



WBNA Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 31, 10:30am • Come Early!
Homestead at KF Park

Join your friends, neighbors and **The Easter Bunny**, himself, as Wells Branch welcomes Spring with the annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Homestead. **"Hunts" will be by age group and begin at 10:30am.** Come early and visit with the Easter Bunny or have fun at our craft table. ***If you plan on attending, please take a moment to read this article in its entirety.***

Last year, a web source picked up our event and shared it with 133,000 followers. As many of you observed first hand, the results were overwhelming. ***ALL Wells Branch residents and their invited guests are welcome.*** We just can't accommodate the entire City of Austin again. We know the problems weren't with our neighbors, but more likely, those who just aren't used to how we do things in Wells Branch. Still, we ask that everyone be on their best behavior, volunteers included. No yelling, stealing eggs, reaching under the tape and filling baskets before we start, or busting down the tape and charging ahead before your age group is called. We need parents to set the example. We've added a second group for the little guys as that was an issue last year. ***ONE parent will be allowed in to help with the two youngest age groups (0-18mos & 18mos-3yrs). We ask that you respect this restriction. All other age groups must hunt on their own. Feel free to coach ahead of time.*** There will be 7 minutes between "hunts" to allow parents of multiple children to navigate the crowds. Please, only allow your children to hunt with their respective age group. Last, but not least, please remember that this event is put on by volunteers. We spend weeks getting ready and usually stuff 8,000-10,000 eggs. It's no small feat. So, if a volunteer asks something of you, please be respectful of their requests. If for some reason, your child ends up without many eggs, any of our volunteers in bunny ears will have extra goodies. Just let one of us know.

Please don't misinterpret this as being accusatory or negative. We love our neighbors and our community. We're asking for everyone's help in advance in creating a joyful experience for all involved.

We need volunteers to help things run more smoothly. Anyone whose kids have aged out of the hunt, or older teens who need service hours, we would be so appreciative of your time! Please contact us for more information at info@wbna.us or call 512-656-0654.

Easter Egg Hunt RULES:

Those of you who've attended our hunts in the past know we have very few rules, but we do ask parents to follow those rules and be courteous and respectful of your neighbors so that all of our children may enjoy the hunt.

Age Groups:

0-18mos & 18mos-3yrs

- *Only 1 parent per child in egg hunting area
- *Watch out for potential choking hazards

4-6yrs • 7-9yrs • 10-12yrs

- * No parents allowed in egg hunting area



BE ON TIME (early is better) AS THE "HUNTS" GO QUICKLY.

Check all eggs for prizes. • Let a volunteer know if there's an issue. • Recycle your eggs with the WBNA. • **Have FUN!**

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Next issue due out May 19.
Please recycle!

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TCSO Street Racing Operation

by Kristen Dark

Sr. Public Information Officer
Travis County Sheriff's Office



The Travis County Sheriff's Office received many complaints from residents in your community over a period of many months. We know you were fed up with the burnouts, street racing and reckless driving of the car club that took over the parking lot at Wells Branch Parkway & MoPac.

We felt your exasperation and were frustrated ourselves. Putting a stop to the group's unsanctioned activities was a challenge because the group gathered in a private parking lot and the racing was conducted on roadways in multiple jurisdictions. We first worked with the proprietors of the parking lot and noted their desire that the car group not be permitted to gather on their property anymore. Next, we gathered a multi-agency task force that included: Austin Police Department, Department of Public Safety, Pflugerville Police Department, Round Rock Police Department and Williamson County Sheriff's Office.

On Saturday, March 3, 2018, over 100 officers from the participating agencies executed an operation that had been months in the making. In a multi-phase operation, officers cleared the parking lot, arrested reckless drivers and issued citations for traffic violations to drivers who sped into the various jurisdictions.

In total, 15 arrests were made for reckless driving and 25 citations were written for traffic violations.

The task force will continue to enforce Criminal Trespass law if members of the group attempt to gather in the parking lot in the future and will be doing the same in areas where the group tends to move.

We are so grateful to the residents of Wells Branch for reporting this activity to us and for assisting us as we assessed the scope of the crowd and its patterns of behavior. This allowed us to build an effective strategy for putting a stop to it. We value our relationship with your community and encourage you to keep the lines of communication open between us.



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New Business Spotlight

Dream Bakery Café

By Gus Kohn

In support of our Wells Branch business community, we like to share updates and changes to area establishments. Sales tax paid within Wells Branch from your purchases benefits both the Library and the Fire Department (ESD#2). The continuing success of the businesses in the district directly influences our property values. When we "Shop WB" we all benefit.

Dream Bakery on Anderson Mill is opening a second location where Bribery Bakery used to be at 2013 Wells Branch Pkwy, #109, 512-494-4009, called **Dream Bakery Café**.

Owner Karen Fry has operated Dream Bakery for the past year and a half; that location will remain open and continue to make custom cakes and pastries, wedding tasting consultations and all their other treats. They also currently do the coffee bar pastries for Nordstrom's and Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf.

Karen has been gluten free since she was 10 months old and since there wasn't the dietary awareness there is today she had to learn to bake at a young age. After doing bake sales at school for her kids she found great interest from others in her creations and began to bake more at home; with aspirations to open her own full bakery, she purchased Dream Bakery.

Committed to providing fresh from scratch for all to enjoy; Karen likes being part of the local community and always enjoys seeing the smile on customer's faces when they taste her magic.

Dream Bakery Café offers a wide variety of baked goods including Gluten free and Vegan offerings as well as ready-made cakes, pastries and desserts, coffee and espresso, and grab and go lunch items.

They offer free Wi-Fi for customers and invite Wells Branch neighbors to come and have meetings and get some work done while enjoying the treats they have to offer. Relax in the fun, colorful and comfortable ambience you remember from Bribery. They are **NOW OPEN** with temporary hours, but plan on extending those to 6am-6pm Tues.-Fri. and 8am-2pm Sat.-Mon. Check dreambakerycafe.com for updates. Karen is eager to meet her new neighbors so please drop by **Dream Bakery Café** and say Hello!

NOW HIRING counter help. Email dreambakerycafe@gmail.com for more information.



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As part of my commitment to our community, a donation will be made to the WBCL or WB 501(c)(3) group of your choice upon closing.



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Don't Mess With Texas Trash Off

Saturday, April 7 • 9am-Noon
Mills Pond, 15108 Wells Port Dr.

The Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off is the single largest one-day cleanup event in the state and serves as Texas' signature event for the Great American Cleanup, the nation's largest community improvement program.

We will meet at Mills Pond, 15108 Wells Port Dr. and pick up litter out of the pond and along the trails. This clean-up will be a great opportunity to focus on removal of the monofilament lines endangering our wildlife. Please wear closed toed shoes and long sleeves.

KWBB Volunteer Day by Katie Hutcheson

Our mission is to encourage residents to take responsibility for the improvement of the community's environment voluntarily and focus on litter prevention, beautification and waste reduction. It's our opportunity to make Wells Branch the cleanest, most beautiful community in Texas! We meet the first Sunday of each month, usually from 2-4pm, and take on a different project each time. Our April event will be the Don't Mess with Texas Trash Off held on Saturday, April 7, instead of Sunday, April 1.

Watch for updates on our May event at wellsbranchmud.com. For further information, please email Katie at khutcheson@wellsbranchmud.com.

Fishing Line Kills Hawk at Mills Pond

by Dave DeVore

On March 13, I was at the Gazebo Dock with our Wells Branch Photo Club when one of our number noticed something in the water. After a closer look, we determined that it was a hawk that had gotten tangled up in fishing line and had drowned as a result. An ignominious demise for a majestic raptor. RIP... You can clearly see the fishing line in the image posted to the WBNA Facebook page. I suggest that people be more careful about their lines and that we concentrate on removing such lines during the next cleanup at Mills Pond. This makes me both sad and angry at the same time.

I know that there are many more people fishing at Mills Pond now, due partly to the pond being listed on a Fishing Hotspots smartphone app recently. Many of these folks are not from Wells Branch, so it's up to us residents to educate our visitors and, when necessary, to clean up after them to prevent their litter, particularly monofilament fishing line, from being a hazard to our ducks, turtles, hawks and other wildlife that help to make Wells Branch such a wonderful place to live.

Your suggestions were heard, Dave, and will be implemented at the April 7 Trash Off event. All efforts to keep our WB parks clean are appreciated. Please contact the WB MUD should you see anything that needs attention (including excess monofilament line). Contact Matt Fuller at mfuller@wellsbranchmud.com or call 512-251-9814.



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Monitoring the Monarchs by Shelley Palmer

After a tough winter, the Monarch butterflies are leaving Mexico and joining one another in the "Texas funnel" – headed north. This winter's population in Mexico was down 15% from last year, and 60% below historic averages. The February sleet storm of 2017 and last fall's unseasonably warm temperatures that brought persistent south winds, kept the Monarch coverage in the Mexican mountains at 2.48 hectares and is hindering the efforts to increase the overwintering population to a 6 hectare goal for Monarch recovery. Track the Monarchs, record your sightings, and learn more about their amazing journey at <http://learner.org/jnorth/monarchs>.

We can play our part in the migration by planting nectar plants (which will benefit many little pollinators) and milkweed for the Monarchs to lay their eggs on and for the caterpillars to munch. Development and herbicides have taken their toll on our native milkweeds and consequently, on the butterflies. Tropical milkweed *Asclepias Curassavica* is not native to central Texas but it is the easiest to purchase locally, you just have to cut it back before the fall migration. Expect to have to deal with aphids, they like milkweed also. Soapy water works, add 2 Tablespoons of dish soap to 1 gallon of water and spray the aphids directly, then rinse. Learn about our local milkweeds at <https://npsot.org/wp/story/2012/2235/>. I just saw my first Monarch of the season on the Mountain Laurel outside my window! They're back!

Birding in Wells Branch by Sharon Richardson

Join us on our informal birding walks at 8:00am on the second Monday and the third Saturday of each month at the pavilion on Mills ponds. There is always something interesting to see along the trail and with more eyes and more ears watching and listening for birds, the more we see! The birds that are seen on the monthly walks are entered in a database, ebird.org, for scientists and for other birders to see.

The hummingbirds are here for the summer and are found getting nectar from native flowering plants and from feeders that have a mix of one part sugar to four parts water. No red dye needed.

The Purple Martins are also getting well established at the three gourd stations in the north meadow off the trail. They are cool to watch flying around and catching bugs. Purple Martins completely rely on gourd houses provided and cared for by humans to nest, lay eggs, and raise their young. If you would like to be on the Purple Martin steward team, contact Karen Hagemann at khalhagemann@hotmail.com.

Stop and see us at the Travis Audubon/Wells Branch birder's booth at the Wells Branch Eco fair on Saturday, April 28.

See you on the trail!

Sharon Richardson (sharonorichardson@gmail.com)

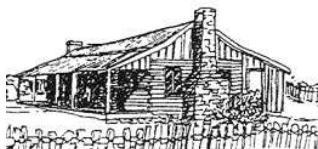
Heather Johnson (frioswimmer@gmail.com)

Paul Wadehra (paul.wadehra@gmail.com)

Pioneer Festival

Saturday, April 7

Noon-5pm • WB Homestead



One of our Wells Branch traditions, the annual Pioneer Festival celebrates Texas history by offering a window to our past. Pioneer Fest is centered around the historic Wells Branch Gault Homestead, the 1850s-era cabin in Katherine Fleischer Park and features fun and educational activities throughout the day so each of us may experience the history of 19th Century Texas. Demonstrations include butter churning, candle dipping, weaving, and log splitting, just to name a few. You will also find exhibits of weavers, spinners, and all sorts of 1850s era displays. There will be fun things for the kids to make and take, pony rides and even a petting zoo. Concessions will be available for purchase. If you would like to volunteer or have a craft or activity from that period for demonstration, email Christine Taylor at ctaylor@wellsbranchmud.com. This event is hosted by the WB MUD Rec., Parks & Facilities Depts. and the WB Homestead with just about every single community service group participating - a TRUE community event!



Wells Branch Eco Fair

Saturday, April 28 • 2-5pm

WB Rec. Center • 3000 Shoreline Drive

On April 28, Wells Branch MUD, together with local volunteers, will be hosting this free event. We'll have booths with vendor demos, hands-on activities for both children and adults, and give-aways. Check the WB MUD website or WBNA.us for a schedule of speakers and topics.

Children are encouraged to participate by coloring and submitting a coloring page. Copies are available online and at the Rec. Center. Bring your coloring page the day of the fair and receive a prize.

Find more information and download your coloring sheet at wellsbranchmud.com/ecofair.

We'd love to have your help! If you're interested in volunteering, please contact one of the Team Leads:

Healthy Food and Home:

Vicky Linsalata, vickylin@austin.rr.com

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle:

Debby Thompson, deborah_thompson@earthlink.net

The Great Outdoors:

Shelley Palmer, spifala@gmail.com

Alternative Power/Fuel:

Stephen Hochstetler, srh2pjh@gmail.com

Water Conservation/Waste Water/Storm Water:

WB MUD, Christine Taylor, ctaylor@wellsbranchmud.com

Get involved, make plans to attend, and stay tuned for updates!



Spring Youth Fishing Tournament

Saturday, May 5

9am-Noon • Mills Pond

Wells Branch MUD hosts its spring youth fishing tournament for ages 17 and under May 5 from 9am to noon at Mills Pond. Enrollment into the tournament is free for all youth, with trophies and prizes being awarded at the end. A rod and reel will be provided for those anglers who would like to borrow one. All state fishing regulations apply.



Not sure what to do with the kids this summer?

Wells Branch MUD offers a wide variety of Summer Camps. Visit their website at wellsbranchmud.com to learn more about: **Stuff-2-Do Summer Day Camp, Volleyball Clinics, Basketball Clinics, Art Mini-Camps and Swim Lessons.**

Don't wait! Registration starts early and fills fast!

Questions? Call 512-251-9814.

Summer Art Enrichment Mini-Camps

Let your kids do it their way!

by Dianne Koehler

Art Enrichment camp is again available this summer with lots of great projects and a chance for each kid to customize his/her art. No cookie cutter projects here, except at Artistic Food Camp! We pack lots of projects into each week of three 1/2 day sessions: painting, drawing, 3-D art, fabric painting, mosaics, clay sculpture, murals, and art discussions. Each week has its own theme. Enroll for one or several. Camp is open to kids 7-11 years, \$45 fee includes camp and all materials. All camps are held at the WB MUD Rec. Center on Shoreline. Register in person at the WB MUD Rec. Center, 3000 Shoreline Drive, by phone at 512-251-9814 or online at wellsbranchmud.com.

Junior Artist Sessions (age 7 1/2 or completed 1st grade-age 12)

Hours: 12:30-4:00pm Tue-Wed-Thurs

June 12-14 MOSAICS AND POTTERY: We will be doing original mosaic designs of many types and learning about pottery.

June 19-21 FANTASY DRAWING AND PAINTING: We will try our hand at painting and drawing our own version of projects from Medieval castles to imaginary space beings.

June 26-28 STARS & STRIPES: We will work on lots of patriotic themed projects including dress up items for the WB parade on July 4th.

July 17-19 DRAW IT - CREATE IT- PAINT IT: We are going to let our imaginations run wild and see what we come up with. I have a new book of prompts for us to try out.

July 24-26 IT'S ALL MADE WITH PAPER: We will make paper, create paper mache, and do molded paper.

July 31-Aug. 2 ARTISTIC FUN WITH FOODS: Fun playing with food trains, planes and jellyfish? See your food in a whole new way!

The Wells Branch UFO

by Dan Barnekow

Looming over Wells Branch to the west is a gigantic structure that mystifies many drivers on MoPac and many newcomers to our neighborhood. At night, its circular pattern of lights lead many to compare it to a flying saucer.

The building is a domed cylinder, 260 feet in diameter. The peak of the dome is 120 feet above ground. The perimeter of the dome is 80 feet tall. The circular soffit of the perimeter holds the bright lights that give the structure its UFO-like appearance. Situated on high ground called Martin Hill, the building is visible for miles, day and night.

This strange structure has a surprisingly pedestrian purpose: it is simply a huge water tank.

The Martin Hill Reservoir is the largest steel potable water tank in the country. Filled, it holds a mindboggling 34 million gallons of water. That's equal to about 1,700 typical backyard swimming pools. Or enough water to cover almost 100 football fields with water one foot deep.

The reservoir serves the same purpose as a water tower. It distributes water from a high elevation to provide pressure to the water supply. It also serves to store water and to provide for fire emergencies.

Martin Hill is named for A. F. Martin, the chief founder of the nearby Austin White Lime Company.

The Martin Hill Reservoir is a Wells Branch landmark. You can be nearly 20 miles away from home and spot it on the horizon—a welcome sight after a long journey. The reservoir is located just west of MoPac where it intersects Shoreline Drive. Drive west down the hill on Shoreline at sunset or at night for a fantastic view of our own UFO.

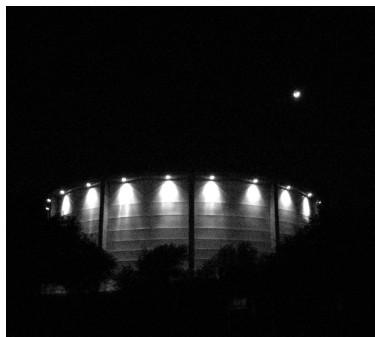


Photo courtesy of Cynthia Hannon

WB MUD Covenant Corner

Please be courteous and neighborly by keeping your lawn maintained, including the grassy area between the sidewalk and the street. Regular lawn maintenance helps preserve our community's beauty as well as property values. Let's all do our part by mowing regularly, pruning trees and shrubs, and properly disposing of yard debris. Keep in mind that bagged grass clippings, leaves, and small tree branches/limbs can be placed curbside for pickup every Monday in accordance with our Community Composting Program (<http://wellsbranchmud.com/services/brush-and-yard-waste>).





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EXTREME CLEAN **Saturday, April 14**

WB Maintenance Yard
13905 Thermal Drive

—8am to Noon— **FREE Drug Disposal**

Safe & easy disposal of excess, expired or unwanted **PRESCRIPTION DRUGS**. Due to new DEA guidelines, we can no longer accept syringes, liquids, sprays, creams, OTC medications or vitamins. **Prescription Pills & Capsules ONLY, please.** More information on how to properly dispose of medication can be found at dontflushdrugs.org.

—8am to 1pm— **FREE Shredding**

FREE secure document shredding services provided by Waste Solutions via Balcones Shredding. Please bring documents to be shredded in boxes or paper bags.

Habitat for Humanity

williamsonhabitat.org

—8am to 4pm— **Easter Seals**

easterseals.com/centraltx/

Homeless Helpings

For a list of needed items, please visit: austinh.org.

Austin Creative Reuse

austincreativereuse.org

FOL Book Drive

The FOL and WBCL are partnering with Port Arthur Library to help restore their collection after Hurricane Harvey.

—8am-5pm—

Bulk Trash • Styrofoam • E-cycling Metal & Cardboard Drop Off Household Waste Collection

Batteries • Paint* • Antifreeze* **ONLY**

***MUST** be in closed container.

For a complete revised list of acceptable items, see WBNA.us.
Questions? Call 512-656-0654.

WB Walking Club by Katie Hutcheson

It's never too late to start walking! Get a jump start on spring! Temps are crisp in the morning and the trails are beautiful. 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. We also do week-end runs, usually on Saturday mornings. If you have a particular event that you're training for, let us know and we can be sure to help you meet your goals. Come join the fun!

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

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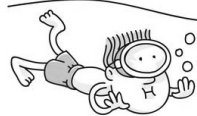
karamyers@austin.rr.com | (512) 470-9782

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.



Swim Across Texas Winners!

by Katie Hutcheson

WB MUD Aquatics Supervisor

Our off-season lap swimmers have been dueling it out with our Swim Across Texas Program. We collected lap swim mileage from November 1, 2017 to February 28, 2018. **The top three swimmers this off-season were Larry Chretien, Kevin Murray and Anne Bennett.** Each of these three will receive an Individual Recreation Tag for this year. Congratulations to all the swimmers who participated, it is great to see so many swimmers in the off-season!



Swim Safely!

Steps to Prevent Kids from Drowning

by Allison Strupeck, Risk Reduction Educator
Pflugerville Fire Dept./Travis County ESD No. 2

Families across Wells Branch are excited to get wet and cool off this time of year. While swimming is one of the greatest things about warm weather in Central Texas, water also presents one of the most dangerous settings for kids. Drowning is the #1 accidental killer of infants and toddlers, and for older kids it's the second leading cause.

If there is a pool or hot tub on your property, or if your family lives near water or visits any swim spots, please follow these important yet simple steps from Travis County ESD 2 to help keep kids safe:

TEACH KIDS TO SWIM. Swimming is not only fun, it is literally a life-saving skill. While we recommend starting swim lessons at a young age, it is never too late to enroll your kids, or yourself, in swim lessons. **Don't wait until summer to start swim lessons!** ENROLL TODAY and be ready to swim when summer hits. There are many low-cost options available in the area.

WATCH THE WATER. If you can't swim or your kids can't swim, stay away from the water! Every time kids are around pools – or hot tubs, lakes, creeks, rivers, or the ocean – at least one adult who is a strong swimmer should be designated as the official "Water Watcher." This person has a very important job! The Water Watcher is responsible for staying focused on the kids the whole time. Do not become distracted by texts, phone calls, earphones/music, reading, or napping. If you use babysitters, confirm that they are strong swimmers, and insist that they closely supervise your kids every moment.

LEARN CPR. Travis County ESD 2 (the Pflugerville Fire Department) provides free, compression-only CPR training to groups age 13 and older. Call ESD#2 at (512) 251-2801 and ask for the Risk Reduction Team to learn more about basic CPR. Remember the 3 C's: CHECK for signs of life; CALL 9-1-1 for help; COMPRESS the center of the chest hard and fast until help arrives.

FENCE ALL POOLS. Many of the nearly 300 kids under 5 years old who drown each year in backyard pools in the U.S. could be SAVED if homeowners completely fenced in pools. It's also very important to install self-closing, self-latching devices on gates. Anyone who has cared for young kids knows how fast they can move, so install pool and gate alarms to alert you when kids go near the water.

STAY AWAY FROM DRAINS. Ensure all pools and spas – both on your property and any public or hotel pool you may visit – have compliant drain covers. By law, all public pools and spas must have drain grates/covers that meet safety standards to avoid fatal accidents. Teach kids to avoid drains. Powerful suction from a pool or spa drain can even trap an adult.

Silver Branchers

by Darlene Bauhs and Glen Garey

The Silver Branchers would like to extend an invitation to any and everyone who might be interested in making new friends. Meetings are held Thursdays of each month from 1-3pm at the WB Rec. Center, 3000 Shoreline Dr. to visit and play games. We also have socials and take day trips to local places of interest from time-to-time. Membership is free. There are no age requirements; everyone is welcome. Both individuals & couples are invited. For more information, call 512-461-1665 or just stop by.

Sat., April 21 – Ride on the 10am Hill Country Flyer Train (austinsteamttrain.org). We'll leave the Rec. Center at 8:45am as missing the train forfeits the ticket and return following the ride.

Thurs., May 24 – Downtown Austin 11am Duck Adventure (austinducks.com). We'll depart the Rec. Center at 9:45am and return by 4pm. Book now! Limited seating available.

For a complete list of upcoming day trips, please visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/silverbranchers/. You may sign up for day trips by registering with WB MUD customer service at 512-251-9814 or at the customer service desk at the WB Recreation Center. This will enable us to arrange for transportation. Transportation may be limited, so please insure that you have secured a ride as we are not responsible for forfeited event fees. If private cars are used for transportation, you may be asked to contribute for the driver's expenses. Please note that money for admission fees will not be collected. **You will be responsible for advance reservations and admission fees for functions such as plays, train trips, etc.** For more information call Glen at 512-461-1665 or see our information on the WBNA website at: <http://wbna.us/community/silver-branchers/>

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Make an Emergency Plan and Register For Central Texas Emergency Warnings

by Lisa Block, Travis County PIO

Central Texas is known as Flash Flood Alley, and in recent years, Travis County has faced deadly flash floods. Other emergencies, such as wildfires, tornadoes and severe weather, are not uncommon in our area, so planning and preparation are key to protecting life and property.

Don't wait. Communicate. Make your emergency plan today. Take practical steps now, so that you are informed and prepared to keep you and your family safe when emergencies occur:

1. Stay informed. Monitor local news reports for emergency information. There may be no electricity during a disaster, so a hand-crank radio is recommended. Travis County and Austin Twitter pages (@TravisCountyES, @austinHSEM and @austintexasgov) and Travis County Emergency Services and Austin HSEM Facebook pages (TravisCoEmergencyServices and DisasterReadyAustin) also provide updates during emergencies.

2. Register your cell phone, phone landline or email address to receive emergency alerts for your specific neighborhood at WarnCentralTexas.org. Contact information, including phone numbers and email addresses, is only used for emergency and major incident notification. WarnCentralTexas.org serves Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays, Lee, Llano, Travis and Williamson Counties. A nice feature of the emergency notification system, WarnCentralTexas.org, is that people can register several addresses for warnings, so if you have loved ones at a location separate from your home, you can also receive emergency notification for their location.

3. Stay weather aware. Visit Weather.gov/safety to learn about weather emergencies. Follow ATXfloods.com during heavy rain and floods to monitor low-water crossing closures.

4. Build a disaster supply kit. Your kit should include enough non-perishable food, one gallon of water per day per person, prescription medication and other supplies, such as flashlights, batteries and a first-aid kit. Learn more about disaster supply kits at Ready.gov/kit.

5. Make a plan that extends from home to vehicle, workplace and other locations. Remember to have supplies at all locations, and keep vehicle fuel tanks at least half full.

6. Prepare your home and decrease the threat of wildfires to you and your property by following the Ready, Set, Go! brochure at TravisCountytx.gov/wildfire.

7. Get involved—Prepare your community for emergencies: For more information about preparedness and getting others involved, go to: Ready.gov/

This is a comprehensive website with guidelines for every type of emergency, including active shooter scenarios.

Sign Up for USPS Delivery Notification

Sign up for **Informed Delivery** from the USPS to know when your mail has been delivered and what should be in your box.

Informed Delivery provides eligible residential consumers with a digital preview of their household's incoming mail scheduled to arrive soon! View images of the address side exterior of letter-sized mailpieces and track packages in one convenient location. Images are only provided for letter-sized mailpieces that are processed through USPS' automated equipment. **Go to <https://informedelivery.usps.com/box/pages/intro/start.action> and sign up for free.**

Know what's coming anytime, anywhere. Download the USPS Informed Delivery App to view incoming mail and track incoming packages anytime, anywhere on your smartphone or tablet. It's free and available for iOS, Android, and Windows in your app store.

Stuff-2-Do Summer Day Camps

Wells Branch MUD offers Stuff-2-Do Summer Day Camp in weekly sessions for children in Kinder through 5th. Your child's appropriate camp will be determined by the grade they completed for this current year.

Camp counselors will engage your child(ren) with creative activities indoors and outdoors based on themed-weeks throughout the summer. The WB MUD's long standing tradition has been to create a safe, interactive, and physically active day camp where children can meet new friends and participate in traditional and non-traditional games and activities.

Registration for In-District Wells Branch residents with Rec. Tags will begin Monday, April 16, 6am-10pm. Registration for ALL current Rec. Tag holders (In-District and Out) begins Monday, April 23, 6am-10pm, and open enrollment for all others, with or without Rec. Tags, begins Thursday, April 26, 6am-10pm. Registration continues until the camps are full. Register at the Recreation Center, 3000 Shoreline. **Check wellsbranchmud.com for more information, theme weeks and dates or call 512-251-9814.**



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 in the fun and make some new friends while you're at it!

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

Recap of Property Taxes 101 Information Session

by Tammy DeWitt Le, Realtor & Wells Branch Resident

We were very lucky to have representatives from the Travis Central Appraisal District and Travis County Tax Assessor-Collector at the Wells Branch Community Center on March 18. In case you missed it, here are the highlights. If you would like to be mailed or emailed the full packet of information distributed, please email Tammy at Tammy@HomeSalesAustinTexas.com.

10 Important Highlights:

- Property tax bills are due January 31. You can pay by e-check for only a \$1 fee and avoid credit card fees. Mailed payments must be postmarked by the deadline.
- The "Notice to Protest form" is due earlier this year on May 15. Under section 3 on the form check "incorrect appraised (market) value" and "value is unequal compared with other properties."
- If you complete an e-file on your protest it counts as your informal hearing. This year TCAD will have **very** limited availability on Tuesday afternoons to protest e-file results.
- Know a reduction in market value **does not** reduce your property tax bill, only a reduction in assessed value does.
- Request the evidence packet (showing sold homes used to determine your appraised value) when you submit your protest form. And check "yes" under section 6 to receive ARB hearing procedures.
- Bring evidence to your protest such as a recent home appraisal, settlement statement if sales price lower than assessed value or pictures of items in poor condition (i.e. foundation crack, water leak).
- If you purchased a home in 2017, file for the Homestead exemption to lower your property taxes by April 30, 2018. There is no fee to file this form and beware of junk mail asking for a fee. Check boxes for an over 65 or Disabled exemption if you qualify.
- Learn about the Chapter 41 "Wealth Equalization" school financing process: property tax revenue from "property rich" school districts (Austin ISD, Leander ISD, Round Rock ISD and for first time ever this year now Pflugerville ISD) are classified as Chapter 41 meaning some of your taxes **do not** fund your local schools and instead go to "property poor" school districts.
- The school district tax is the biggest portion of your property tax bill. Stay involved when tax rates are set or increased. Every school district must have an annual public hearing. This year the Round Rock ISD hearing is June 21, 2018 and Pflugerville ISD hearing is August 16, 2018.
- Only 17% of Texas voters are voting in local elections and turnout at school budget hearings is very low. Vote and get involved!

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Come Play Soccer in Wells Branch!

by Leisha Richardson, Secretary, Wells Branch Soccer

The Wells Branch Soccer spring season is well underway and off to a great start! If you missed the opportunity to register this season or your child just can't get enough soccer, we've got a great opportunity for you. The Wells Branch Soccer Association is bringing back Free Play Fridays! Every Friday, starting after spring break, the WB Soccer Complex will be open around 5:30/6:00pm – 7:30pm for all WBSA players and kids new to soccer to come out and kick the ball. These will not be formal training sessions - just a fun way to get more touches on the ball and continue to build our community. Families are welcome to bring a picnic to enjoy while they watch.

Official season games will continue through the first weekend in May and are another great way to introduce those new to soccer to the game. Games take place on Saturday and Sundays. You can find game schedules for all age groups at wellsbranchsoccer.com. Come out and cheer on your local players!

Be sure to visit our website and follow us on Facebook for information about upcoming WBSA events, including our end of season party and tryouts and observations for select and academy teams for the Fall 2018/Spring 2019 season.

And a special thanks to the Wells Branch MUD for their continued support of soccer in WB!

Got Kids? Youth Disc Golf Tournament

Sunday April 15, 2018 • 2-5pm • WB Disc Golf Course

by Brian Litke, Wells Branch Disc Golf Club

This event is for youth ages 1 to 18. Players compete in age brackets w/separate boys and girls divisions: 6 and under, age 7-8, age 9-10, age 11-12, age 13-15, and age 16-18.

Participants will get TWO custom-stamped event discs from INNOVA Discs, and there will be trophies for age division winners.

We'll also have random draw door prizes, including a portable disc golf basket, several disc golf bags, and other goodies.

The event costs \$10 to enter. We plan on limiting entries to 60 players, so register today!

To save your youth's spot, you can send Brian an email at austin_brian@yahoo.com with the name of the youth player and he'll hold their place, or you can register at the WB Rec. Center, located at 3000 Shoreline Drive. You may also call to register at 512-251-9814 or email your registration request to rec@wellsbranchmud.com.

Individuals or businesses that are interested in sponsoring prizes for the event, please contact: rec@wellsbranchmud.com.

If you are on Facebook and want to add this event to your calendar, visit facebook.com/events/1469428689840353/



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BSA Cub Scout Pack 140 by Tonya Riley

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.

For more information on Cub Scouts and Pack 140, please contact Pack 140 at info@pack140.org or 512-627-9741.

BSA Cub Scout Pack 728 by Shannon Best

Pack 728 is having another busy spring. We had three boys crossover to Boy Scouts. Our ceremony was held at the WB Rec. Center. Special thanks go to Matt Fuller and staff for accommodating us. The pack also participated in It's My Park Day by planting a few trees and cleaning up trash. Many thanks to Brian Litke for always allowing the Pack to help. We have a camp out in April and then we'll begin to wrap up our year. Want more information about Pack 728? Contact us at wbpack728@gmail.com.

BSA Troop 1409 by Daniel White, Committee Chair

Troop 1409 has had a busy spring and has BIG plans for summer! The Troop will be attending summer camp at Camp Tahuaya, just north of Salado where our three new Scouts will be working on their Trail to Eagle. Watch for our Scouts at all the summer events as they'll be selling sodas as a fundraiser.

If your 11-18 year old boy is interested in finding out more about the Troop, contact Daniel White, 512-413-0097.



GS Cookie Thank You!

by Emily Berver

A big THANK YOU to everyone who supported the Girl Scout Cookie sale fundraiser! In addition to getting to enjoy some delicious cookies, this fund raiser helps girls develop self-confidence and valuable real world skills for marketing, money management and decision making. The entire proceeds from the sale stay local and support not only individual troop endeavors, but also area camps and programming that ranges from outdoor skills to STEM to Media relations.

BSA Venture Crew 1409 by Jill Douglass, Advisor



Crew 1409 just returned from their trek to Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. The trip included over 26 miles of hiking at elevations ex-

ceeding 10,000 feet. The crew of 11 venturers camped in the snow, had snowball fights, and enjoyed evenings in a cabin warmed by a wood burning stove. Road trip bingo, crossword puzzles, Spotify playlists, and UNO helped make the road trip lively. Now that the winter adventure is concluded, the crew is planning their summer trip out west to Arizona and the Coconino National Forest.

Need help transporting your Trash & Recyclables to Extreme Clean? Venture Crew 1409 is here to help!

The young men and women of our WB Venture Crew will be organizing trailer transportation of larger items to the Extreme Clean event on October 14. **The service is free, but donations will be accepted.** All monies received will be used for future Venturing endeavors.

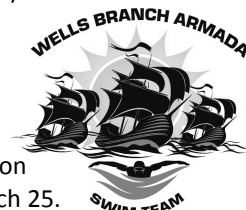
Transportation is limited to In-District residents only. Please schedule your pick up with Committee Chair Daniel White by April 12. You may reach him at 512-413-0097 or danwhitewb@gmail.com.

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!

WB Armada News

by Peter Mielcarek, Board President

Registration has already begun for returning swimmers. Online registration for new members begins at 2pm, March 25. Onsite registration will be held from 2-4pm on March 25 at the WB Recreation Center, 3000 Shoreline Drive. Please continue to check our website: <https://wellsbranch.swimtopia.com/> for updates as they become available. Questions? Email petermielcarek17@gmail.com.



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Northwest Elementary

Important Upcoming Dates:

March 29 | 1:45pm | POPS Rally

March 30 | No School | Holiday

April 10-11 | STAAR Testing

May 3 | 9am-6pm | Kindergarten Registration

May 9 | 9am-6pm | Pre-K Registration

May 14-16 | STAAR Testing



Westview Middle School

Ways to Stay Informed

Westview MS Website:

<http://www.pfisd.net/wms>

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



Connally High School

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/

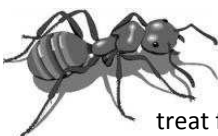
Twitter: @JBConnallyHS

Wells Branch Garden Guild

by Yvette Shelton & Susan Gillespie

Wells Branch Garden Guild will be taking a trip April 21 to see the Texas A & M Agrilife Extension Gardens in Georgetown. The demonstration gardens include herb, vegetable, rose, fruiting trees, drought hardy landscapes, flower beds, and much, much more. Meet at the Rec. Center parking lot, 3000 Shoreline Drive, at 9:15am to carpool at 9:30am. All are welcome to join. This is a family friendly event. Bring sunscreen, a hat, and water to drink.

May 19 is the annual Wells Branch Garden Tour where we'll draw inspiration from the wonderful gardens hiding behind our neighbor's fences. We usually meet at the Rec. Center around 9:00am to carpool. Maps and meeting details will be posted in advance to the WB Google Group, on our Facebook page, and to the WBNA website. Anyone who would like to have their garden included on this year's tour can contact our coordinator, Susan Gillespie, at susangillespie4@gmail.com. We hope you'll join us!



Fire Ants?

It's March and that means it's time to treat for Fire Ants. Learn how you can control these critters from TexaScapes founder, Richard Fadal at <http://wbna.us/community/gardening-in-wells-branch/the-green-gardener/>



To Fertilize, or Not?

by Karen Hall-Hagemann, Master Gardener

The WB Garden Guild discussed the need for and use of fertilizers on the lawn, trees and shrubs and in the garden during the February meeting. All plants require air, water, food, and light to grow. Fertilizing a plant is simply adding food. A fertilizer may be a naturally occurring compound or a manufactured compound. Manufactured fertilizers are primarily composed of nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium (NPK). A manufactured fertilizer lists these elements by per centage on the label, and always in the same order.

A soil test is the best way to determine whether to add fertilizer, and how much. A basic soil test analyzes pH (acidity/alkalinity) and primary nutrients. You can buy a simple soil test at the big box retailers, or check Texas A&M Agrilife Extension, <http://soiltesting.tamu.edu/files/urbansoil.pdf>, for instructions and a soil test submittal form. Adding unnecessary fertilizer is a waste of time and money as well as a leading cause of pollution of local water supplies.

The best method for feeding your lawn is to add organic matter to the soil. Grasscycling (leaving chopped grass clippings on a mowed lawn) returns nitrogen and phosphorous to the soil and improves soil texture. Adding decomposed organic matter, or compost, to the soil will also feed your lawn and improve soil texture. Approximately one inch of compost spread evenly across the lawn is generally sufficient nutrition.

If you must add fertilizer to your lawn, do it in Spring and in Fall. In Spring, fertilize after the grass has begun active growth—after you mow the second time. In the absence of a soil test, apply a fertilizer with a 3-1-2 or 2-1-1 NPK ratio at a rate equivalent to 1 pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet. Check online for a fertilizer calculator to determine how much of a particular brand meets this need.

In addition, an adequate lawn maintenance approach may eliminate the need to fertilize trees and shrubs. If a soil test, lack of growth or damaged, yellowing leaves indicate a need for fertilizer, it is most beneficial to apply it in the late winter before Spring growth begins. Apply uniformly over the surface area and water deeply.

Gardens require a different approach to fertilizing. Again, a soil test gives the best information about which nutrients may be lacking. Flowers and vegetables have widely varying requirements for nutrients. Fertilizer can be added prior to planting, at the time a transplant is added, as a side dressing to established plants or as a foliar spray to growing plants. In summary, a soil test is the best first step in your decision to fertilize.

Seasonal Employment Opportunities

Wells Branch MUD is now accepting applications for seasonal summer camp counselors and lifeguards. For more details and to apply, visit wellsbranchmud.com/jobs.



WBE Arts Integration Academy

by Laura Gomez-Horton, WBE PTA, Secretary

WBE AIA Springfest!

Saturday, April 21 • 2-6pm

Wells Branch AIA • Corner of Merriltown & Townhill

We have a lot to celebrate this spring, and we plan to make the most of it – with games, bouncy houses, food, face painting, our annual Silent Auction, and plenty of entertainment from our very own WBE AIA students! All of the money raised during Springfest goes to provide resources to our students and teachers.

If you have any questions at all about Springfest and how you can help, please reach out to us at springfest@wellsbranchpta.org. We are so grateful for your support and can't wait to share this year's event with you!

YEARBOOKS ARE ON SALE NOW!!!! IF you are interested in ordering a WBE yearbook, please contact the PTA president, Blythe Gander at president@wellsbranchpta.org.

It's never too late to become a member of your WBE PTA, a volunteer membership program that works collaboratively with the school and the WB community to bring amazing programs, field trips, and materials that supplement learning. If you want to get involved, become a member, donate some time, and/or show off your talents, please visit our website at <http://wellsbranchpta.org/> or facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/wellsbranchpta/>.

WBE AIA Garden News

by Dianne Koehler, Garden Curriculum Coordinator

WBE AIA Gardens are growing like crazy. We are seeding all kinds of vegetables to have for sale at Springfest, April 21. We expect to have organic watermelon, cantaloupe, okra, cherry tomatoes and various mints and basil available for \$2 per pot. We will also have worm castings for \$2 per bag. The kids are eating their way through so many healthy vegetables and expanding their palates. We expect to have lots of apples to sample again in May which was a highlight of the garden last year.

JLJ Steam Academy Garden News

by Heather Johnson, JLJ Garden Volunteer

Thank you neighbors for making Joe Lee Johnson's First Annual Garden Fest, Lettuce Turnip the Beet, a huge success! Hopefully you enjoyed some delicious organic veggies from our first Farmer's Market sale at the fest. Our Farmer's Market will hold a regular weekly sale on Thursdays outside by the walker pick up area from 2:40-3:00pm.

JLJ garden has kicked off it's growing competition. Each class in 3rd Grade is competing with tomatoes, 4th grade classes will plant okra, and 5th grade will see who can grow the tallest corn.

JLJ STEAM Academy PTA

by Stephanie Hilchey, Secretary, JLJ STEAM PTA



To all our Trailblazers, thank you for making our second annual Glow Party a big success! The JLJ PTA has two final events for the school, a PTA movie night in April and an end of the year bash in May. We look forward to seeing you at these events. Thank you as always for your continued support!

Please continue to get involved at Joe Lee Johnson Elementary STEAM Academy by joining the JLJ PTA at www.jljpta.org.

Sign up for our monthly email newsletter. We will be posting frequent announcements and updates on our FB page. Follow us! (<https://www.facebook.com/jljpta/>).

Upcoming Events at JLJ!

March 30 | No School | Holiday
April 3 | 7pm | JLJ PTA General Meeting
April 10-12 | STAAR Testing
April 20 | JLJ PTA Movie Night | 6:30pm
May 1 | 7pm | JLJ PTA General Meeting
May 14-17 | STAAR Testing
May 18 | All Day | Field Day
May 18 | 6:30-8:30pm | JLJ PTA End of Year Bash

Trailblazers...Driving the Dream!

Deerpark MS PTA



Keep up with Ranger news!

LIKE us on **Facebook** at **DeerparkMSPTA**
FOLLOW us on **Instagram** at **DeerparkMS_PTA**
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McNeil High School PTSA would LOVE your support!



If you need Mav Gear, we've got you covered! From bags to Ts to lanyards to jackets, we've got the gear you need to show your Mighty Maverick Pride. Visit our website: <http://mcneilpta.my-pta.org/> for our amazing selection of Spirit Wear. Just click on the Store tab.

Looking for a place to show off that gear? Join your fellow Mavericks at a:

basketball game: <http://mcneilmaverickhoops.com/> for boys, or girls: [http://www.hometeamsonline.com/teams/?u=MCNEILWOMENSBASKETBA&s=basketball](http://www.hometeamsonline.com/teams/?u=MCNEILWOMENSBASKETBA&s=basketball;);
baseball game: <http://www.mcneilbaseball.com/> or **softball game:** <https://sites.google.com/roundrockisd.org/mcneilsoftball>;
track meet: <http://www.mcneiltrackxc.com/schedule.html> or **tennis match:** <http://mcneil-tennis.com/>

Catch up on ALL things McNeil on the school's website: <https://mcneil.roundrockisd.org/>

LET'S GO MAVS!!!

WELLS BRANCH COMMUNITY LIBRARY

15001 Wells Port Drive | www.wblibrary.org | 512-989-3188

All programs are free and open to the public.

Programs with ** require advance registration at wblibrary.eventbrite.com

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Johnny and Sharon Concert **

Wednesday, April 4 at 10:30 a.m.

Hear traditional favorites and original tunes at this lively children's concert with bubbles, "bugs," and more!

D.E.A.R. Day: Dr. Seuss's Gertrude McFuzz **

Thursday, April 12 at 6:30 p.m.

Celebrate Drop Everything and Read (DEAR) Day with fun stories with storyteller Lizzy Samples.

Getting Started with Urban Gardening

Thursday, April 19 at 6 p.m.

Join Master Gardener Linda Burch to learn how to start your own garden and rent space from the MUD.

Korean Dance Program **

Saturday, April 28 at 10 a.m.

Learn about Korean culture and enjoy a traditional dance performance! All ages welcome.

DIY Wednesdays

Learn a new skill! DIY classes begin at 6 p.m. and are for adults 18+. Register at wblibrary.eventbrite.com.

April 4:	Dremel Training
April 11:	Engraved Plaques
April 18:	Dremel Training
April 25:	Engraved Candles
May 2:	Embosser Training
May 9:	Calligraphy
May 16:	Embosser Training
May 23:	Cardmaking

Learn and Build at the Library!

Have your own DIY projects to complete? We can help! Stop by the library's LAB for open workspace and special tools to use to get your job done. Visit wblibrary.org/lab for a list of available equipment and open LAB hours.

To see everything happening soon at the library, check out our website and event calendar at **WBLIBRARY.ORG**.

KIDS & TEENS

Storytimes

Mondays at 10:30 (Baby) and 11:15 a.m. (Toddler)

Fridays at 10:30 (Toddler) and 11:15 a.m. (Preschool)

Enjoy fun stories and songs at the library!

LEGO Lab (Ages 5+)

Mondays from 4 to 5 p.m.

Robotics and free build. Robotics registration at 3:30.

Spanish Circle Time/Rueda de Amigos (Ages 0-3)

Tuesdays from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Learn vocabulary and early concepts in this Spanish-language circle time!

NEW: STEAM Studio (Ages 4-12)

Complete science-, technology-, engineering-, art-, and math-themed activities with a creative twist.

Sign Language Storytimes (All Ages)

Thursdays at 11 a.m.

Enjoy stories and songs in American Sign Language!

Storytime & Craft (All Ages)

Saturdays at 11 a.m. | Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Hear stories and make a simple craft!

Family Yoga (All Ages) **

Second Saturday of each month at 10 a.m.

Free, for all ages.

ADULTS

Computer and Career Workshops **

Explore topics like Microsoft Word and Excel, résumé help, and more! See all class offerings on our calendar.

English Conversation Group

First and third Saturdays of each month at 10:30 a.m.

All skill levels are welcome.

Spanish Conversation Hour

First and third Mondays of each month at 6:30 p.m.

Practice your speaking and listening skills with others!

Wells Branch Writers' Guild

First Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Connect with the Guild on Meetup:

meetup.com/Wells-Branch-Fiction-Writers-Guild

Morning and Evening Yoga

First and third Thursdays of each month at 10:30 a.m.

NEW: Second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

Please bring your own yoga mat.

Knit & Crochet for a Cause

Third Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

Knit and crochet items benefitting the Austin Scarf Project.

NEW: Outside the Lines Coloring Club


Every Sunday from 1:30 to 3 p.m. (Beginning April 8)

Come color and relax! Materials provided, no registration.

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- 1 Let's solve your current problems—Smartphone, Digital TV, Alexa, Google Home, Siri, Network, Netflix, WiFi just ask.
- 2 Let's add home technology to dramatically cut your gas and electric bills.
- 3 Let's spend some time together so I can teach you how everything works!

AARP Discounts

FOL News by Tracy Simon, President, FOL

Book Drive to Benefit Port Arthur Library

Hurricane Harvey devastated the Port Arthur Library; they lost their entire collection. The rebuilding process has been slow as people are working on their homes as well. The Friends of the Library (FOL) and Wells Branch Community Library are lending a hand. We'll have collection booths set up at the Extreme Clean event on April 14 from 8am-5pm at the WB MUD Maintenance Yard, 13905 Thermal, and at the WB Eco Fair on April 28, from 2-5pm at the WB Rec. Center, 3000 Shoreline Drive. Watch for updates and additional collection sites on our website wbfriends.org, all the community Google groups and the library's weekly Monday eblast.



FOL Membership

Please join or renew your membership in the Friends of the Library. Memberships are by calendar year-- January 1 to December 31. Visit the FOL website to join or renew today.

WB Photo Club by Margaret McGhee-Sufke

We got off to a great start this year with an interactive planning session and have also offered several meet up sessions to the group, including a few off-site trips with more local trips in the works! Two area parks have been recommended, so watch for upcoming messages for these events. Please consider providing feedback on days and times that would work best; the initial thinking is either a Friday night (sunset) or an early Saturday morning (sunrise).

Upcoming meetings will include hands-on practice exercises and some interactive critique sessions. As always, we will continue to take our photographic skills into the community to help capture all the great local events.

Our April 10 meeting will be a photo essay critique session where we'll view recent photos. May 8, we'll have a photo shoot, location to be determined.

As a reminder, our group has a standing monthly meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, from 6:30-8:30pm at the Rec. Center on Shoreline. WB Photo Club includes some part-time professionals, keen amateurs, general hobbyists and several beginners. Everyone is welcome. Please feel free to reach out to Margaret Sufke, mmsufke@gmail.com or 512-341-0428 for updates.

Relax at the Library

by Jeremy Selvidge, Outreach and Technology Librarian

We get it. You're busy, and life can get stressful. Between work, school, extracurriculars, traffic, and everything else on your calendar, when can you find time to relax? If you need help finding ways to de-stress, look no further than your community library.

Yoga is a great way to recharge and get moving. For early risers, the library hosts Morning Yoga sessions on the first and third Thursdays of every month at 10:30am. Bring a yoga mat and start your day off with stretches and centering. Can't make it to morning yoga? Relax after work with our new Evening Yoga sessions the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 6:30pm. Our first Evening Yoga session will be Tuesday, April 10.

Morning and Evening Yoga sessions don't require registration and are just for adults. Looking for opportunities to stretch with your kiddos? Join us for Family Yoga on the second Saturday of every month at 10:00am. Because Family Yoga fills up fast, registration is required at wblibrary.eventbrite.com.

If you prefer to unwind on a page instead of a mat, get creative at our Outside the Lines Coloring Club for adults (ages 16+). Beginning April 8, join us each Sunday from 1:30 to 3:00pm to relax with soft music and coloring sheets ready to be filled in. We'll provide the supplies you'll need—one less thing to stress about.

And, of course, what's better for relaxing than a great book or movie? Your library card gives you access to more than 50,000 books, audiobooks, magazines, and movies, all free and right here in the neighborhood. You can also borrow digital books and audiobooks from home with OverDrive and find movies, music, and TV shows with hoopla digital. Need help getting started? Drop by the library any day of the week or give us a call at 512-989-3188. Come check us out!

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. Every dance is taught before it is danced to music. For more info, call 512-413-0097.

Undiscovered Talent in Wells Branch

by Gus Kohn

Scott Wilkes is a Wells Branch neighbor of over 20 years and local artist. His art is fashioned from small metal pieces welded together to bring sculpture to life.

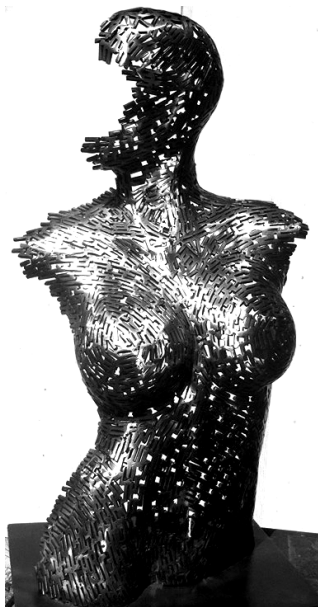
Creating this art form 4 years ago, Scott got his inspiration from a misfortune that occurred in his life. His first creation was therapeutic and took several months to complete, otherwise focusing him on his vision rather than the pain of loss. This piece called *"The Holes In My Ill Fitting Armor"* was but the first of many he created in his repertoire of sculpture.

Using a special technique that he created with his late father, Garth Wilkes, Distinguished Professor Emeritus and super polymer chemist at Virginia Tech, Scott makes a positive mold. After the mold is done he welds small pieces of metal together onto the mold. The welding process must be done in one continuous session, sometimes lasting 8 straight hours. Very difficult and time consuming, an average time to completion depending on the size of the sculpture, may take as much as two to three weeks. Once begun, the drive to finish is so strong that Scott sometimes can't sleep, working on his art into the wee hours.

Scott says, "When I see hundreds of tiny little pieces of metal strewn across the floor, I don't see a mess of scrap metal, but rather a chance to make those pieces come together and live. Through the years, I've always had my hand and head in some artistic venture. From drawing to painting or possibly writing music or creating a stage production, I let creation be a guiding light in my life. Metal sculpting gives me an inner satisfaction that I truly crave and enjoy. To take something cold, hard, rigid, and chaotic, and reshape it and organize it into something that conveys warmth, softness, and flow, is my personal quest".

Many of his pieces are exaggerated or oversized as a statement; subtle features are deliberately done slightly off to make the feminine form as true to life as possible. A true artist; Scott puts a part of himself into each sculpture. His personal favorite is called *"As Memories Become Faceless"* and may be seen on his Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/ironheart.welder>.

Art for the People Gallery,
1711 S 1st St, Austin, TX 78704,
will be featuring Scott's work in
their show running May 12
through July 11. Opening will
be May 12 from 2-5pm; Scott
invites his Wells Branch
neighbors to come and enjoy
his creations.



St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

Open Ears Concerts Present:

Austin Bella Corda

Sunday, April 8 • 12:30pm

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church • 14311 Wells Port Drive

Austin Bella Corda is an elite performing group of students who learned guitar with the Childbloom Guitar Program (<http://austin.childbloom.com/>). Even though all the players are teenagers, many of them started at age 5 or 6. Two of the Austin Bella Corda members attend St. Andrew's, so we are excited to host them for a concert on Sunday April 8, 2018. They will perform one song during the 10:45am service, and then a full show starting at 12:30pm. Suggested donation \$15, but no one will be turned away (subject to capacity of 250). Open Ears Concerts is a monthly non-profit concert series that explores the intersection of Art, Spirituality, and Activism. We present diverse genres and styles of music in an alcohol free, family friendly, listening room environment (openearsconcerts.com).

Carrie Newcomer

Friday, April 20 • 8:00pm

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church • 14311 Wells Port Drive

Singer Songwriter Carrie Newcomer will return to ATX to work in solidarity with our Austin Sanctuary Network by offering this benefit concert, where the doors will open at 7pm and the concert will begin at 8pm. Buy your tickets now at <https://grassrootsleadership.org/ASNBenefit2018>. *100% of proceeds from the concert ticket sales will go to the Austin Sanctuary Network.*

Sanctuary is a place where love and protection are living realities. Based on this, the Austin Sanctuary Network (ASN) is a coalition of faith communities, immigrants and other community members of civil society and organizations in and around Austin, Texas, that support immigrants fleeing violence or in danger of deportation.

The Austin Sanctuary Network stands in solidarity with undocumented immigrants who are being held unjustly and denied asylum status. ASN demands an immediate stop to raids and for-profit detention, an end to all deportations and updated immigration laws that are just, fair and humane. ASN seeks to create a community to provide physical sanctuary for immigrants, who have exhausted their legal options and face deportation, along with offering accompaniment by giving rides to immigrant friends reporting to immigration court hearings, ankle monitor check-ins and other places in an effort to gain more pathways to safety for our neighbors. Congregations offering physical Sanctuary supply shelter, needed food, clothing and interaction with the external world, including legal, medical and educational assistance.

**As with any of our articles, publication is not endorsement. We welcome input and interaction from all faiths. If you'd like to feature a place of worship which serves the Wells Branch area, please contact us at info@wbna.us.*

Mr. PC's Computer Corner

Cutting the Cable by Dave DeVore

Tired of paying for 200 channels to get the 15 channels you regularly watch? Or only getting a good deal if you bundle Internet, TV and phone service together in a package? So was I. I cut the cord this month and am saving about \$600 per year in the process.

How did I do it? I bought my own Motorola cable modem/wifi router for \$180 to save the \$10 a month rental fee, a cost that will be recovered in a year and a half. I dropped my bundled TV and phone service. The first benefit was that I went from 60Mbps Internet speed to 200Mbps for only \$70 plus tax, compared to my final package bill of \$162. For phone service, I bought a Magic Jack for \$35 at Best Buy. This device plugs into your network and 1 year of phone service is included. A fee of \$6 per year was assessed by the city of Austin for 911 service. It cost a one-time charge of \$20 to keep my existing business number. I already had a Chromecast device from Google (\$35) and a Roku (\$35), used for streaming Netflix and Amazon on my two TVs. I subscribed to Youtube TV for \$35/month (\$40/month after March 13). It has our local channels live except for NBC (but I can stream NBC network shows). Altogether, I have nearly 60 channels including ESPN and ESPN2, Turner channels, cable news channels and many others. I can use it on my phone or any tablet or computer with an Internet connection and stream it to the Chromecast or I can use an app on the Roku or other devices. Many smart TVs have this casting built-in. Youtube TV also has an unlimited cloud DVR retaining recordings for 9 months. There are other devices and services such as Amazon's Fire TV, Apple TV, Sling or DirectTV now that may fit your viewing patterns better. Android TV boxes are available that let you stream content, run apps and surf the web on your TV like a tablet.

I have highlighted my own solution to show how easy it is to ditch your bundled package. You only need some planning and the proper timing for cutting services at your current provider AFTER you have your new solutions ready to go.

dave@mrpcaustin.com | mrpcaustin.com | 512-323-5343



Drive a Senior

Thinking about helping others? 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.

HomeCare of Wells Branch

**Do you have an aging
loved one who could use a
little help?**

**Let HomeCare
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their lives easier!**

In-Home Personal Care

- Aid with Daily Living Activities
- Bathing
- Dressing, Grooming
- Mobility Assistance
(Help Getting Around)
- Looking Out for Safety

Companionship

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- Accompany to Doctor Visits
- Medication Reminders
- Grocery Shopping
- Light Housekeeping

For excellent care for your elderly family member, please contact your Wells Branch neighbor:

Rudolf Valenti

rudolfjvalenti@yahoo.com
(512) 330-4343

HomeCare of Wells Branch
14900 Alpha Collier Drive
Austin, TX 78728



Community Calendar

3/25, 2-4pm: **Armada Registration**, WBRC

3/30: **PfISD & RRISD School Holiday**

3/31, 10:30am: **WBNA Easter Egg Hunt**, WB Homestead

4/7, 9am-Noon: **KWBB Trash Off & KWBB Volunteer Day**, Mills Pond, page 4 for details

4/7, Noon-5pm: **Pioneer Fest**, WB Homestead

4/8, 12:30pm: **Open Ears Concerts: Austin Bella Corda**, St. Andrew's, page 18 for details

4/9, 8am: **Birding in WB**, Meet at Mills Pond Gazebo

4/10, 6:30pm: **Photo Club**, WBRC, page 17 for details

4/14, 8am-5pm: **Extreme Clean Spring**, MUD Maintenance Yard, page 8 for details

4/15, 2-5pm: **Youth Disc Golf Tournament**, WB Disc Golf Course, page 12 for details

4/16, 6am-10pm: **Stuff-2-Do Camp Registration Begins**, In-District w/Rec Tag, WBRC

4/19, 7pm: **WBNA Meeting & Election**, WBCC

4/20, 8pm: **Open Ears Concerts: Carrie Newcomer**, St. Andrew's, page 18 for details

4/21, 8am: **Birding in WB**, Meet at Mills Pond Gazebo

4/21: **WB Garden Guild TX Agrilife Farms in Georgetown**, page 14 for details

4/21, 2-6pm: **Wells Branch Elementary Spring Fest & Silent Auction**, Corner of Town Hill & Merriltown

4/21: **Silver Branchers Hill County Flyer**, page 9 for details

4/23, 6am-10pm: **Stuff-2-Do Camp Registration, All w/ Rec Tag**, WBRC

4/26, 6am-10pm: **Stuff-2-Do Camp Registration, Open Registration**, WBRC

4/28, 2-5pm: **WB Eco Fair**, WBRC, page 6 for details

5/5, 9am-noon: **Spring Youth Fishing Tournament**, Mills Pond

5/6, 2-4pm: **KWBB Volunteer Day - Nature Photography with Rob White**, WBRC

5/8, 6:30pm: **Photo Club**, WBRC, page 17 for details

5/12, 8am-5pm: **Bulk Trash Day for In-District MUD Residents**, MUD Maintenance Yard

5/12: **Gallery Opening - Scott Wilkes**, page 18 for details

5/14, 8am: **Birding in WB**, Meet at Mills Pond Gazebo

5/19, 8am: **Birding in WB**, Meet at Mills Pond Gazebo

5/19, 9am: **WB Garden Tour**, wbna.us for map

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- ◆ Homes sold **FASTER**: 9 days on market average for Tammy's homes sold* vs. 21 day average for Wells Branch homes sold
- ◆ 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
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*Based on Tammy's Wells Branch sales from 2012—2016



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Help Shape YOUR Community!

Get Involved! by Debby Thompson, WBNA President

2017 saw another year of continued growth in Wells Branch. Our community needs your participation and involvement. WBNA is quite literally a labor of love. It was created by and is run by VOLUNTEERS. **We need your membership, but more than that, we need you!** Please consider joining the WBNA and volunteering your time and talents.

Our annual meeting and officer election is April 19, 2018 at 7pm in the Community Center. We hope to see you there! Visit WBNA.us for details.

KUDOS! Where are they?

Our apologies! We ran out of room. Kudos for January Newsletter Delivery will be included in the May issue.

OFFICE USE ONLY

Support your Neighborhood Association

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 2018

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

