



Neighborhood News

News and information for the residents of Wells Branch.
Vol. 26, Issue 4, Summer 2018

Happy
4TH OF JULY

Celebrate Independence Day the Wells Branch Way at 4th Fest!
4th Fest is brought to you by the WB MUD Recreation Department—Thank you!

Roll out the Red, White & Blue! If you haven't decorated yet, you better get busy! Let's show our Wells Branch Spirit. Meet in front of the community center at 9:30am. The parade takes off at 10am. If you've never been to one of our parades before, then you should probably know we have decorated bikes, wagons, trailers, DOGS, KIDS, hats, motorcycles and floats. It's a grand event! If you wish to include a float in this year's parade, please contact the WB MUD Program & Events Coordinator at 512-251-9814.

2018 Parade Route (Departs at 10am)

Facing west on Klattenhoff Dr. => Right on Alpha Collier
=> Right on Fronia Woodward => Right on Cervin Blvd.
=> Right on Wells Port Dr. => Right on Crystal Shore
=> Right on Klattenhoff Dr. => Return to KF Park

When the parade returns to the Community Center, we kick off a FULL day of events. There'll be children's activities throughout the park from 11am-3pm and free admission to KF Pool with games there from 12-3pm. The Kiddy Train will be all revved up and giving rides and there'll be balloon clowns and carnival games in the courtyard and inflatables in the park from 11-3pm. Be sure and look for the dunk tank and capture a moment in the 4thFest photo booth. Cool off inside the CC and get your face painted, visit the WBNA Silent Auction, stop by the Library table and get a tattoo and don't forget to vote for your favorite photos for the WBNA 2019 calendar. **ALL FOR FREE!!!**

Live entertainment starts at 11am and goes through 5pm under the Big Tent with ventriloquist Ian Varella, live music by the *The Billy Holt Band*, the Magic of Gus Davis, and then MORE music! Throughout the day, concessions will be available from local restaurants and community service groups offering a variety of items to enjoy. For over 20 years, Branch BBQ has been on hand at 4thFest with their fabulous chopped beef sandwiches and for the first time, we'll have Malone Coffee on hand serving coffee, pastries and iced coffee drinks. For a complete list of vendors and entertainment, visit wbna.us or wellsbranchmud.com.

The Silent Auction benefits the WBNA. Money raised from this event funds the Easter Egg Hunt, National Night Out, our participation in Halloween Trunk or Treat, Friday night at Luminary Fest and all of the educational and safety semi-

nars we put on throughout the year. Come check out all the wonderful gift baskets and gift certificates donated by WB friends, neighbors and businesses and start placing your bids as soon as the parade returns. Contact Debby Thompson at 512-656-0654 or SilentAuction@wbna.us if you have an item or service you'd like to donate or if you'd like to volunteer. We can **ALWAYS** use a hand!

As the afternoon winds down, we hope you'll join us as WB Celebrates Independence Day with a fireworks show to remember. Please see the map and information on page 2 for parking and viewing areas. **Come show your spirit, and remember, YOU are what makes Wells Branch GREAT!**

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**Next issue due out Sept. 15.
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Silent Auction Items Still Needed!

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

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

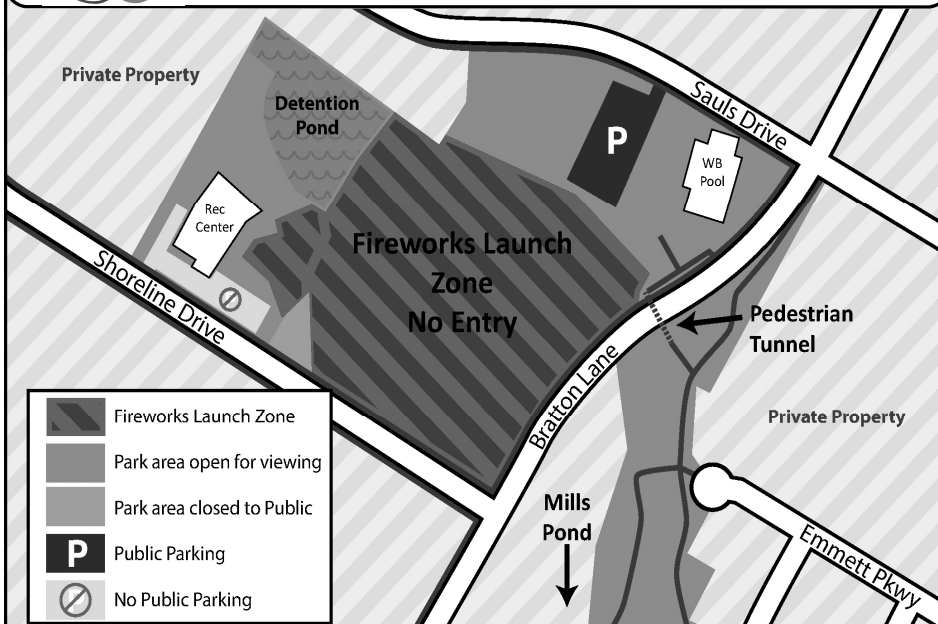
In addition to giving back to our community, donating to the WBNA Silent Auction is a **GREAT way to promote your business!** We are seeking donations of merchandise, gift cards/certificates, theme baskets, and services to auction. In return, you receive exposure for your business at the auction, through flyers, a special "Thank You" section in the September issue of the WBNA Neighborhood News and on our website and Facebook page with links to your site.

If you have items or services to donate or if you would like to volunteer to work the auction, please email us at silentauktion@wbna.us.

Thank you for making (and keeping) Wells Branch GREAT!



Wells Branch MUD 4th of July Fireworks Launch Map



Fireworks Location Reminder

Brought to you by the WB MUD Recreation Dept.

WB MUD will launch the July 4th fireworks display from the soccer field/detention pond on Shoreline Drive between the Rec. Center and Fire Station.

Please refer to the map to the left for designated seating areas. We suggest being in your seats by 9pm, as the fireworks begin at dark (around 9:30pm).

Although parking is available along the street and in the Willow Bend Pool parking lot, the number of spaces are limited, so we encourage all that can, to walk or ride bikes.

Please come early, bring your blankets, chairs, coolers and bug spray.

Don't forget to clear your area and pick up your trash when you leave. Thank you!

Questions? Call the MUD Rec Center at 512-251-9814.



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Catherine & Chris Carby

Plan Ahead for Fireworks Safety from Travis County ESD No. 2 - Pflugerville Fire Dept.

If you choose to light personal fireworks this holiday, please remember that you must get permission from the property owner – even if it's a commercial property not in use at nighttime.

Remember that fireworks are NOT legal to use on or around schools and Travis County parks. They're also not legal on Wells Branch Municipal Utility District (MUD) property, which includes all MUD facilities, parks, trails, greenbelts, Mills Pond, drainage detention areas, the veloway, and the grassy area located at Robert I. Walker and Charla Circle.

But if you choose to light fireworks in a safe, legal location, Travis County ESD No. 2 (Pflugerville Fire Dept.) wants you to better understand the dangers of fireworks and work together as a family to stay safe. **Rather than risking your safety with personal fireworks, we strongly recommend checking out a professional fireworks show. A great option in this area is the 4th Fest in Wells Branch!**

Here are other safety tips for your family:

Respect Vets and Pets

- Please respect your neighbors if you choose to light fireworks. This year, July 4th falls on a weeknight when many families will be working the next day. Keep in mind that the sound of fireworks can be very stressful for some veterans and others who experience Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). It also scares many dogs and other pets.

Make Fireworks a Family Activity

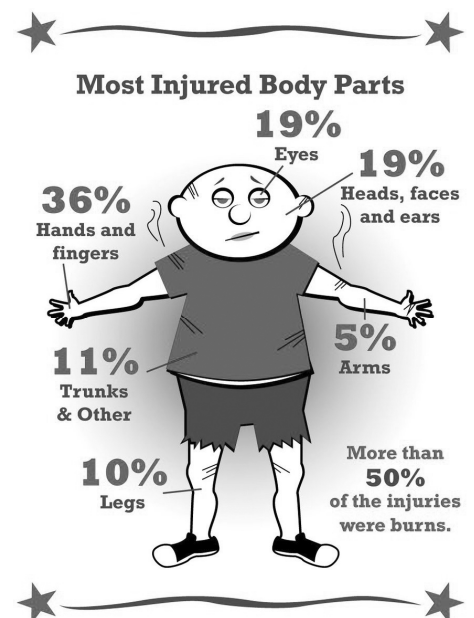
- Before the holiday, make a point to discuss fireworks safety with everyone in your family to decrease the chance of someone getting hurt.
- Never let children purchase fireworks without parents there—even older kids.
- Insist on adult supervision whenever fireworks are being lit—even for older kids. Children age 10 to 14 years old actually get the second-most number of fireworks burns and injuries, right behind preschoolers and toddlers!
- Kids who are younger than kindergarten-age should never be allowed to hold any fireworks on their own, **including sparklers**. Sparklers reach temperatures of 1,200 degrees, which is hot enough to melt metal. Give little kids glow-sticks instead. Pass the sparklers to much older kids and adults to carefully light ONE at a time—ideally wearing gloves.

Preparing to Light Fireworks

- Only light fireworks **OUTSIDE** on a flat surface that's far from any homes or buildings. Don't light fireworks near dry grass or leaves—you can catch them on fire.
- Before you light a firework, take a good look around to be sure there aren't any people or pets in range of possibly getting hurt.
- Don't lean over firework devices or place your hand over them when lighting. Immediately back up as far as you can after lighting! The body parts that suffer the most fireworks injuries are fingers, hands, eyes, face, and ears.

Safely Disposing of Fireworks

- Don't try to re-light fireworks that didn't work on the first try! Leave them alone, then thoroughly soak them in water with a bucket or hose before you try to handle them.
- Double-wrap ALL fireworks in plastic before throwing them in the trash. The same is true for a firework you find sitting on the ground that looks like it's been used. It may still be active and could re-ignite in your hand or pocket.
- Fireworks are poisonous to pets. Symptoms may include vomiting, a painful abdomen, and bloody diarrhea. Be sure not to leave behind any used fireworks where pets (yours or someone else's) spend time.



Civic Engagement Fair

Saturday, September 1, 2018 | 11:00am – 2:00pm

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church | 14311 Wells Port Drive
512-251-0698 | staopen.org

The Travis County Tax Office asked St. Andrew's to help host a Civic Engagement Fair on September 1. We were happy to say yes! Bruce Elfant's friendly Tax Office registers voters, trains and certifies Volunteer Deputy Registrars (VDRs), and provides information to help citizens participate in our democracy. Through their tireless work, in April 2018 voter registration levels in Travis County reached a record 90% of eligible voters.

Because of the MUD, WBNA, Library, schools, recreation opportunities, plus our many great churches and businesses, Wells Branch achieves a high level of civic engagement. Neighbors help neighbors and recognize the importance of connecting with local leadership to both maintain and improve Wells Branch. St. Andrew's is proud to be part of such an active and caring community.

At the Civic Engagement Fair, St. Andrew's will host representatives of our Tax Office, community leadership groups of all types, voting empowerment organizations, and other helpful folks to provide information and further encourage civic participation.

Attendees can find out about current voting requirements, so everyone knows how to get their voices heard at the ballot box in the 2018 General Election on November 6. Also, registrars will be available to register eligible voters.

St. Andrew's is looking forward to celebrating the Wells Branch community and helping our Travis County leaders foster civic participation. The health of our democracy begins in every neighborhood, as we connect with each other and recognize what amazing things we can achieve working together!

2018 WB MUD Board of Directors Election

The Wells Branch Municipal Utility District (MUD) is a recognized local government created under Texas State Law providing for these limited authority entities as part of the Water Code. Wells Branch MUD provides for creation and management of services supporting water, wastewater, drainage, parks, safety, solid waste and other functions.

Wells Branch MUD Board Directors are elected to four year terms every two years (for 2 or 3 members per election). MUD Board of Director elections are held on the uniform election date in November of every even-numbered year. In 2018, the election will be held on Tuesday, **November 6**. Three of the five Director positions are up for election this year: Places 1, 3, and 5, currently held by Howard Hagemann, Betsey Harper, and Shelley Palmer, respectively. The start date to file an application for a place on the ballot for the 2018 Director election is 8:00am on **July 21, 2018**. The **deadline to file** for a place on the ballot for the 2018 Director election is 5:00pm on **August 20, 2018**. If you are interested in becoming a Director, please visit wellsbranchmud.com for more information and filing instructions.

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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! 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, by phone at 512-251-9814, or online at wellsbranchmud.com.

Junior Artists Limit 18

Ages: 7-11 (*MUST* have completed 1st grade)

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

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. We will do 3D drawings, work with spilled paint techniques, watercolors and some clay.

July 24-26 IT'S ALL MADE WITH PAPER: We will make paper, create paper mache, do molded paper, make paper spinners/birds, do quilling, and work with 3D paper designs.

July 31-August 2 ARTISTIC FUN WITH

FOODS: Fun playing with food trains, planes and jellyfish? See your food in a whole new way! We will use fruits and vegetables, pasta and bread to do our creations.



Teen Friday Night Pool Parties!

July 13 | August 10 • 9pm-Midnight

KF Pool • 2106 Klattenhoff Drive

\$3 with Rec. Tag | \$5 without Rec. Tag

Have a blast with your friends this summer at WB MUD's late night teen pool parties. They'll have music and pool games. Pizza and Drinks will be provided. Parties are open to anyone between the ages of 12 and 16. Hosted by WB MUD Rec. Dept.

Movies in the Park

July 21 • Peter Rabbit | August 18 • A Wrinkle in Time

KF Park • 2106 Klattenhoff Drive

Bring your blankets and chairs and enjoy a fun-filled night with your family and neighbors. Admission is free. Parking is limited so residents are encouraged to walk or ride a bike. Concession sales begin at 8pm with the movie starting at dusk. Sponsored by WB MUD Rec. Dept.

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 fills fast!

Questions? Call 512-251-9814.

WBNA 2019 Calendar Contest

What's your favorite season? In Wells Branch we have so many traditions and events, it's hard to choose just one. Our 2019 Calendar will focus on how we celebrate each of our seasons here in Wells Branch. We hope you'll share some of your favorite photos with us!

The WBNA 2019 Calendar Contest is well underway! Wells Branch MUD has graciously agreed to let us use the Rec. Center at 3000 Shoreline Drive for entry drop-off and display as the photos come in. This year's theme is "Seasons of Wells Branch". Both current and past pictures are welcome. Each photographer will be allowed to submit up to six (6) photos. If you'd like your pictures displayed at 4th Fest, we need the entries by 10pm, Monday, July 2. The WBNA will be accepting additional entries through August 31, 2018. Winners will be announced on September 1, 2018. The calendar will be available for purchase at National Night Out on October 2 with a lower price point of \$10! - A perfect piece of Wells Branch to share with friends and family.

For Complete Contest Rules, Entry Forms, and Contest Updates, please visit: <http://wbna.us/community/calendar-contest/>



Photo courtesy of Rob White Photo

WB Photo Club by Margaret McGhee-Sufke

In June, we hosted an off-site session at Mills Pond where several folks found all sorts of birds to focus on as dusk drew near.

We'll kick off July with a bang! Steve Hilchey is going to lead a special "group photo" session of our Wells Branch Photo Club. Please make plans to attend. And to round out the summer we will host the "Best Practices for the Workflow Process" classroom session.

July 10: Outdoor off-site portrait session learning group photo techniques (WB Photo Club portrait to be taken at sunset at Mills Pond)

August 8: Best Practices for the Workflow Process (classroom session)

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 unless otherwise noted. 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.

As always, we will continue to take our photographic skills into the community to help capture all the great local events.



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Mr. PC's Computer Corner by Dave DeVore

With the popularity of DNA test kits increasing into an estimated \$99 million a year business, it's time to ask "What could possibly go wrong?" before you do a cheek swab. Actually, quite a few things that have already happened and many more that could happen well into the future. It was revealed recently that the Israel based MyHeritage website was hacked last October, a breach that netted the hackers 92 million email addresses and passwords. The company claims no DNA data was compromised since their authentication server was separate from the system that houses the digital DNA files. Disturbing to me is that it took nearly 8 months for the company to notify the public of this problem, plenty of time for mischief such as identity theft, phishing attacks, etc. to have taken place since the break in. From a computer security perspective, the usual steps to protect yourself should be followed. If you used MyHeritage, change your password right away. Use different strong passwords for each website you frequent. If you have a lot of them, use a password manager program such as Roboform or LastPass to help you generate and fill in these complex passwords securely. Make sure you have good, up-to-date virus and malware protection on each of your devices, including smartphones, and run detection scans regularly.

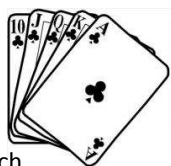
Equally disturbing is what will happen when the next exploit of a DNA testing company also gets the bad guys access to DNA information. Could you or someone in your family tree be connected to an unsolved crime, as the Golden State Killer was in April? Could you be blackmailed because of some dark genetic secret that you wouldn't want revealed to the world? Might DNA testing become a routine requirement for health insurance, with the possibility that coverage could be denied based on the proclivity of someone with your DNA characteristics for developing certain health conditions like cancer or heart disease or perhaps a tendency for addictions or depression? Besides those with ill intent, civil libertarians are alarmed at the different ways that DNA databases could be tapped by law enforcement or other governmental units to find familial matches and narrow their searches for suspects down. I'm afraid this is a topic that will only grow in importance over time. It's a brave new world!

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

Labor Day Casino Night

Saturday, September 1 • 6-9pm

WB Rec. Center • 3000 Shoreline Drive



Need a Night Out? You're in luck! Wells Branch MUD presents its annual Labor Day Casino Night Saturday, September 1, from 6-9pm. An adult only evening of gaming for our residents, this event is for ages 21 and up only and IDs will be checked at the door. Join us at 3000 Shoreline Dr. as the Rec. Center is transformed into a casino using professional tables and dealers. Stick around following the gaming for more fun and the opportunity for "winners" to cash out and place raffle tickets towards drawings for several prizes. Alcohol tickets, sodas, and snacks are free. No alcohol allowed outside of the gym. See you there! Brought to you by WB MUD Rec. Dept.



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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 Drive 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.

The Silver Branchers are looking forward to a series of plays this Summer. We hope you'll join us!

July 21 - Zach Theater (zachtheatre.org) at 2:30pm for your choice of two plays, Heisenberg or Beauty and the Beast. Leave the Rec. Center at 1:15 and return after the play.

August 12 - Palace Theater (georgetownpalace.com) at 2:00pm to see the play Mary Poppins with a concurrent side trip to Inner Space Caverns (innerspacecavern.com) for those not attending the play. Leave the Rec. Center at 1:00pm and return following the play.

September 20 - Picnic in Garey Park (facebook.com/gareyparkgeorgetowntexas/) hosted by Glen and Noe. Leave the Rec. Center at 11:00am and return by 3:00pm.

You may sign up for day trips by registering with Wells Branch MUD customer service at 512-251-9814 or at the customer service desk at the Wells Branch 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/>.

KWBB Volunteer Day

By Katie Hutcheson, WB MUD Aquatics Supervisor

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 usually meet the first Sunday of each month and take on a different project each time.

Our July event will be one week later than usual. July 8, from 4-6pm, we'll focus on helping the gardeners clean up their plots at the Wells Branch Community Gardens (corner of Single Trace and Town Hill.)

Watch for updates at wellsbranchmud.com. For further information, email Katie at khutcheson@wellsbranchmud.com.

WB Walking Club by Katie Hutcheson

It's never too late to start walking! Temps are pleasant 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. Workouts are tailored to meet the needs of every individual with members running at all different paces. We also do weekend 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/>.

Call, Text, or E-mail :
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.

Wells Branch Garden Guild

by Dianne Koehler & Yvette Shelton

We are a friendly group who meets once a month to discuss gardening! All are welcome!

On Saturday July 21, the Garden Guild will be taking a field trip to the Sustainable Food Center's Farmer's Market at Republic Square in downtown Austin. We'll meet to carpool at 8:30am in the Rec. Center parking lot on Shoreline Drive. This is a family friendly event! All are welcome. Please bring water, wear sunscreen and appropriate clothing for walking outdoors. We look forward to seeing the fresh, healthy farm grown local produce and meet vendors.

A date hasn't been set yet for our annual review and planning meeting. Watch for updates on the Wells Branch Garden Guild Facebook Group and WBNA website, wbna.us.

Martins in the Meadow by Karen Hagemann

Been by the North Meadow lately? Noticed all the bird activity?

Our wells Branch Purple Martin colony is thriving. With the help of Howard Hagemann, our bird advocate on the Board, Wells Branch MUD added a third rack of martin gourds to the meadow this year. The martins arrived around the end of February and soon started nests in all three racks of gourds. The volunteer martin stewards spent hours monitoring the gourds to remove invading sparrows and keeping an eye on our birds. The martins have been busily building nests, laying eggs and feeding newly hatched baby martins. A count in mid-May showed 144 eggs in nests.

Purple martins are migratory, and visit Wells Branch each spring to nest and raise their young. Martins nest in cavities and rely on people to provide suitable nest spaces. Native Americans began hanging hollow gourds specifically to attract purple martins because the birds consume so many insects. Recent research indicates purple martins eat the queens of invasive fire ants, potentially impacting the spread of these invasive insects.

Purple martins build their nests with a foundation of twigs and mud, a layer of smaller twigs and sturdy grasses, and a final layer of leaves in which the eggs are laid. The martins also use green leaves as a cover for the eggs. A typical nest has three to six eggs. The eggs incubate for sixteen days

before tiny, almost featherless birds emerge. The adult birds both feed the chicks. At twenty-eight days, the new martins begin to try out their wings. The adult birds assist the babies and monitor their early flights to prevent the little ones from venturing too far too soon. Early morning and evening hours are the best time to see the martins in flight.

As nesting season draws to a close, purple martins begin to congregate in large flocks each night to feed and rest before beginning their annual trip to South America for the winter. Our WB martins will join hundreds of thousands of martins in the vicinity of Highland Mall. The annual roost is an amazing event to watch. Travis County Audubon Society hosts Purple Martin Parties and provides volunteers who will answer questions for the curious. Check their web page at <https://travisaudubon.org/purple-martin-parties> for updates about the days and location.



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*A nice juicy cicada for lunch!
Photo courtesy of Dave DeVore*



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RRISD Events & School Contact Info:

Back to School Celebration at Dell Diamond

On Sunday, August 5, get ready to go back to school by attending Round Rock ISD's Back to School Celebration. The event will be held at Dell Diamond, 3400 E Palm Valley Blvd in Round Rock from 10am to 3pm.

Students who attend RRISD will receive free school supplies, free food and free wellness checks while supplies last. The event is free and will include live entertainment and fun for the whole family. See you Sunday, August 5!

Upcoming Events

Aug. 5 | Back to School Celebration @ Dell Diamond |
10am-3pm | More details at RoundRockISD.org
Aug. 16 | First Day of School
Sept. 3 | No School | Labor Day
Sept. 7 | Grandparents Day

JLJ STEAM Academy

Get involved at Joe Lee Johnson Elementary STEAM Academy this school year by joining the JLJ PTA at jljpta.org.

Follow the PTA Facebook page. Along with the monthly email newsletter, frequent announcements and updates will be posted to the FB page. Follow us! (facebook.com/jljpta/)

RRISD JLJ School Page: <https://johnson.roundrockisd.org/>

Wishing each of our Trailblazers a fun and safe summer!
Trailblazers...Driving the Dream!

JLJ Steam Academy Garden News

by Heather Johnson, JLJ Garden Volunteer

The Joe Lee Johnson Garden continues to thrive this summer. This is thanks to our Gardening Angels, who have watered and tended the garden throughout this hot summer weather.



If you are interested in watering and harvesting the Joe Lee Johnson vegetable garden over the summer contact JLJGarden@gmail.com and we'll send you info.

Thank you JLJ Gardening Angels!

Wells Branch Elementary Arts Integration Academy

Be on the lookout for upcoming events in the 2018-2019 school year!

The Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is an all volunteer membership program that works collaboratively to bring programs, field trips, equipment, and materials that supplement learning. If you would like to get involved with the PTA in some capacity, email president@wellsbranchpta.org or visit our website at wellsbranchpta.org or facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/wellsbranchpta>.

WBE AIA Garden News

by Dianne Koehler, Garden Curriculum Coordinator

WBEAIA will be having a garden workday in early August to rebuild beds, mulch, and get the garden ready for the school year. We expect to have seedlings for fall planting available in September--Look for our Ladybug pots. We also expect to open the Farmer's Market up to the community again this year. Circle Friday afternoons on your calendar and watch for updates via the WB Google Group and Facebook.

Help Champion Arts Integration Funding at Wells Branch Elementary

by Jeaneane McNulty

Please join us at the July 19 RRISD Board Meeting to advocate for continued Arts Integration funding at Wells Branch Elementary.

Wells Branch Elementary parents and future parents: Nearly 3 years ago our school became an "Arts Integration Academy" and was TRANSFORMED! You cannot believe how beneficial it has been for our students and school community to use the fine arts as a springboard for student and family engagement. But many of us are worried that the district, after committing funds for the initial rebranding, renovations and training, are now losing interest in maintaining our high-quality arts curriculum and enrichment opportunities. This year's grant funding has been reduced. Already the arts camp offered the first week of summer has been dropped, and funding to bring in specialized arts educators for teacher training and enrichment programs has decreased. We are planning to attend the July 19 RRISD Board of Trustees Meeting as a group to voice these concerns. Showing up in a big group, with our WBE spirit shirts on, will let our School Board know that we are paying attention, and that we expect them to keep their promise to WBE: that our Arts Integration will be fully supported and "done right" - not just as a "marketing gimmick" to increase enrollment. If you are able to join us, or would just like to be kept in the loop we would love your support. Contact Dianna Gielstra at dlalsup@yahoo.com for more information and to stay updated. Please spread the word!

Deerpark MS PTA

Keep up with Ranger news!

LIKE us on Facebook at [DeerparkMSPTA](https://www.facebook.com/DeerparkMSPTA)
FOLLOW us on Instagram at [DeerparkMS_PTA](https://www.instagram.com/DeerparkMS_PTA)
FOLLOW us on Twitter at [DeerparkMSPTA](https://twitter.com/DeerparkMSPTA)

McNeil High School PTSA

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



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Concordia High School Future Students Open House

by Kurt Westveld, Development Director

Imagine a place where you know everyone's name, and they know yours. Filled with people who strive to love their neighbor and serve their community. It is a place that intentionally develops personal growth and leadership skills. This is Concordia High School, where students are loved and future leaders are developed.

Please join us for a Future Students Open House on Wednesday, July 18 at 6:30pm. Learn about the unique family culture, the successful and intentional college prep process, meet the faculty and leadership team and receive a tour of both our current Royston Campus and future Heatherwilde Campus.

All are welcome and we would love to meet you!
Details and RSVP at www.chsaustin.org/openhouse



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. For more info, call 512-413-0097.

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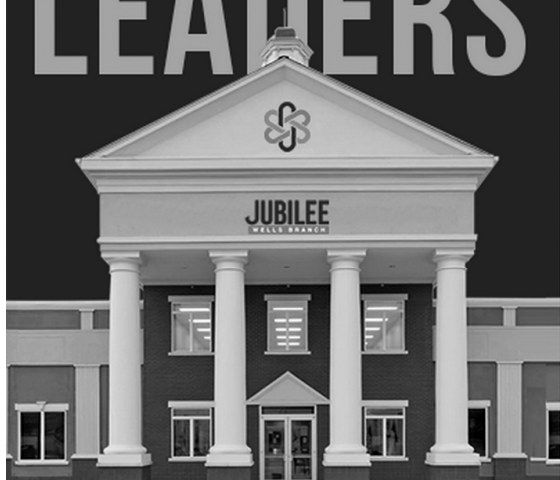
As part of my commitment to our community, a donation will be made to the WBCL or WB 501(c)(3) group of your choice upon closing.



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4th of July - Work Toward Your Own Financial Independence Day

 submitted by Nicole Viator, Financial Advisor

We're getting close to the Fourth of July, our national Independence Day. This celebration may get you thinking of the many freedoms you enjoy, but have you thought of what you might need to do to attain financial freedom?

Your first step is to define what financial independence signifies to you. For many people, it means being able to retire when they want to, and to enjoy a comfortable retirement lifestyle. So, if this is your vision as well, consider taking these steps:

Pay yourself first. If you wait until you have some extra money "lying around" before you invest for retirement, you may never get around to doing it. Instead, pay yourself first. This actually is not that hard to do, especially if you have a 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan, because your contributions are taken directly from your paycheck, before you even have the chance to spend the money. You can set up a similar arrangement with an IRA by having automatic contributions taken directly from your checking or savings account.

Invest appropriately. Your investment decisions should be guided by your time horizon, risk tolerance and retirement goals. If you deviate from these guideposts – for instance, by taking on either too much or too little risk – you may end up making decisions that aren't right for you and that may set you back as you pursue your financial independence.

Avoid financial "potholes." The road to financial liberty will always be marked with potholes you should avoid. One such pothole is debt – the higher your debt burden, the less you can invest for your retirement. It's not always easy to lower your debt load, but do the best you can to live within your means. A second pothole comes in the form of large, unexpected short-term costs, such as a major home or auto repair or a medical bill not fully covered by insurance. To avoid dipping into your long-term investments to pay for these short-term costs, try to build an emergency fund containing six months' to a year's worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account.

Give yourself some wiggle room. If you decide that to achieve financial independence, you must retire at 62 or you must buy a vacation home by the beach, you may feel disappointed if you fall short of these goals. But if you're prepared to accept some flexibility in your plans – perhaps you can work until 65 or just rent a vacation home for the summer – you may be able to earn a different, but still acceptable, financial freedom. And by working a couple of extra years or paying less for your vacation home expenses, you may also improve your overall financial picture.

Putting these and other moves to work can help you keep moving toward your important goals. When you eventually reach your own "Financial Independence Day," it may not warrant a fireworks display – but it should certainly add some sparkle to your life.

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Scouting in Wells Branch by Debby Thompson

Our community is fortunate to have so many youth opportunities right here in Wells Branch. All of our groups are off on summer adventures but will be welcoming new members this fall.

The Wells Branch Homestead sponsors Cub Scout Pack 140, Scout Troop 1409, and co-ed Venture Crew 1409. Cub Scout Pack 728 is sponsored by Wells Branch Community Church.

If you're interested in finding out more about either of the Cub Scout Packs, contact Pack 140 at info@pack140.org or 512-627-9741 and Pack 728 at wbpac728@gmail.com or 512-524-9095.

Scout Troop 1409 invites all boys age 11-18 to find out more about the Troop. Visit their website at troop1409.com, find them on Facebook, or email info@troop1409.com.

Venturing is a youth development program of Scouts BSA for young men and women who are 14 – 20 years of age.

Contact Jill Douglass at jdouglass@crew1409.com or 512-293-9022 for questions about the Crew or visit crew1409.com/ to learn more!

Pioneer Pals

by Gwendolyn Johnson, Curator, WB Homestead

The Pioneer Pals are currently on break for the summer. We will start back up again in September. Have a wonderful summer! Questions? Email gjohnson@wellsbranchmud.com.

KUDOS! KUDOS! KUDOS!

Thank you everyone for pulling together and getting the May issue delivered. It's always crazy during graduation season and you were AWESOME!

Emily Berver · Christine Blohm · Karen Buerkle · Ashley & Lauren Burns · Jim & Creola Burns · Chris & Alex Connell* · Alex & Noel Drew · Raja, Theresa, Ryan & Alex Faris · Delian Filip · Audrey & Kirsten Foushee · Michelle Gadush · Miriam, Melissa, & Briana Garate · Glen Garey · David Gezana · Noe Gonzalez · Carla & Alexander Gordon · Chris & Millie Harper · Jack & Mary Hendren · Travers Hough* · Barbara Howell · Blythe Johnson · Bruce Jones · Jennifer Jones · Sherry Lindig · Brian Litke · Donna Lyons* · Donna Malone* · Siv & Arjuna Manda · D'Arlyn Marks · Becky, Lauren & Jack McLain · James & Judson McWithey · Kelly Page · Jason & Kiarda Ray · Jeremy, Chevonne, Mina & Marleigh Read · Ron Robinder · Yessenia Rojas · Mark Schneider · Julie & Doug Schwartz · Alice Sears · Sonya & Ethan Shaffer · Virgil Smith* · DeLane Spriggs · Sharon Sproat · Mark & Margaret Sufke · Debby Thompson* · Mary Tibbets · Jill & J.R. Traffanstedt · Mike Weis* · Pamela & Bre Woodward

**Delivered more than one section*

A special thank you to Donna Lyons & Donna Malone for taking over the apartment distribution back in January. You are SO appreciated! And, as always, thank you to all who contribute articles and share information. Our newsletter continues to grow because of you. Keep the articles coming!



First Day of School August 16!

Northwest Elementary

NES Website: pfisd.net/Page/475

NES Calendar: pfisd.net/Page/42

Facebook: facebook.com/PISDNorthwest/

Westview Middle School

Ways to Stay Informed:

Westview MS Website: pfisd.net/wms

Facebook: facebook.com/WestviewMsWildcats/

Connally High School by Sheila Reed, Principal

EVERY day is a GREAT day to be a CONNALLY COUGAR!

Listed below are events worth celebrating that occurred at the end of 2017 – 2018.

Esther Lovato, UIL State Tennis Tournament – Esther finished 3rd in the State Tennis Tournament. This is Esther's third time qualifying for State. **Way to go Esther!**

The Connally High School Band performed for 23,200 registered runners at the Capitol 10,000 in April.

The Second Annual Cougar Pride Parade on June 1, Class of 2018 Graduating Seniors went to ALL of our feeder Elementary Schools: Ruth Barron, Weiland, Copperfield, Delco, Northwest, and Parmer Lane, as well as both of our feeder Middle Schools: Dessau and Westview. The Cougar Seniors paraded in the halls dressed in their caps and gowns. The Second Annual Cougar Pride Parade was bigger and better than ever and once again inspired our future Cougars and instilled pride in our graduating Cougars.

CHS Graduation - June 9th at the University of Texas Frank Erwin Center, 413 Connally seniors graduated. The CHS Class of 2018 earned 2.5 million dollars in scholarship money. Congratulations Connally Cougar Class of 2018!

We cannot wait until 2018 – 2019 begins!

Keep these key dates in mind; call for times (512) 594-0800:

Jul. 30, 31, Aug. 1 | New Student Registration

Aug. 6 & 8 | Course Selection Pick Up

Aug. 7 | Freshman "Cougar Camp" & Course Selection Verification

Aug. 16 | First Day of School

Sept. 5 | CHS Open House

Keep Up with Connally:

Download the Connally App: <https://goo.gl/RWz5Qg>

Become a PTA member:

chspta.org; connallyhspta@gmail.com

Connally Website: pfisd.net/Page/450

Facebook: facebook.com/Connally-High-School-1458721827756675/ & **Twitter:** @JBConnallyHS

District/CAMPUS Notifications: pfisd.net/Page/837

Ways to get involved: Volunteer for Campus Committees/ Booster Clubs/Organizations. Come Visit Us. Last but not least, ask your student about their day. Thank you!

All programs are free and open to the public.

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

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

First Fridays**

First Friday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

July 6: Ricardo Parra, Chilean guitarist and singer

August 3: Japanese Minyo Dance Performance

Armchair Travelers

Thursdays, July 12 and 26 at 6:30 p.m.

Travel the world without leaving Wells Branch! Hear travel stories and tips at this biweekly program.

Ukulele Club (Adults and Teens)

Tuesday, July 17 at 5 p.m.

Learn and play along with basic songs! A few instruments are available first come, first served.

SUMMER READING: LIBRARIES ROCK!

We've already logged more than 200,000 pages and minutes read in our summer reading challenge! Are **YOU** signed up? Keep track of your reading progress this summer for chances to win cool prizes and to unlock fun online games. Hurry! Visit wblibrary.readsquared.com to record your reading progress before July 31.

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 (Ages 0-3)

Tuesdays from 10:30

Learn Spanish vocabulary and early concepts.

Circle Time (Ages 0-3)

Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.

Learn basic concepts through songs and repetition.

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!

Summer Reading Finale Magic Show**

Saturday, July 28 at 10 a.m.

Celebrate the end of summer reading with a magic show that's fun for all ages!

WBCL Birthday Bash

Sunday, August 5 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Wells Branch Library turns 20 this year! Join us for an afternoon birthday party to celebrate.

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

SUMMER CLOSURES

Wednesday, July 4

Library closed for Independence Day



ADULTS

Open LAB Hours

Wednesdays, 4-8 p.m. | Saturdays and Sundays, 1-4 p.m.

Learn to use library-supplied tools to complete DIY projects.

Computer and Career Workshops **

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

Spanish Conversation Group

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.

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

Please bring your own yoga mat. (No evening yoga in July.)

Knit & Crochet for a Cause

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

Knit and crochet items benefitting the Austin Scarf Project.

Outside the Lines Coloring Club

Sundays from 1:30 to 3 p.m.

Come color and relax! Materials provided, no registration.

Family Tinker Time

by Kristin Johnson, Children's Librarian

Families are invited to explore STEAM activities, such as robots, coding games, engineering challenges, and more at Family Tinker Time, a hands-on class for all ages. Build a marble maze, a tower of blocks, a structure out of straws, a cardboard castle. Experiment with a variety of circuit activities, such as Snap Circuits and Squishy Circuits. Explore robotics and coding with the Ozobots, which are programmed using paper and markers, build your own Zoob Bot, try out a Makey Makey, and learn basic coding with the Code and Go Mouse game. There are activities that everyone in the family will enjoy in Tinker Time! No registration required. Join us **Thursdays, July 5 and 19, at 6pm** for Family Tinker Time.

Ricardo Parra in Concert at the Library

by Kristin Johnson, Children's Librarian

Visit the library for our summer multicultural series, First Fridays. In July, Ricardo Parra, a Chilean singer, songwriter, guitarist, and arranger will be performing a concert for all ages on **Friday, July 6 at 6:30pm**. Ricardo Parra has recorded three albums: a bossa nova album in 2009, *La primavera es de los dos* in 2013, and *Con la dulzura de tu niñez* in 2018. His music moves through various styles including folk, trova, bossa nova and blues. He has performed for the National Institute of Fine Arts in Mexico and universities and forums in the United States and Chile. Visit his facebook page to listen to his music [facebook.com/ricardoparramusica](https://www.facebook.com/ricardoparramusica). Register at [wblibrary.eventbrite.com](https://www.wblibrary.eventbrite.com) to attend.

See the world from the WB Branch Library!

by Brittany Patrick, Adult Program & Service Librarian

Explore the world without leaving Wells Branch! The library's Armchair Travelers series continues through July with two more exciting destinations. Hear your neighbors' travel stories and get tips for your own future excursions as we "visit" **China & Tibet on July 12 at 6:30pm** and **South Africa on July 26 at 6:30pm**. Refreshments will be provided and no registration is required. For more information, visit www.wblibrary.org or call the library at 512-989-3188.

FOL News

by Tracy Simon, President, Friends of WBCL

The FOL contributions to the Wells Branch Library have been very diversified this year. Among programs supported were a Children's Concert, the Storyteller at Pioneer Fest, the prize baskets for the Summer Reading Program (the top prize includes an Amazon Fire) and on July 6, the First Friday Program will feature Ricardo Parra a Chilean guitarist and song writer sponsored by the FOL.

We continue to collect books for the Port Arthur library and to date we have over 100 boxes in storage. Our next collection date is July 14 at Extreme Clean. Please bring your surplus books and DVDs between 8am and noon.

Visit [wbfriends.org](https://www.wbfriends.org) and our Facebook Page for event announcements. **Thank you Wells Branch for your continued support!**

Wells Branch Community Library District Celebrates 20th Anniversary

by Jeremy Selvidge, Outreach and Technology Librarian

The Wells Branch Community Library District was formed August 8, 1998, after months of hard work by Wells Branch residents to collect the signatures required to put the creation of a library district on the ballot. The library opened to the public a few weeks later, on September 12, 1998—out of a closet in the Wells Branch Methodist Church. Open just a few days a week, the library was made up entirely of donations from the community and nearby libraries and was run by volunteers.

Needing more space to grow, the library opened in its own space in Bratton Square on February 20, 1999. It was here that the library first made computers available to the public and launched some of the programs that continue today, like summer reading and our Polar Express Pajamarama. An expanding collection—including audiobooks and a growing collection of movies, first on VHS and later DVDs—meant that the library needed more space than its 2,700 square feet in Bratton Square.

On February 1, 2003, ground was broken on the library's current building on Wells Port Drive. After months of construction, the doors to our new home opened on December 8. Our collection has grown to fill our 16,000 square foot space, with more than 55,000 items on the shelf and thousands more available digitally. Our hours have expanded, too, with the library open seven days a week to serve Wells Branch residents. With concerts, special programs, book clubs, and early literacy activities, the library is as popular as ever, with more than 110,000 visits in 2017.

It's been a pleasure to serve the residents of Wells Branch for the past 20 years, and we look forward to many, many more! To celebrate this milestone, we invite you to join us for treats and fun at a **Wells Branch Library Birthday Party on Sunday, August 5 from 2 to 4pm**.

Looking for other ways to celebrate? Consider volunteering your time at the library, attending a library program, or simply shopping locally—a portion of the sales tax collected from businesses in Wells Branch funds library materials and services.





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Community Calendar

JULY 4 • FOURTHFEST 2018 • ALL DAY • KF Park
Fireworks at night by the Rec. Center

July 9, 8am: Guided Birding, Mills Pond Gazebo
 July 10, 6:30pm: Photography Club, Meet at WBRC
 July 13, 9pm-12am: Teen Pool Party, KF Pool
July 14, 8am-2pm: NEW HOURS! Extreme Clean
 July 21, 8am: Guided Birding, Mills Pond Gazebo
 July 21, 8:30am: Garden Guild - Meet at WBRC to carpool
 July 21, Dusk: Movie in the Park - **Peter Rabbit**, KF Park
 Aug. 7, 6:30pm: Photography Club, WBRC
 Aug. 10, 9pm-12am: Teen Pool Party, KF Pool
Aug. 11, 8am-2pm: NEW HOURS! Bulk Trash Day for In-District residents only, 13905 Thermal
 Aug. 13 & 18, 8am: Guided Birding, Mills Pond Gazebo
 Aug. 18, Dusk: Movie in the Park - **A Wrinkle in Time**, KF Park
 Sept. 1, 6-9pm: Labor Day Casino Night, WBRC
Sept. 8, 8am-2pm: NEW HOURS! Bulk Trash Day for In-District residents only, 13905 Thermal

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Tammy's Wells Branch Listings

3301 Bratton Ridge Crossing—2018 hardwood floors, soaring high ceiling, spacious open kitchen with island, 3 beds, 2.5 baths, 2 living, 2 dining—COMING SOON

3001 Feathercrest—Extensive whole house renovation, quartz counters, laminate floors, 4 beds, 2.5 baths, large yard, \$307,000—FOR SALE

2817 Sydney—Elegant kitchen remodel, 4 beds, 2.5 baths, 2 living, huge covered patio, \$298,000—PENDING

2003 Gaylord—Hardwood floors, 2018 stainless appliances, large yard, unique double-sided fireplace, 3 beds, 2 baths, \$295,000—PENDING

Want sneak peaks on my coming soon listings?
 Follow **Wells Branch Real Estate** on Facebook





Tammy DeWitt Le, Realtor®
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NEW HOURS for Quarterly EXTREME CLEAN & Bulk Item Trash Collection

Saturday, July 14 is our next Quarterly EXTREME Clean. Bring all your unwanted items to the WB MUD Maintenance Yard at 13905 Thermal. The WBNA, in collaboration with WB MUD, can help you recycle, reuse, discard or donate them! **ALL collections will go from 8am-2pm.** Details at wbna.us or wellsbranchmud.com.

If you are unable to transport your items to EXTREME Clean, you may contact Daniel White at 512-413-0097 to schedule a pick up by the Venture Crew. This service is a fundraiser for the Crew. There will be a minimum charge of \$20. Tips are welcome!

Beginning in August, Monthly Bulk Collection event hours will change as well. Both Quarterly EXTREME Clean and the regular Monthly Bulk Collections will now end at 2:00pm.

Free mulch will NOT be available at EXTREME Clean events, but will return in August for regular 2nd Saturday Bulk Collections.

HOLIDAY TRASH COLLECTION: There will be **NO CHANGE** to the trash schedule the week of July 4th.

OFFICE USE ONLY

Date: _____

Check: _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Support your Neighborhood Association


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

Here is my check (made out to WBNA) for \$20 annual dues for 2018

I am: _____ renewing my membership _____ a new member

E-mail: _____

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