



Neighborhood News

News and information for the residents of Wells Branch.
Vol. 24, Issue 1, January 2016

WBNA Needs YOU! by Debby Thompson, President, WBNA

Whether you're in-district or out-of-district, home owner or apartment dweller, you're a part of Wells Branch and that makes you a part of the Wells Branch Neighborhood Association. While membership in the WBNA is completely voluntary, your membership counts. YOU make a difference.

Throughout the year, the WBNA works to serve our community. Creating and maintaining our sense of community is really what we're all about. Whether it's the events we host throughout the year, our newsletter, the website, or our Facebook page, they all exist to serve you, our neighbors. This time each year, we ask you to support your neighborhood association by renewing your WBNA membership. Household membership is only \$20.

Membership in the WBNA helps to protect the value of your home by keeping you informed about neighborhood crime, proposed developments (i.e. housing, toll road construction, school boundary changes) and community events. We attend regular MUD Board meetings and host public meetings for the school districts, county, TXDOT and our State Representative in order to stay on top of changes that might affect our Wells Branch family. While we represent the greater WB area, our voice is stronger if we have a large membership of record to back it up.

The WBNA sponsors many events throughout the year that improve the neighborhood and help foster community spirit. Your dues, along with funds raised at the 4th Fest Silent Auction, pay for the annual Easter Egg Hunt, National Night Out, our participation at Trunk or Treat and Luminary Fest, Candidate Forums and Safety Seminars throughout the year. In addition to these events, our Board and Members coordinate and volunteer their time for Wells Branch at our Extreme Clean events. Together with the WB MUD, we continue to grow and expand the services offered each quarter. Last, but certainly not least, the WBNA Neighborhood News (six issues per year), our website wbna.us, and our Facebook page provide you with the latest information on what's going on in our community.

WBNA is literally a labor of love. It was created by and is run by VOLUNTEERS. All of these activities are funded through membership, advertising in the newsletter and the 4th Fest Silent Auction. While you receive all the benefits of having an active neighborhood association for free, your \$20 membership really does make a difference in what we can provide. There's a membership form on the back page, a printable version on the website, and an enclosed envelope in this newsletter. Can we count on your support this year?

Save the Date!

WBNA Annual Meeting & Election
Thursday, February 25 • 7pm
WB Community Center • 2106 Klattenhoff

WBNA Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday, March 26, 10:30am
Homestead at KF Park • 2106 Klattenhoff



RRISD Strategic Plan Meeting
Thursday, March 31 • 7pm
WB Community Center • 2106 Klattenhoff

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Membership Form on Back Page - Return Envelope in Center Section!

NOTE: if you joined after October 1, 2015, your membership is good through 2016.

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Primary Voting Locations

Early Voting Feb. 16-26 • Election Day Voting March 1



In both Travis and Williamson Counties, you may vote at any location displaying the **VOTE HERE** sign. March 1, we'll have three Travis County polling locations in Wells Branch: Northwest Elementary at 14014 Thermal Drive, Wells Branch Rec. Center at 3000

Shoreline Drive, and the Wells Branch Community Center at 2106 Klattenhoff Drive. All locations will be open 7am-7pm March 1.

If you choose to vote early, February 16-26, the closest location to Wells Branch is the Travis County Tax Office in Pflugerville at 15822 Foothill Farms Loop, open Monday-Saturday from 7am-7pm and Sundays from Noon-6pm. You may check online at traviscountyclerk.org for other voting locations.

Williamson County residents, please visit wilco.org for early voting information and polling locations. There are numerous locations that are an equal distance from Wells Branch; preference is determined by which direction is most convenient for you personally.



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Luminary Fest - Awesome, as ALWAYS!

Special thanks to WB MUD for hosting Luminary Fest! As always, management and staff did an outstanding job.

Matt, thank you for organizing and coordinating all the many volunteer groups who participated in Luminary Fest. WB Community Church, thank you so much for providing the photos with Santa! And Santa (aka Chuck), you were wonderful as always. Virginia and Brian, you help us travel back to a simpler time, thank you. BSA Troop 1409, you guys rock! Thank you for the toasty campfire; it was beautiful even with the balmy weather.

Jennie, Christine, and Cande, thank you for keeping the hot cocoa flowing and cookie trays full both nights and to the WBCC Band and Jessica Shepherd, thanks for keeping us entertained. Manny, Deke, Craig, Mouse and Jake, thanks for keeping us safe on the hayride. Gus, Linda, Lara, Pam and Donna, thank you for helping with the hayride lines; it was neat and orderly and everyone was HAPPY! Special thanks to our guest song leaders Brendan Berver and Kenny Peters; you were wonderful!

Extra, Extra, Special Thanks to Dianne Koehler for managing the Kids' Craft Night for the WBNA on Friday and then coming back and doing it all over again on Saturday (and with bad allergies to boot). Many thanks to our adult volunteers and our amazing kids from Girl Scouts, Venture Crew 1409, Connally High School and WBCC. Thanks go out to those who did the prep work for Craft Night as well: Janet for donating her vast collection of Altoid tins, George who painted all of those treasure boxes and Carla and Dixie who glued the snowflakes. The kiddos LOVED the crafts!

Last but not least, thank you to all of you who came out and participated in this Wells Branch tradition! It was a great way to finish out the year as a community.

Photos: We've got seven albums from Luminary Fest posted to the WBNA Facebook page including the Santa photos WB Community Church took at the Homestead. Click on 'Photos', then 'Albums' and scroll down. Events are in reverse chronological order. Thank you to our photographers: Madonna Johnson, Debby Thompson, Rob White, Tom and Debbie Zimmer, and the talented photographers with WBCC. Between the church and all of you, we ended up with almost 1200 photos of Luminary Fest to share with our neighbors!



Register Wells Branch!

by Debby Thompson, WBNA President

Okay folks, it's an election year and we need to get people registered - **ALL** our Wells Branch people registered. In order to accomplish this, we need volunteers.

It only takes an hour of your time to get certified and you can be as involved (or uninvolved) as you like. This enables you to be a source to new neighbors, at events, church, and social groups. It's a great service for all you realtors out there - offer to register clients at their new address when you close on their homes. If you plan on volunteering for a campaign, it's a benefit you can offer when block walking or at campaign events. Neighborhood Watch Block Captains, start now! Make it a routine. New neighbors? Ask & offer to register.

What I'd like to see for our community:

Voter Registration Booths at ALL Neighborhood Events

Voter Registration Booths at each of our 20 apartment complexes at least twice before the November election

Set up the first week of the month when rent is due

Coordinate a month in advance so that apartment management can promote the event to residents

Bilingual posters in apartment complex business centers, laundry rooms, and mail stations promoting registration

Register Wells Branch Day!

Organize Volunteer Deputy Voter Registrars to Block Walk (just like we deliver the newsletter)

Print out lists of registered voters by address

Block Walk to EVERY home in Wells Branch that's NOT registered and offer to sign them up!

If you'd like to be a part of this effort (however big or small), we have a training session set for Saturday, February 27, at 1pm in one of the portables at the Rec. Center, 3000 Shoreline Drive.

We need an approximate head count so that Travis County can bring adequate supplies. Please reserve your spot at vote@wbna.us. Questions? Call 512-656-0654.



Reduce • Reuse • Recycle

Mark your calendars for

Extreme Clean Spring - April 9

Bulk Trash, E-cycling, Household Waste (paint, anti-freeze, household batteries), Metal and Styrofoam collection from 8am-5pm, Habitat for Humanity from 8am-1pm, Goodwill collections benefitting Connally HS Project Graduation from 8am-4pm, a collection of items for those experiencing homelessness from 8am-4pm, the MUD's Drug Take-Back Program from 8am-Noon and FREE Shredding from 8am-1pm.

***We regret that we will be unable to accept car, boat or motorcycle batteries, cleaning products or oil/fuel of any kind.



22 yr WB resident & community volunteer

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

"We're so lucky to have found you to help find us a home. Thank you for everything you've done for us!" David & Jordan, 1st time Homeowners



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KUDOS!

Thanks to all who delivered the Holiday Issue of the *Neighborhood News*! You're AWESOME!

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Thank you to all who contribute articles and share information. Our newsletter continues to grow because of you. Keep the articles coming!

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

WB Photo Club Update by Margaret Sufke

Several members volunteered their talents for the annual WB Luminary Fest. There were dozens of different lighting opportunities which provided for great photographic experimentation. Be sure to check out the results on the WBNA Facebook page under *Albums*.

Our January meeting brought out new ideas for more hands-on activities. In March, we'll choose a monthly theme, focusing on a specific topic (e.g. architecture), then bring the topical photos (via flash drive) to the next meeting for peer review dovetailing into technical discussions.

We also laid out several ideas for upcoming photo shoots. WB events will provide some great opportunities to build both photographic skills and community involvement. We also have plans for a few exciting meet up sessions as we move into spring. Finally, we hope to develop and host our much needed platform to share information and photos. For more information, contact Margaret at mmsufke@gmail.com.

Attention Nature Enthusiasts: Birdwatching lectures returning!

by Brittany Hecker, Adult Program & Service Librarian

With the approach of spring, Wells Branch Community Library is bringing you our annual series of entertaining talks on birds & birdwatching in our community! This year, we have a wonderful lineup of presentations from the great folks at Travis Audubon Society, the Wells Branch Birding Group, and The Urban Interface. It all starts on February 25th at 6:30pm with Purple Martin Birdhouses, where you can learn more about the new Purple Martin housing going up around the neighborhood and the things you can do to keep these beautiful migratory birds coming back to our area year after year. Then, on March 24th, come see some Birds of Prey, up close & personal, with the animal ambassadors from The Urban Interface! The kids & family show starts at 6pm, with a show for older kids & adults starting at 6:30pm. The series wraps up on March 31st at 6:00pm with A Songbird's Guide to Gardening, where you can find out how to make your garden songbird- and butterfly-friendly through the use of native plants & water features! Wells Branch is a great place to be for those who love nature – so come meet your fellow bird enthusiasts and learn more about how you can get involved in this fun & rewarding pastime in our community!

Introducing Spanish Conversation Hour

The first meeting of the Spanish Conversation Hour, held January 14th, welcomed over 20 eager Spanish speakers and learners. Participants ranged from beginners to a native speaker—and everything in between. Our first meeting was spent learning some basics and discussing our plans for the group moving forward.

Beginning in February, each month we will review an article in Spanish and then meet in small groups of 3-4 people to discuss. For those who attended our first two meetings, be ready to talk more at our meeting in March! Our focus will be giving each person an opportunity to speak, listen, ask questions, and learn in a safe, fun environment.

Spanish Conversation Hour is held at the Wells Branch Library the 2nd Tuesday of each month, from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. All levels of Spanish proficiency are welcome.

For more information, please contact Ashley Burns (asburell@yahoo.com) or the Wells Branch Library.

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DIY for All Ages at the Library

Wells Branch Community Library is the place for creative expression and *Do-It-Yourself* know-how! Each month, the library hosts DIY sessions for kids, teens, and adults, where you can try a fun activity and learn a new skill to inspire your creativity. From yarn crafts to sugary treats to leatherworking and more - why buy something when you can learn to make it yourself? New topics are offered every month, so call or check our website for updates! Visit us at www.wblibrary.org or call 512-989-3188.

March DIY Sessions:

DIY Kids: March 7th & 21st at 3:30pm – Washi Tape & Duct Tape creations

Teen DIY: March 12th at 2:00pm – Cloth bookmarks

DIY Thursdays (ages 16+): March 10th at 6:00pm – Leather bookmarks (*online registration required*)

Understanding Islam and Muslims

Saturday, February 27 • 6:30-9:30pm

15803 Windermere Drive, Ste 603B

Pflugerville, TX 78660

Islamic Center of Pflugerville invites you to learn about Islam, the religion of peace, in an easy and understandable way and get answers to the questions that you've perhaps never been able to get access to. This free event is intended for both Muslims and Non-Muslims. Traditional food will be served.

Art Camp Spring Break

Birds, birds & more birds!

Tu-Th, March 15, 16, 17 • 11:30 am -3:30 pm

Let your kids spend part of spring break letting their creative side show. Just like summer art camp your kids will draw, paint and create a number of projects over the 3 days with art teacher Dianne Koehler. Camp is \$45. Call the MUD to register at 512-251-9814 or sign up online at:

https://apm.activecommunities.com/wellsbranchmud/Activity_Search/2362

Campers need to bring a snack and drink each day. All materials included. Only 16 spots are available for kids 7-12.

Camp location: 14611 Wells Port Drive, side entrance.

Snow Day: A new WB Tradition!

On Saturday, January 23, Wells Branch was blessed with SNOW! Not the normal kind that falls from the sky, but just as glorious! Thanks Wells Branch MUD for making it happen. We look forward to WB Snow Day becoming an annual event. Please visit the WBNA Facebook page for photos.



Photo by: Rob White

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Friends of the Wells Branch Community Library (FOL) News

Elections and General Meeting by Gus Kohn, President
A General Meeting of the Friends of the Wells Branch Community Library was held November 29 at the library. Activities and programs provided by the FOL were outlined and an election of officers was conducted.

All incumbent FOL Board members were re-elected. Doug Schwartz, a staunch supporter and active participant of the FOL, was elected to a vacancy created earlier when Joy Hall Bryant resigned after two years of exemplary service.

Current board members include: Gus Kohn, President, Tracy Simon, Vice-President, Doug Schwartz Secretary, Joan Mead, Treasurer, Madonna Johnson, At-Large Director and Wanda Holcombe, Library District Trustee Liaison. Please congratulate these individuals when you see them for their support of the FOL. If you are not already a member of the FOL or your membership has lapsed, [please join](#). Applications are available online at wbfriends.org/membership or the circulation desk at the library.

Polar Express Pajamarama

The FOL had a great time co-sponsoring the Annual reading of the Polar Express and Pajamarama again this year. Aaron Johnson read the story aloud to a packed room. Parents and kids in pajamas had fun making crafts and drinking hot cocoa and eating cookies. Afterward, they had the chance to visit with Santa



in the main library. Please visit the FOL Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/WBFOL/> to share your photos.

We had a great turnout and would like to thank Trustees Wanda Holcombe and Ralph Simon and FOL board members Madonna Johnson, Joan Mead, Tracy Simon, Gus Kohn and FOL members George Holcombe and Dave Mead. Thanks to Kristin, Brittany and Donita and the library volunteers for all you do.

Adult Program: Electrical Work A Homeowner May Safely Perform



February 28th from 4-6pm and March 6th from 6 to 8pm in the portable at the MUD Recreation Center

Master electrician and neighbor Steve Lyons will present this interesting and educational lecture in two installments, detailing the safe and efficient performance of electrical work possible by the average homeowner. What you can safely do and how to do it, and what you should NEVER attempt yourself. Join the FOL for this informative and productive educational opportunity. Sign up now at <http://electrical4homeowners.eventbrite.com!>

Lemonade Stand Earns \$70 for FOL

The FOL would like to thank Mischa & Tasha Sawatphadungkij for their donation of \$70 to the Friends of the Library. Mischa and Tasha sold lemonade to raise money for library programs.

Concordia HS News by Jim Binneboese

Concordia HS Seniors Have a Bright Future



Located at 1500 Royston Lane, just north of Grand Ave. Parkway, Concordia High School is the closest Christian High School to the Wells Branch population. The senior class

is excited with the fact that \$3.2M has been made available to them in College or University academic scholarships from 40+ schools. This amount is a new record for the school for this point in time and adds to the total of over \$21M offered since the 2005/6 school year. For students taking advantage of the scholarship offers, it basically means that the first year in college can be free.

Seniors are also participating in many other extracurricular and community events called co-curricular areas. These include sports, drama, debate teams, music and foreign travel opportunities. These programs contribute to a better, well-rounded student upon graduation.

Work is progressing on a baseball field at the schools temporary site on Royston Lane. Local donors have paid for a complete baseball infield installation for the High School team. In addition, a softball team has also been recently added to the sports program as has a swimming team.

Student registration continues for the 2016/2017 school year. Concordia High School is working to raise funds, start construction and to move to permanent facilities within the next two years on owned property on Heatherwilde and Wells Branch Parkway in Pflugerville. Contact the school office for more information and our exciting plans for the future – 512-248-2547.

HUGE Community Garage Sale!

**GARAGE
SALE**



**April 2 • 7am-noon
WB Library • 15001 Wells Port**

Reserve your space today in the library parking lot for Saturday, April 2nd from 7am to Noon and we'll send lots of customers your way! **You KEEP all your profits!**

Let the FOL help you declutter this

spring! If you have things to donate, give those extra items to the FOL booth for our fundraiser. Donations may be dropped off at the library from 2-8pm on Friday April 1st or rent a space and sell your own treasures.

Concessions will be available for purchase courtesy of the Friends of the Library. Proceeds from concession sales and items sold in the FOL booth benefit library programs.

Reserve spaces at
<http://tinyurl.com/FOLGarageSale> or sign up at the circulation desk at the library. Spaces typically sell out fast so get yours today!



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WBE Elementary PTA Updates by Blythe Jewell



While it's always tough to come back to school after a long winter break, at WBE there's a lot to look forward to this spring! Here's a quick rundown of our calendar through March:

February 15: President's Day – No School
March 2: Early Release at 12:45
March 14-18: Spring Break – No School
March 25: Spring Holiday – No School

Spring Festival and Silent Auction 2016

The WBE PTA is excited to host our 11th annual Spring Festival and Silent Auction on Saturday, April 9, 2016 at WB Elementary School. We'll have live music, great food, and tons of awesome games and activities. Not only does this event bring families, friends and the community together, it's also our largest fundraiser of the year. Funds raised support our students, faculty and staff throughout the year, sponsoring field trips and special programs like the Science Fair, International Fair, and Field Day. Please consider becoming a part of this great event by donating your time or items for our Silent Auction. You can email us at springfest@wells-branchpta.org for more information. And be sure to mark your calendar for Saturday, April 9, from 2:00-6:00pm – you don't want to miss this year's amazing event!

Yearbooks on Sale

The 2015-16 WBE Yearbook is now on sale! This all-color yearbook features photographs of our students, teachers, and staff, as well as all of our fun activities throughout the year. There's no better way to capture the memories of your student's year at Wells Branch Elementary!

Yearbooks sell out every year, so reserve yours online today at <http://www.balfour.com/texas/austin/wells-branch-elementary-school/>



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WBE Garden News by Dianne Koehler



This year has been a smash hit in the garden so far. The warmer weather allowed us to harvest (and eat) green beans, cucumbers, and tomatoes well into December. The kids have loved sampling the broccoli and cauliflower they are growing (and selling in the

Farmer's Market too.) Our donated worm farm made an appearance at school in January and has been more popular than any lesson we have done. It gets to come back in late April/May to enrich science classes campus wide.

Update on the Chandra Patel Mediterranean Garden:

Shelley Palmer developed a plan for this area with us, the team identified additional drainage issues which RRISD is correcting and we are targeting a grand opening in late spring before school ends. Not all of the plantings will be in place but the area will sustain the variety of plants and provide a great sensory experience for students. Thank you to all who made donations in Chandra's honor.

FARMERS MARKET: We have many plants in and have been selling out weekly. We are replanting as rapidly as we can to keep supplying our friends with totally organic produce, vinegars, bath salts and PLANTS for your garden. We expect to have tomatoes ready for purchase by late February, others soon after.

The Farmer's Market at Wells Branch Elementary (corner of Town Hill and Merriltown) is open every Wednesday at 2:30pm to sell ORGANIC student grown and harvested vegetables and herbs to the community. Special orders and late pickup are generally available. Watch the Google Group and WB Facebook pages for updates to featured produce and schedule changes.

RRISD Elementary School Updates

Corey Ryan, MBA, ED, Communications and Community Relations, RRISD

Round Rock ISD is excited to bring its Strategic Plan initiatives with two innovative instructional models for the Wells Branch community.

To view the attendance boundaries for Joe Lee Johnson and Wells Branch elementary schools, please visit <https://goo.gl/UE5Z7D>. The Board of Trustees approved boundaries at their December 2015 regular meeting.

WB Elementary School will open in August as Visual and Performing Arts Academy, a public school of choice. As a VPA, Wells Branch students will have the opportunity for special enrichment programs in the arts. The district is also exploring unique staff training opportunities to incorporate art into classroom instructional delivery. Research shows that students who participate in the arts are more likely to have social and academic success.

RRISD will open its newest elementary school, Joe Lee Johnson, as STEAM Academy. The school will inspire excellence in education with an interdisciplinary, cross-curriculum, real-world process of teaching where core subjects are interwoven. Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math - STEAM curriculum emphasizes collaborative, project-based learning and inquiry-based problem solving. Students will work together on projects, experiments, and hands-on activities guided by essential questions.

Both the VPA and STEAM models for elementary school will continue to align with the Aligned Round Rock Curriculum (ARRC) and the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), the VPA model will allow for some unique delivery of instruction and campus culture.

RRISD will host a community meeting on March 31, 2016 at the WB Community Center to share more details about both schools and its Strategic Plan. For more information on Strategic Plan, please visit roundrockisd.org/strategicplan/.



Northwest Elementary News by Cindy Padavick

Northwest Elementary just completed our annual Science Fair and had many amazing projects on display. We would like to thank our students (and parents) for all the time, effort and energy devoted to science fair projects, and our community members for being excellent judges. Currently, our students are gearing up for state assessment testing, fun-runs, movie nights and field trips.

Stay informed by checking your student's folder, the school calendar, Facebook, and the NW listserv emails for notices, times and information on all events.

SNO (Student Night Out)—2/26, 4/17, 5/15 6:30 - 8:30pm

2/15	No School (staff development)
3/14-3/18	Spring Break
3/25	No School

McNeil HS Project Grad 2016



**Reverse Raffle • 1 in 250 Chance to WIN
\$7500 • \$100 per ticket**

Winner to be announced at our February 20, 2016 Project Graduation Reverse Raffle

Winner Dinner (need not be present to win). A "Taste of McNeil" will be a fabulous evening of fun & entertainment. There will be plenty of food as we taste the finest of local restaurants that support McNeil High School. It will be a BYOB event with a DJ and a silent auction.

To purchase tickets, visit: mcneilprojectgrad.ch2v.com/content.asp?PageID=3

Connally Cougar Celebration 2016



Project Graduation's main purpose is to keep graduates safe on a night that is made for celebrating. Our CHS parents have been raising funds for two years to make this happen. Here's how you can help.

Reverse Raffle Dinner and Silent Auction - February 28, 6 PM at the Pflugerville Lion's Club

Please join the Connally Cougar family in a fun filled night along with the chance to win a \$1,000 visa gift card! It's our biggest fundraiser of the year, and includes a reverse raffle; entertainment; a delicious Cajun dinner; door prizes; games; raffle items; a silent auction and live auction with many amazing items! It's a wonderful evening and we hope to see you all there! Tickets are \$40/person, \$75/couple and include entry into the reverse raffle for \$1000 prize, dinner, and 2 drink tickets. For more info or to purchase tickets, contact Diane Upton at 512-917-7393, dianeupton99@yahoo.com, Debbie Brown at 512-422-2372, marketingimpress@austin.rr.com, or Linda Casper at 512-771-3005, ghosthouse5@austin.rr.com

Sheet Sales - Our **1200 Thread count sheet sets** for \$45 (all sizes) come in a variety of colors (aqua, black, burgundy, camel, chocolate, cream, grey, mocha, navy, plum sage, white, rust and lavender) and are amazingly soft and long-lasting. To order, please send your name, address and cell phone number, with size, color and quantity to Debbie Brown at marketingimpress@austin.rr.com or call 512-422-2372.

Flamingos - Let Spring arrive early with a **flock of pink flamingos**. Perfect for a special birthday, anniversary, or just for fun! Cost is only \$25! This is a unique way to surprise someone on their special day. If you're interested in "Flocking a Friend", contact Linda Casper at ghosthouse5@austin.rr.com, or 512-771-3005. We can't wait to hear from you!

Goodwill Collection: On April 9, Cougar Celebration will host a collection for Goodwill at the Extreme Clean Spring Event. Pick up will be at 4:00pm, but you may drop your items off any time during the day. Clean out those closets and the garage and bring all your goodies to the MUD Maintenance Yard, 13905 Thermal Drive and help us fill that 26ft. truck! In return, Goodwill will make a donation to Project Graduation.

Thanks for helping us keep the kids that have grown up in our neighborhood safe on graduation night!!

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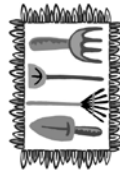


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Garden Guild

by Dianne Koehler

The group had a great trip to the Ladybird Johnson center in December and learned methods of propagation in January—hands on sessions with lots of plants going home. Our next couple of meetings will focus on 'New Methods in Home Gardening' on Feb 20th with Dianne Koehler and 'What to buy? Plants and Flowers to Select for Spring and Summer' on March 19th with Sheryl Yoder. April 16th we'll have representatives from a number of groups who are gardening in the neighborhood to discuss the accomplishments and volunteer opportunities in Wells Branch.

The group meets the 3rd Saturday of each month at 11 am at the WB Annex at 14611 Wells Port. Come early to share seeds, plants, food and conversation. This group is open to all gardeners in the area.

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

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American Red Cross Babysitting Training

Thursday, March 17 • 1-5pm

Cost: \$40.00, Max 10 participants/Minimum 6

Its purpose is to provide youth who are planning to babysit with the knowledge and skills necessary to safely and responsibly give care for children and infants. This training will help participants to develop leadership skills; learn how to develop a babysitting business, keep themselves and others safe and help children behave; and learn about basic child care and basic first aid. The recommended age for this course is 11-15 years old. Bring lunch to the class.

Course Syllabus:

- Respond to emergencies and illnesses with first aid, resuscitate breathing and other appropriate care
- Make decisions under pressure
- Communicate with parents to learn household rules
- Recognize safety and hygiene issues
- Manage young children
- Feed, diaper and care for infants
- Start their babysitting business

American Red Cross Lifeguard Certification

MWF, March 14/16/18 • 10am-6pm

KF Pool • 2106 Klattenhoff Drive

Fee: \$200



If you're 15 or older and looking for a great summer job or a challenging career that is in demand, the Red Cross Lifeguarding program is the place to start. Through videos, group discussion and hands-on practice, you will learn patron rescue and surveillance skills, first aid and CPR/AED.

This course is ideal for lifeguards looking to work at a traditional still water pool. This course teaches professionalism, patron and facility surveillance, victim recognition, equipment-based rescues, and caring for head, neck and back injuries. Upon successful completion of the course you will receive the following:

- American Red Cross Certifications
- Lifeguarding / First Aid (Good for 2 Years)
- CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer (Good for 2 years)

Prerequisites:

Must be at least 15 years old on the last day of class, and able to pass the following swimming test:

- Swim 300 yards continuously unassisted
- Two minutes treading water (legs only)
- Starting in the water, swim 20 yards using a front crawl or breast stroke, surface dive 7 – 10 feet. Retrieve a 10 lb. object, return to the surface, swim 20 yards back to the starting point and exit the water without using a ladder or steps. This must be completed within 1 minute and 20 seconds.

For more information and certificate requirements, please contact Katie Hutcheson at khutcheson@wellsbranchmud.com or call the Recreation Center at 512-251-9814.

Register online at https://apm.activecommunities.com/wellsbranchmud/Activity_Search/1612



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<http://www.wblibrary.org>
Mon -Thurs 10am-8pm
Fri - Sat 10am-6pm
Sun 1pm-6pm

Book Clubs

Steamy Reads: 1st Wednesday of each month at 6pm
Clueless Mysteries: 3rd Sunday of each month at 3pm
Wine, Women & Words: 1st Thursday of each month at 7pm

February is Love Your Library Month!
What do you love about libraries?

Blind Date with a Book - Come pick out a wrapped book, give it a try & let us know what you thought!

Classic Romance Movie Night - Feb. 12 at 6:30pm

Learn a language at the Library

Spanish Conversation Hour - 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm.

Spanish Storytime—3rd Thursday of the month at 11am

Sign Language Storytime— Twice each month. 1st Thursday at 6:30pm & 2nd Thursday at 11am

Teen Advisory Group (TAG): Earn volunteer hours and make an impact by leading events, creating displays, and suggesting new books. Fill out an interest card at the library to get started.

Jungle Walk with Elizabeth Kahura - Feb. 28 at 2:00pm

Learn about jungle animals through music, folktales, and puppets. Free for all ages.

Pete the Cat Party

March 18th 4-6pm
for all ages.

Have a groovy time at the library as we celebrate Pete the Cat with songs, stories, and crafts.

Library LEGO Fun!

LEGO Fun Day! March 13th 2-4pm.

Learning Fun 101 will bring LEGO and LEGO Robotics for ages 4+ to explore. Register at <http://learningfun101.com!>

Lego Lab - Open play for ages 5+. 2nd and 4th Mondays at 3:30pm

REGULAR LIBRARY PROGRAMS

YOUTH

Baby Bookworms (0-18 mos.)- Mon at 10:30am

Baby Bookworms (12-24 mos.)- Mon at 11:15am

Storytime & Craft (all ages) - Tues at 6:30pm

Arts & Crafts Wed at 6pm - ages 8+ (or with an adult)

Toddler Storytime - Fri at 10:30am

Preschool Storytime - Fri at 11:15am

Storytime & Craft (all ages) - Sat at 11am

Bow Wow Reading Dogs (ages 5+) - Saturdays at noon.

1,000 Books before Kindergarten: Pick up a starter kit!

ADULTS

Morning Yoga - Select Thursdays at 10:30am. Free for all levels. 2/04, 2/18, 3/03, 3/17

Writers' Guild- 1st Wed of each month at 6:30pm. Connect with local authors and get feedback. 3/02

English Conversation Group – Select Saturdays at 10:30am. 2/20, 3/05, 3/19

Knit & Crochet Group – 3rd Thurs at 6:30pm. Needles, yarn and instruction are provided. 2/18, 3/17

Adult Computer Classes – see our Eventbrite page for dates, topics and registration

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Terry Struble 1942-2015

The Travis County Emergency Services District No. 2 mourns the passing of Terry Struble, President, Board of Commissioners, from 1991 until December 23, 2015. His dedication and service to the District and to the

community is an inspiration to all of us.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made to:
First In Pfoundation, 203 East Pecan St, Pflugerville, TX 78660.



A Neighbor in Need - How YOU can HELP! by Tammy DeWitt Le

Our Wells Branch neighbors, Emily & Brian Robbins, are going through a serious health crisis. Brian was recently diagnosed

as having End Stage Liver Disease and is in need of a liver transplant. He has swelling of the brain, edema, reduced kidney function, infections, and other complications. Emily is his sole caregiver here in Austin. She has been overwhelmed with full-time care of her husband as well as running her household. If you can help in any of the following ways, it will be greatly appreciated:

- Lawn care: mowing, weeding
- Handyman help for light home repairs
- Car repair help or recommendations
- Help running occasional errands
- Pet care for 2 year old black lab (walks, baths, pet sitting)
- Bring a meal, sign up at <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/l8okv4> – extra fruits/veggies if you have a garden are wonderful

Emily says "I am continually amazed at how wonderful Wells Branch neighbors are and so grateful that we live here! Wells Branch really is THE BEST NEIGHBORHOOD!!! I don't know of a single person that's ever experienced anything like the generosity and caring of the Wells Branch community. It is truly something very special - a blessing, really." You may contact Emily at 919-624-9199 (text preferred) to offer any of the help outlined above.



Time is Running Out!

by Leisha Richardson, Secretary, Wells Branch Soccer Association

The Spring Season is just a few weeks away! Don't miss your chance to register for the most family-friendly soccer club in the North

Austin, Pflugerville, and Round Rock areas.

Family discounts, FREE private training, an unrivaled community, and great facilities are just a few things that set our rapidly growing (entirely volunteer-driven) club apart. Spots go quickly, so enroll before it's too late!

Register today at wellsbranchsoccer.com!

Changes in our ESD



The beginning of 2016 has proven to be a time of change for the District, Assistant Chief Thomas Crane with Prevention announced his retirement earlier this month. Assistant Chief Crane had been with the department since 2000 and worked with Training and Prevention. He created and headed the Prevention

Division for a number of years and worked closely with Wells Branch to secure the Fire Safety House. The Fire Safety House is an educational training venue for children to learn fire safety. The District uses the Fire Safety House at numerous public events during the year including open houses and National Night Out. Assistant Chief Crane started with the District when it had less than 30 employees and has worked through a time of rapid growth in the area and service expansion to over 100 employees. He and his wife Sharon are looking forward to spending more time together, traveling, and new endeavors.



As original residents of Wells Branch, John and his wife Nancy have exemplified community spirit and volunteerism. Through their involvement with the first Wells Branch Elementary PTA Boards, ESD No. 2, WBNA, Neighborhood Watch and Armada, they helped form and shape the community we enjoy today. Thanks for being such good neighbors! Enjoy your retirement!

- Your WB Neighbors

After 32 years serving the Travis County Emergency Services District No. 2 community through the fire department, John Grasshoff has seen hundreds of fires and helped countless residents. But his memories of a cherished career take him as often to construction sites and board rooms as they do to fires and emergency scenes. Not only was John Grasshoff a volunteer firefighter for nearly 20 years, he also served on the Board of Commissioners for the District from 1994 to 2004. He eventually became a staff member at the heart of much of the Department's expansion, serving in Staff Services from 2004 to 2015 and transitioning to Prevention. His current position in the Prevention Division as Community Outreach Coordinator, has been filled by Allison Strupeck after his retirement on February 12th.

His upcoming retirement brings John Grasshoff mixed emotions, yet he is lifted by the prospect of more time with his young grandchildren, Avalyn and Efrem. "I feel some emptiness," Grasshoff said. "It will be hard not being involved with people on a daily basis that I've worked with so long. I also feel like it will be a new start, helping someone else."

One of the people he will miss most is Ron Moellenberg, Fire Chief for the District. John Grasshoff met Chief Moellenberg one fateful night in 1984 that forever changed the direction of his life. During a meeting of homeowners in Wells Branch where John Grasshoff lived, Chief Moellenberg, the Volunteer Fire Chief for what was then an all-volunteer fire department,

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shared stories about the great work and bright future of the Department. He finished by asking for volunteers to join the small but growing force. "Nobody would step up, nobody volunteered," John Grasshoff recalled. "I looked around waiting for someone to volunteer, and then I finally said, 'I'll help you.' And that started a long relationship."

At the time, John Grasshoff was a principal at Travis State School in Austin, serving children with developmental and physical disabilities. His wife, Nancy, supported his decision to volunteer for the Fire Department while also continuing his school job and helping raise their two little girls, Lauren and Melanie, then aged 5 and 3 years old. "She thought my being a firefighter would be a great way for us to get involved in the neighborhood," he said. As they had hoped, John and Nancy Grasshoff helped bring the first fire station to the Wells Branch area. John Grasshoff also was involved in the construction of the larger Station 2 at its current location on Bratton Lane.

During John Grasshoff's tenure with the Department, he has been involved in other large efforts including the purchase of the Department's first custom built fire engine, around 1986; recruiting and training volunteer firefighters from the Wells Branch area; hiring the first paid Fire Chief for the Department; remodeling and maintaining Pfluger Hall; and the construction of the Conference and Education Center, the new Administration Building, and the expansion of the Training Field. The District recognized John Grasshoff's years of service and contributions with a reception on February 10.

See event photos on the
WBNA Facebook page from
WB events!

Dog Fair

Saturday, March 19 • 10am-1pm • KF Park

Calling all dogs! Wells Branch MUD will hold its annual Dog Fair the third Saturday in March and you're invited! Come and visit the many booths occupied by local veterinarians and other pet-oriented companies. Enroll your pooch to win prizes in one of the various free and fun competitions including Best Trick, Fastest Dog, Best Dressed, Dog & Owner Look-A-Like and our prestigious Wells Branch King and Queen contest. All dogs must be on a leash and under owner's control at all times and must be current on their vaccinations. No aggressive dogs please.



St. Patrick's Day Bagpipe Concert in the Park

March 17 • 7pm • KF Park • 2106 Klattenhoff

Wear your green and come experience Celtic heritage at 7pm on Thursday, March 17 as the WB MUD hosts their annual St. Patrick's Day Bagpipe Concert in the Park. March behind the Silver Thistle Pipes and Drums as they lead a parade through Wells Branch's Katherine Fleischer Park. The short parade will end at the Wells Branch Community Center Courtyard where guests will continue to be entertained by the band and traditional dances. Wells Branch Community Church will provide face painting and temporary tattoos.

Get a 30-Day Jumpstart on your health for only \$20!

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For times: www.motiv8fitness.net

Being active in Wells Branch

Attention Aquafit Group! by Katie Hutcheson

WB MUD offers Aquafit classes year-round each Monday, Wednesday from 3-4pm and Friday from 1-2pm at Willow Bend Pool. Water aerobic workouts are a form of fitness training that can be beneficial for people at any fitness level. The surrounding resistance of the water provides a challenging environment for performing exercises, according to the American College of Sports Medicine. Fitness training with water aerobics can improve athletic performance, aid in rehabilitation and improve activities needed for daily living.

Purchase your Multiclass card through Wells Branch MUD, 512-251-9814. 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!

WB Walking Club

Come out and enjoy this amazing weather! WB Walking Club meets in front of KF Pool on Tuesdays & Thursdays and utilizes the Wells Branch MUD trails. Meet-up time is 9am. Temps are mild in the morning and the trails are beautiful; it's a perfect time to start walking! Questions about this or Aquafit, contact Katie Hutcheson at khutcheson@wells-branchmud.com.

WB Running Club

The WB Running Club is a completely free and fun group of community members who meet every Tuesday and Thursday from 5:45-6:45am at the Gazebo in Katherine Fleischer Park. Workouts are tailored to meet the needs of every individual with members running at all different paces. Check out www.wbrunclub.com and come join the fun! Contact Russell Jones at Russell@wbrunclub.com or (512) 825-2369

Spring Break Sports Camps

Volleyball Camps

Tu-Th, March 15, 16, 17 • WB Rec. Center

Beginner Kids - \$75, 9:00-10:30am

Advanced Kids - \$95, 11am-1pm



For beginners, this uniquely designed and professionally run volleyball clinic will focus on helping players to reach their full potential by developing new skills and tweaking the current ones. Based on the skill level, we'll learn everything from core fundamentals and proper footwork to more vital skills like serving, passing, and hitting.

For the advanced level, we'll concentrate on high level, high impact, game-like scenario drills. Our certified volleyball coach will also be putting emphasis on the importance of communication, teamwork, and confidence while playing 6 on 6.

Basketball Camp

\$95 • M/W/F • March 14,16,18, 1-4pm • WB Rec. Center

Our coaching staff will be on-hand to get your skills honed for the spring. The camp will focus on fundamentals and conditioning for youth ages 10-15 years old.

For more information or to register, visit <http://www.wells-branchmud.com/parks-a-recreation/spring-break-programs>

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Cultural Diversity Day Anyone?



In January, the Wells Branch MUD asked for ideas for different services they could offer residents. A Cultural Diversity Day was suggested, as our community represents many diverse backgrounds. This type of event

would be a great opportunity to learn about and explore cultural nuances with our neighbors. Each of you are invited to share your proud heritages and unique backgrounds.

If you would like to help define and shape this event, please email community@wbna.us. Note your name, contact information, heritage you'd like to represent, and preference for meeting times. We'll contact you with meeting information. Remember, we can't do it without YOU! Help create a Wells Branch TRADITION!

Have you heard about the DIY club?



Neighborhood Handyman Daniel White is organizing a Do It Yourself Club for people who wish to learn to do basic home repairs. The club meets the first Sunday of the month in the Portable at the Recreation Center from 6-8pm and all interested neighbors are welcome to attend.

Our next two meetings will be in attendance of and conjunction with the FOL presentation of "Electrical Work A Homeowner May Safely Perform" on February 28, from 4-6pm. and March 6, from 6-8pm in the portable at the MUD Recreation Center, 3000 Shoreline Drive. Master Electrician, and neighbor, Steve Lyons will present this interesting and educational lecture in two installments, detailing the safe and efficient performance of electrical work possible by the average homeowner. What you can safely do and how to do it, and what you should NEVER attempt yourself. Join us for this informative and productive educational opportunity. Because this is a joint meeting with the FOL, please sign up to attend this presentation/club meeting at <http://electrical4homeowners.eventbrite.com>.

Our April meeting will focus on locating crucial shut-off valves--where to go when you have a gas or water leak to turn off the supply going into the house. Don't run around like Chicken Little, know what to do!

To join the DIY club please email wbdyiclub@gmail.com. We hope to see you at the meeting!

Silver Branchers By Darlene Bauhs

In January the Silver Branchers traveled to Brenham for a day of shopping and dining, culminating in a visit to the once again functional, Blue Bell Creamery.

We are hoping for a mild winter day for our planned trip to San Marcos on Thursday, February 18th. The plan is to try the glass bottom boats, visit other tourist attractions. Of course, dining is always a given.

Our next adventure is planned for March 3, destination to be determined. We usually leave the Rec. Center around 9:30am. For additional information, contact the Wells Branch MUD at 512-251-9814.

We are an active group of seniors who gather each Thursday to play games and enjoy each other's company. We meet from 1-3pm at the WB MUD Annex at 14611 Wells Port Drive. All residents 55 years and older are welcome. We have lots of exciting day trips planned for this spring. Check the Calendar at WBNA.us for updates on events.

Honoring Jonathan Lee

by his sisters, Jennifer and Jeanette Lee



Jonathan June Lee, 20, of Austin passed on December 3, 2015 as a result of a motorcycle accident. The son of Sung and Yi (Kim) Lee, he grew up in Wells Branch. Jonathan graduated from McNeil High School in May 2013 and was enrolled at Austin Community College, pursuing a degree in business.

"Family first" is what he always said. And he made sure that every person whose life he touched became a part of his family.

Jonathan was a young man who truly understood what love looked like. With the heart of a servant and a character filled with kindness and compassion, Jonathan's love knew no bounds. At the end of each day, he always made sure that the last thing left in your heart was that you were so deeply loved and cherished.

Someone once told us that she firmly believed that Jonathan was going to be the most successful out of the three of us. Now more than ever, we understand that the biggest marker of success is how much you've loved during your time on Earth. And for that, she could not have been more right. Jonathan will be deeply missed, profoundly loved, and forever remembered.

GET CONNECTED! Wells Branch Neighbors Google Group

Wells Branch Neighbors is a community-based Google Group for communications between residents of the neighborhood. All Wells Branch neighbors are encouraged to join.

HOW TO JOIN THE GROUP: It's EASY! Just send an email to the moderators at wbneighbors@gmail.com with your preferred email, name AND physical address in Wells Branch requesting addition to the group. You'll get a fast, friendly response. If you have questions or difficulty subscribing, please email wbneighbors@gmail.com.

WEEKLY Single Stream Curbside Recycling began in January!



That's right - NO MORE CALENDARS! Recycling pick up will be available EVERY SINGLE WEEK! The additional cost per household of \$1.75 per month will be absorbed by the MUD (yes, it's free, folks). The contract calls for a trial 15-month period beginning January 1, 2016 and ending April 30, 2017. During this time, the MUD will collect data to see if this additional service increases participation and warrants continuation. No excuses now! Please help spread the word and encourage your neighbors to RECYCLE!



For more info on curbside recycling, visit: <http://www.wellsbranchmud.com/services/recycling>

Volunteer to Keep WB Beautiful at "It's My Park Day" Saturday, March 5 by Brian Litke

Join Wells Branch for "It's My park Day," an Austin Parks Foundation (APF) annual event to get the public involved in sprucing up their local parks. APF provides free mulch, tools and other supplies for the project. Volunteers are invited to a cleanup day at the WB Disc golf Park on Saturday, March 5, from 9am-Noon. Our monthly KWBB event will coincide with "It's My Park Day" on Saturday instead of Sunday this month!

KWBB volunteers will pull invasive plants out of the creek bed, help plant trees purchased by the WB Disc Golf Club, cleanup litter and spread mulch around the disc golf course tee boxes. Please wear long-sleeve shirts and closed-toe shoes. It's our opportunity to make (and keep) Wells Branch the cleanest, most beautiful community in Texas! Volunteers will receive a free "It's My park Day" t-shirt and snacks will be provided.

For more details, contact Brian Litke at wellsbranchdiscgolfclub@yahoo.com.

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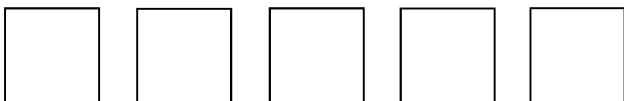
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HOW CAN I HELP? A Tribute to Steve Weikal

by Bob Bauhs

"How can I help" were among the first words from Steve Weikal after I was elected to the MUD board in 2010. Community was his concern and he expressed it by taking action. He embedded himself in the start-up of "Trees for Trails." He cofounded the "Google Group". He was a creative contributor to the kiosk design at the pond. He was always there when needed.



How can I describe Steve? His work in the Middle East gave him a world view and an appreciation for diversity. He was a friend, a quiet leader, and a driving force at St. Andrew's Church where he served as an Elder. He was courageous when he faced his own death and taught us by example.

Extraordinary describes him best. He is missed.



WB Armada News

Armada's 2016 season is currently "Under Construction." For those of you who are making summer plans, the Invitational meet will be on July 10, 2016 at Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas.

Online registration begins March 18, with onsite registration to be held on March 19 at 2pm and March 30 at 6pm at the WB Community Center at 2106 Klattenhoff. Please continue to check our website: <https://wellsbranch.swimtopia.com/> for updates as they become available.

Annual WBNA Officer Elections

Thursday, February 25, 7pm

WB Community Center

All residents (both in-district and out-of-district) are invited and **encouraged** to attend the annual WBNA meeting on Thursday, February 25, 7pm at the Community Center on Klattenhoff.

We will begin the evening by reviewing proposed changes to our bylaws (see page 19 for proposed changes) and finish with the officer elections. Below is a list of current board members who are willing to continue serving the neighborhood in 2016 and will be seeking re-election. They are:

President – Debby Thompson

Vice-President – Chuck Walters

Treasurer – Lara Bennett

Secretary – OPEN

Community Liaison – Tom Cheshire

Member at Large – Donna Malone

Editor – Pam Wachholz (non-voting)

Additional nominations will be taken from the floor. Many thanks to our nominating committee members: Salvador Aguirre, Madonna Johnson and Shannon Best.

Affinity, a whole new 55+ living concept, is coming to Wells Branch

Pssst! It's not a "retirement community." You just have to be 55+ to enjoy all it has to offer



Affinity
at WELLS BRANCH

WHAT:

Apartment homes for active adults 55+

WHERE:

Affinity at Wells Branch
14508 Owen-Tech Blvd.
Austin, TX, 78728

WHEN:

Move In's Coming March 2016

AT A GLANCE:

A 55+ lifestyle apartment where rent includes all utilities, including electricity, A/C, Cable and WiFi.

WHAT YOU'LL LOVE:

You will be surrounded with opportunities for fitness and socializing, including happy hours in your own pub with friends and neighbors.

FEATURES INCLUDE:

- Studio, 1, & 2 Bedroom Apartments
- All utilities, WIFI & TV paid
- Non Smoking Community
- Indoor Heated Saltwater Pool/Spa
- Internet Café
- Fitness Center
- Community Garden, BBQ & Firepit
- Theater & Library
- Woodworking Shop & Craft Room
- Dilly Dally's Pub
- Pets Welcome*

For Leasing Information:

14508 Owen-Tech Blvd. Austin, TX, 78728

Monday - Friday 8:30 am to 5:30 pm.

Saturday 10 am - 5 pm

Sunday 12pm - 5 pm

1-844-755-6371

www.AffinityatWellsBranch.com

* Restrictions Apply



BSA Troop 1409

2016 is off to a great start with Report to State on February 6 and a campout to McKinney Falls State Park from February 26-28. On March 4, the Scouts plan a lock-in with pizza movies. In April, the Troop will serve our community first at the FOL Garage Sale on April 2 and then Pioneer Fest, April 16. An incredibly busy month, we'll also be participating in District Camporee from April 8-10 and finish up with a Webelos campout April 29 to May 1.

The Troop meets on Sundays from 2:00pm to 3:30pm at the Wells Branch Annex, 14611 Wells Port Drive. To learn more about Troop 1409, visit our website at www.troop1409.com or our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Troop1409>.



Venture Crew 1409

This January the crew hiked the 27 mile Goodwater Trail around Lake Georgetown. This two night, three day adventure included below freezing temperatures, multiple water crossings, and lots of games. Only teenagers can hike with full backpacks for 10 miles and then play a rigorous game of Ultimate Frisbee.

This shakedown was preparation for our Spring Break trip to the Grand Canyon. Lessons learned included packing your sleeping bag and clothes in waterproof bags (a leaky 2 liter water bottle can wreak havoc inside a backpack), packing hearty meals (a cup of soup just does not provide enough calories after a 10 mile hike), and keeping your gas canisters warm if you want the camp stove to work in the cold morning (yes - that means keeping it inside your sleeping bag during the night.)

Wells Branch Pack 728 News

Pack 728 cubs have been quite busy. We held a cookie exchange, assisted Sheriff Greg Hamilton with Brown Santa, held our Pinewood Derby, attended Report to State and held our Blue and Gold. This was Pack 728's second year to participate in Report to State. We joined WBCC for Scout Sunday and handed out bulletins and held doors for members. Coming up we'll partner with Brian Litke for It's My Park Day and help his team beautify the Wells Branch Disc Golf area. Our biggest event this spring will be our campout at Camp Mabry.

We'd like to thank Wells Branch Community Church for letting us use the Live for More Center for our Cub meetings. What a gift we've been given! Thank you! If you'd like to learn more about WB Pack 728, please email pack728@gmail.com.



Birding in Wells Branch by Wanda Holcombe

New Purple Martin Houses in the North Meadow

The Purple Martins will be looking for a home this February and we have just the spot for them! Wells Branch MUD recently purchased and installed eighteen new bird houses in the North Meadow. Special thanks to the WB MUD Board for this great addition, the MUD Maintenance crew for all their hard work installing them, and Howard and Karen Hagemann whose passion for Purple Martins led them to request the new bird houses from the MUD.

Find out how you can become part of the Purple Martin volunteer group. Visit wellsbranchmud.com/purplemartinhouses for more info.

Keep your BIRD BATHS full during the wintertime for the care of our winter birds.....



Swing Dedication in North Meadow

Also look for the new swing in the North Meadow that was recently built and put up by the MUD Maintenance crew: Reynaldo Gonzales, Brandon Taylor & Felix Peña. The swing and adjacent tree were donated by the friends and family of Chris Holcombe with formal dedication in Chris's memory to be held on Saturday, April 2nd at 1:00 pm for the whole community. Please join us for the dedication and stop by anytime for a good swing and a little bird watching....

Hosted Bird Walks - See you on the 2nd Monday or 3rd Saturday of each month for the Hosted Birds Walks at 8:00am. We meet at the Pavilion at the Pond. Check the WBNA Calendar for updates and any changes.

Saturday, February 20 | Monday, March 14 | Saturday, March 19

Happy Birding!

Wanda, Sharon & Heather

For more information on birding in Wells Branch contact us by email: Wanda: wandah70@gmail.com, Sharon: srich816@austin.rr.com, Heather: frioswimmer@gmail.com

Wells Branch Neighbors

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Notice of Proposed Change to WBNA Bylaws

The Bylaws of the WBNA were last revised in 1999 and have needed to be updated for some time. We first announced these proposed changes last June, but felt it better to wait until the new year to schedule a meeting to discuss and vote on them. Below is a brief list of suggested revisions for member consideration. The original Bylaws as well as the proposed Bylaws are online at WBNA.us under the "About Us" tab. Please review and post any comments you may have to the website or email info@wbna.us. A general meeting of the Wells Branch Neighborhood Association will be held on February 25 to consider the recommended amendments.

Current boundaries are listed by plat and do not include any of the homes built after 1985.

Proposed boundaries will be expanded to include all of Wells Branch.

An increase in number of Directors from six (6) to seven (7) is also requested as an additional board member will allow us to better serve the community.

Officers are currently elected by position to one (1) year terms. We propose replacing this system in the following manner:

- Place Numbers 1 through 7
- Two (2) year **staggered** terms beginning with the 2016 election

- Each WBNA Director shall draw for a place number upon ratification of this document
- Even places shall be elected in even years; odd places in odd years beginning in January 2016/2017

Self Alignment with division of duties for the following positions following each election:

President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Director (x3). The Board may realign at any time and the title of Director may be replaced with appropriate positions as needed (e.g., Communications, Events Coordinator, Community Liaison).

Currently, a vacancy remains vacant until the next general meeting of the members. Due to the infrequency of "general meetings" as opposed to "events", it is proposed that the board appoint a successor to serve until the next general meeting where they may be ratified or replaced by the members.

Existing descriptions of board positions are outdated and some duties have been duplicated. It is proposed that base descriptions for the following titles (President, VP, Treasurer, Secretary) be updated and that three (3) positions of Director replace Community Liaison, Editor and the newly created position. Such descriptions may be found on our website.

Correction to various assorted typos throughout the document. Such corrections will not alter meaning.



Community Calendar

- 2/16-2/26: **Early Voting for Primary Elections** • See page 2
 2/16, 6:30pm: **Understanding Roth IRAs** • WBCL
 2/18, 6:30pm: **Purple Martin Birdhouses Presentation** • WBCL
 2/26, 6:30-8:30pm: **Northwest Elementary Student Night Out**
 2/28, 2-3pm: **Jungle Walk with Elizabeth Kahura** • WBCL
 3/1, 7am-7pm: **Primary Elections** • See page 2
 3/2, 12:45pm: **Early Release** • Wells Branch Elementary •
 3/5, 9am-noon: **It's My Park Day! & KWBB Volunteer Day**
 (WB MUD) • Disc Golf Course
 3/12: **Bulk Trash Day** for In-District MUD Residents • WBMtc
 3/13, 2-4pm: **LEGO Fun Day (register online)** • WBCL
 3/14-3/18: **Spring Break** • PfISD & RRISD • No School
 3/17, 7pm: **St. Patrick's Day Parade & Concert** (WB MUD) •
 KF 3/18, 4-6pm: **Pete the Cat Party** • WBCL
 3/19, 10am-1pm: **Dog Fair** (WB MUD) • KF
 3/24: **Birds of Prey Program** • WBCL
 6:00-6:30pm Kids & Families,
 6:30-7:30 Adults and ages 8+
 3/25: **Spring Holiday** • PfISD & RRISD • No School
 3/26, 10:30am: **WBNA Easter Egg Hunt** • WBH
 3/31, 6:00pm: **A Songbird's Guide to Gardening** • WBCL

Calendar Legend :

- MP**=Mills Pond; **WBCC**=Community Center on Klattenhoff;
WBCL=WB Comm. Library; **WBH**=WB Homestead Cabin
WBRC=Rec. Center on Shoreline
KF=Katherine Fleischer Park on Klattenhoff;
SA=St. Andrew's Pres. Church 14311 Wells Port Dr.;
LFMC=Live for More Ctr, Bratton/Merrilltown;
WBMtc=WB Maintenance 13905 Thermal Dr.;
WBA=WB Annex 14611 Wells Port

Recurring -

- Photo Club - 2nd Tues of each month, WBRC Portable
 Running Club - Tues & Thurs, 5:45-6:45am, KF Gazebo
 Silver Branchers - Thursdays, 1-3 WB Annex
 Walking Club - Tues & Thurs, 7am, KF Pool
 WB MUD - 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 5:30pm, WBCC

See WBNA.us for calendar details of all events

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WB SOLD STATS FOR LAST 6 MONTHS*

1100-1999 sq ft

37 homes sold
 Avg days on market: 11
 Avg sq ft: 1536
 Avg sold price/sq ft: \$141.47
 Avg sold price: \$215,323

2000-2900 sq ft

26 homes sold
 Avg days on market: 20
 Avg sq ft: 2174
 Avg sold price/sq ft: \$114.71
 Avg sold price: \$248,444

MY WELLS BRANCH LISTINGS:

- **14920 Bescott:** Gorgeous renovation and a prime cul-de-sac location near library & main park—COMING SOON
- **15716 Opal Fire:** Move-in ready Willow Run Beauty with laminate floors & huge open kitchen \$239,900—SOLD!
- **2305 Maple Hollow:** Fantastic location near park with large yard & upgraded kitchen, \$214,900—SOLD!

*MLS data from 8/1/15-1/31/16, deemed reliable not guaranteed



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Help shape YOUR Community! Get involved!

2015 saw another year of continued growth in our neighborhood association. Our community needs your participation and involvement. We need your membership, but more than that, we need you! Please consider joining the neighborhood association and volunteering your time and talents. We hope you'll join us for our annual meeting on February 25th. Please see page 1 for more details.

WBNA Annual Meeting & Elections Feb. 25th!

OFFICE USE ONLY

Dt. Rec'd: _____

Check#: _____

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 2016

February 2016

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