Giving Tree'

'Tis the season for giving, and you can brighten a child's world with an unexpected gift!

St. Andrew's has partnered with Workers Defense Project to provide holiday gifts to children who would otherwise receive nothing.

It's simple to do! Bring your children/grandchildren to St. Andrew's any Sunday morning (8 AM-Noon) through **December 10**. Take a "tag" from the Giving Tree in the foyer; shop for the items; then return them to St. Andrew's, wrapped, with the "tag" attached by **December 17**. The Giving Tree elves deliver gifts before December 25.

The Workers Defense Project is a local center that provides low-wage workers with resources that improve their working and living conditions.

Thank You!

Do-It-Yourself (DIY) Club on Hiatus

by Daniel White

Typically, the DIY Club meets on the first Sunday of each month, unless otherwise noted, from 6-8pm in room #103 of the Rec. Center on Shoreline. The meetings are open to anyone and are free. Topics are announced on the WB Google Group and WBNA.us prior to the meetings. Presentations are live-streamed by the WBNA and are available for viewing on their Facebook page under 'Videos' if you'd like to catch up. **We hope you'll join us when we return in FEBRUARY!**

Wells Branch MUD Holiday Hours

ALL District facilities will be closed on Sun. Dec. 24, Mon. Dec. 25, Sun. Dec. 31, and Mon. Jan. 1. Contact WB MUD Customer Service with questions at 512-251-9814 or info@wellsbranchmud.com

Solid Waste and Recycling Pickup

There will be no curbside trash and recycling collection on Mon. Dec. 25 and Mon. Jan. 1. All collection from Mon. Dec. 25 through Fri. Jan. 5, will roll forward one day. If your normal collection day is Monday, your trash and recycling will be picked up on Tuesday, etc. Friday pick ups will be on Saturday for these two weeks.

Curbside Community Compost and Christmas Tree Collection

There will be no Curbside Community Compost pickup Dec. 25 through Jan. 1. Regular weekly collection will resume on Tues. Jan. 2. Christmas trees may be placed curbside for collection during the regular weekly collection or dropped off at designated locations in the Katherine Fleischer Park and Recreation Center parking lots. Please REMOVE ALL LIGHTS and DECORATIONS.

Winter Wastewater Averaging | Dec. 12-Mar. 12

Extreme Clean Winter | Jan. 13 | wbn.us

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- ♦ Homes sold for MORE MONEY: 100.7% average list/sales price ratio for Tammy's homes sold* vs. 99.6% Wells Branch average
- ♦ 63 Wells Branch homes sales since 2003
- ♦ 30 WB homes sales between 2012—2016
- ♦ Average of 6 WB homes sold every year*
- ♦ Experienced helping Buyers and Sellers

*Based on Tammy's Wells Branch sales from 2012—2016



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Date: _____ by joining the WBNA and continue to make Wells Branch great!

Check: _____ Here is my check (made out to WBNA) for \$20 annual dues for 2017

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

