



## Annual WBNA Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 26, 10:30am

Homestead at KF Park

Join your friends, neighbors and **The Easter Bunny**, himself, as Wells Branch welcomes Spring with the annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Homestead. **"Hunts" will be by age group and begin at 10:30am.** Come early and visit with the Easter Bunny or have fun at our craft table. Bring your basket - We hope to see you there!



## Easter Egg Hunt RULES:

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

Age Groups:

0-3 yrs

\*Only 1 parent per child in egg hunting area

\*Watch out for potential choking hazards

4-6 yrs • 7-9 yrs • 10-12 yrs

\* No parents allowed in egg hunting area

## Food Bank Collection

As always, admission to the Easter Egg Hunt is completely **FREE**. However, the WBNA will have collection bins available for donations to the St. Andrews Food Pantry if you'd like to bring a canned good to share. We know it will be appreciated!

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

Check all eggs for prizes.

Recycle your eggs with the WBNA.

**Have FUN!**

## RRISD Community Meetings Planned for Joe Lee Johnson and WB Elementaries

By Corey Ryan, MBA, Exec. Dir., Communications and Community Relations, RRISD

The design and planning for Joe Lee Johnson and Wells Branch elementary schools (WBES), slated to open in the 2016-2017 school year as Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) and Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) academies respectively, are continuing in RRISD as part of its Strategic Plan.

The district is looking to add some new design features to WBES, including a stage, dance studio, and piano lab. The arts will be integrated into classroom instruction, allowing for students to participate in active and engaging learning opportunities. The district hosted its first budget workshop on March 3, which featured a line item for funding dance and theater teachers, as well as a VPA coordinator to work with teachers to incorporate performance and arts into instruction.

In addition to the VPA, WBES will continue to serve the community as a Dual Language Academy, a public school of choice and a destination campus for all of Round Rock ISD.

WBES Principal Belinda Cini will host a parent night on April 20 to discuss VPA at 6pm at the school. *See RRISD on page 2*

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**Membership Form on Back Page - Support YOUR Neighborhood!**

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

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## From Recent MUD Board Meetings

by Debby Thompson, WBNA President

Please remember, the WBNA (Wells Branch Neighborhood Association) and the Wells Branch MUD are two different entities; ours is a volunteer community group, the other, a governmental body. In the interest of our shared residents, we do our best to report on MUD events and Board meetings in an objective manner so that each of you are aware of current topics and can research those that interest you for yourselves and form your own opinions. There is a wealth of information on the MUD website: [www.wellsbranchmud.com](http://www.wellsbranchmud.com). For more information on any of the topics below, please check there first. Information may be in the form of a featured story or in the MUD Board Meeting Minutes or Board Packets. If you have difficulty locating what you're looking for, contact me at [info@wbna.us](mailto:info@wbna.us) and I'll do my best to point you in the right direction.

Regular MUD Board meetings are held the first and third Tuesday of each month at the Community Center on Klattenhoff unless otherwise posted. All residents are invited to attend. Meetings now begin at 5:30pm with citizens communication at 6:30pm. Agendas are posted the week prior to the meeting at [www.wellsbranchmud.com](http://www.wellsbranchmud.com) under the "Board" tab.

### Public Input for April 4 Work Session Board Meeting

The Board seeks public input regarding proposed uses for the property adjacent to St. Andrew's. When originally purchased several years ago, a destination Natural Play Park was intended for the area. While still a possibility, alternatives have been discussed in recent years including incorporation into the trail system with no further development or the possibility of a walk through nature park focused on native plantings.

How do you, as residents, want to use this land? Keeping in mind its location on the far southeast side of Wells Branch, should this be a destination park like Mills Pond and KF with its own parking or should it only be accessible via the trail system or an agreement with St. Andrew's? Do you favor an open walk through area or would you prefer an actual park type setting? Open wrought iron fencing with child safety gates opening to the trails and WB Pkwy with seating for parents, or no fencing, opening up directly onto WB Pkwy? A child friendly space or more for adult use? Perhaps a natural family play area like the one at the Lady Bird Wildflower Center or more walking trails?

How will this property best serve the community as a whole? There are so many factors to take into consideration here and

*See MUD News on page 10*

### RRISD from page 1

The design at Joe Lee Johnson will feature flexible learning spaces and areas conducive to science lessons of all kind. The district recently shared an article and video highlighting the school's namesake, a longtime educator and leader in RRISD and the first African-American to have a school named in his honor in the district. That information can be viewed at <https://goo.gl/9cxdg1> and <https://youtu.be/hGiFAWtb3iE>.

Joe Lee Johnson Principal Gabi Niño will host a parent night on April 7 at 6pm at the WB Community Center, 2106 Klattenhoff.

Both schools will be seeking student, staff, and community input for updated branding and logos. WBES will be selecting a new look Explorer to match the VPA model, keeping the mascot name that has become a tradition at the school. Voting will open at the end of the month presenting 2-4 Explorer logo marks, offered online and in person at the school. Joe Lee Johnson will select a new mascot and color scheme through a voting process starting soon.

More information on Round Rock ISD's Strategic Plan can be found at [roundrockisd.org/strategicplan/](http://roundrockisd.org/strategicplan/) and the school's websites at [wellsbranch.roundrockisd.org](http://wellsbranch.roundrockisd.org) and [johnson.roundrockisd.org](http://johnson.roundrockisd.org). The district will be hosting communities from both schools on March 31 at 7pm to discuss the future for the Wells Branch community at the WB Community Center, 2106 Klattenhoff.



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## WEEKLY CURBSIDE SINGLE STREAM RECYCLING began in January!

That's right - **NO MORE CALENDARS!** Recycling pick up is **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.wells-branchmud.com/services/recycling>



## Yard Waste Reminders

To participate in the curbside yard waste recycling, please place clippings in open containers (round black tubs) or the recyclable brown paper bags available for purchase at home stores. TexaScapes will not pick up grass cuttings or leaves in plastic bags. Branches should be cut in 6ft lengths and bundled together.

As the weather gets warmer, this type of recycling increases dramatically. Clippings should be placed curbside by 7am Monday morning. Some weeks, it may take TexaScapes two or three days to collect all the clippings throughout the neighborhood so please be patient.

## Free Compost

As a courtesy to In-District residents, the WB MUD provides free compost for pick-up at the Rec. Center on Shoreline. Please check in at the desk before loading your vehicle and limit yourself to four of the "Green Gold" containers (black tubs) so that all residents may have the opportunity to utilize this service.

## KUDOS!

You guys are incredible! Thank you for taking time out of your weekend to volunteer and for the extra time spent inserting membership envelopes in the newsletters! Your efforts in helping build and maintain our community spirit are very much appreciated!

**Dan Barnekow • Bob Bauhs • Emily Berver • Shannon Black  
Christine Bloemsma • Bob Bridges • Kathy Brown • Karen  
Buerkle • Tineke Blythe • Kim Clark • Chris & Alex Connell •  
Dan Ernst • Delian Filip • Michelle Gadush • Miriam,  
Melissa & Briana Garate • Dave Gezana • Carla &  
Alexander Gordon • Katie, Kenneth, Sam, Evan & Mara  
Halling • Cynthia Hannon • Travers Hough • Bruce Jones •  
Jennifer Jones • Kim, Dan, Brendan & Sarah Lanicek • Brian  
Litke • Nancy Loomis • Angel Lugo • Donna & Steve Lyons •  
Siv, Jyoti & Arjuna Manda • Peggy & Dave Rackley •  
Jennifer Ricci • Sharon Richardson • Kim Sands • Julie  
Schwartz • Alice Sears • Yvette Shelton • Ralph Simon\* •  
Virgil Smith\* • Mona & Gayle Speranza • Marie Streusand •  
Debby Thompson • Jill & J.R. Traffanstedt • Mike Weis •  
Daniel White\* • Wally Wingfield • Pamela & Bre  
Woodward \*Delivered more than one section**

Special thanks to the volunteers who put labels on our membership drive envelopes: Janet & Tori Maxey, Donna Malone, Carla & Alexander Gordon, and Debby Thompson.



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## A Wells Branch treasure just waiting to be discovered. Visit our Little Free Libraries today!

by Kim Lanicek

Do you want adventure? Do you want romance? Do you want a hearty belly laugh? Well, you're in luck and you don't even have to leave the neighborhood!

There are several Little Free Libraries (LFLs) all over Wells Branch. Most were built and installed as an Eagle Scout project, but the homeowners assumed responsibility for maintaining them once installed.

**What is a Little Free Library?** Well, it's little. It's free. Aaaaaand it's a library. It's different from regular libraries because there is never a fine for returning a book late (or not at all). You can add books to any LFL. You can return a book to a different LFL. Just remember that kids borrow books, too, so screen your donations, please. Half Price Books will gladly take your racy stuff.

**Are they just in Wells Branch?** Actually, no. They're all around the world! There is a plethora of information at [littlefreelibrary.org](http://littlefreelibrary.org). You can search for LFLs, buy a kit to make your own and register your LFL once it's installed (registration is optional).

**Can anyone have a LFL?** Yes and no. Some HOAs frown on it, so check with them first. In Wells Branch, most neighborhoods allow them, but you do have to get approval from the ACC (Architectural Control Committee). Sounds scary, but it's just a bit of paperwork that you can get at the MUD. They approved all the ones on the map, so it's unlikely that you'll get turned down, but that process takes time.

**I have a LFL in my yard. Now what do I do with it?** Congratulations! Once you have a LFL of your own, it's up to you to keep it stocked with books, audiobooks, graphic novels, etc. There are some places around town where you can find great titles at cheap prices: Half Price Books, Recycled Reads and the sale rack at the Wells Branch Community Library are good places to start. You could also host a neighborhood LFL book swap if you're so inclined. Some LFLers decorate their boxes according to the season or plant small gardens around them. It's up to you!

If you'd like to add your LFL to the map below, simply hop on the Wells Branch Google Group and announce that you have one. One of the active LFL owners in the neighborhood will take notice and contact you for information so it can be added to the map. At this time, there is not a person who

serves as a designated point of contact. It's a wonderful collaboration of neighbors.

**Why do some of the LFLs have yarn on the pole?** That was a surprise to the LFL owners as well as the neighbors who use them. Those with yarn were "yarn-bombed" by a group of knitters that meets weekly. They decided to use their spare yarn to add a splash of color to a few of them. If you knit or crochet, I'm sure you could "yarn-bomb" the rest.

### How do I find LFLs in Wells Branch?

I'm glad you asked! There is a link to an updated map at [wbna.us/community/library-boxes/](http://wbna.us/community/library-boxes/) that details the location of each box in the Wells Branch neighborhood. Not all are registered on the Little Free Library website, so this is the most complete "list" available. Challenge yourself to visit each one!

So go out for a walk, jog, stroll, or drive. Romance, adventure, and laughter are right around the corner!

***\*LFLs are not associated with the Wells Branch Community Library so please do not put books that belong to WBCL in a LFL box.***

You can find our Wells Branch Little Free Libraries on the following streets:

Alpha Collier Drive • Castle View Drive (2) • Emmett Parkway • Klattenhoff Drive • Mallard Green Lane • Mocha Trail • Nathan Drive • Rick Whinery Drive • Robert I Walker Boulevard • Single Trace • Spice Berry Cove • Surrender Avenue • Terisu Lane • Waterway Bend

For updates, please visit the LFL page at <http://wbna.us/community/library-boxes/>



See photos on the WBNA Facebook page from WB events!

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## Mandatory Stage 1 Water Restrictions

Wells Branch is now under mandatory stage 1 water restrictions. Assigned watering days are determined by property type, type of irrigation used and whether your street address ends in an odd or even number.

Residential	
<b>Hose-End Sprinklers</b> BEFORE 10AM or AFTER 7PM	<b>Automatic Irrigation</b> BEFORE 5AM or AFTER 7PM
<b>Even Address</b> Sunday & Thursday	
<b>Odd Address</b> Saturday & Wednesday	
Commercial	
<b>Hose-End Sprinklers</b> BEFORE 10AM or AFTER 7PM	<b>Automatic Irrigation</b> BEFORE 5AM or AFTER 7PM
<b>Even Address</b> Tuesday & Friday	
<b>Odd Address</b> Tuesday & Friday	

- Hose-end irrigation may take place between midnight and 10am and between 7pm and midnight on your assigned watering day.
- Please operate automatic systems manually when rain is forecast.
- If you need to wash a vehicle, you may do so at a commercial carwash facility.
- Charity car washes are prohibited.

### Stage 1 Exemptions

- Watering with a hand-held hose or a refillable watering vessel, such as a bucket or a Tregator®, is allowed at any time on any day of the week.
- Drip irrigation is exempt from the schedule, due to increased efficiency.
- To water trees, soaker hoses may be used under the drip-line of the tree canopy or you may use automatic tree bubblers.
- Watering a vegetable garden with a soaker hose is exempt from the watering schedule.

If you have any questions, please contact the Crossroads Utility Services at 512-246-1400, or WB MUD at 512-251-9814.

Source: wellsbranchmud.com

## Holcombe Swing Dedication in North Meadow April 2 • 1-3pm

Look for the new swing and adjacent tree in the North Meadow donated by the friends and family of Chris Holcombe. Formal dedication in Chris's memory will be held on Saturday, April 2nd from 1:00-1:30pm followed by a sharing of stories and refreshments from 1:30-3:00pm. Please join the Holcombe family for the dedication and reception and stop by anytime for a good swing and a little bird watching....



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## 2016 Summer Art Mini-camps

by Dianne Koehler

Want to bring out the creative side of your child this summer right here in Wells Branch? Join us for the art mini-camp program sponsored by the Wells Branch MUD (a portion of the tuition supports programs in WB). We pack lots of projects into each week of three half-day sessions: painting, drawing, 3-D art, fabric painting, mosaics, clay sculpture, murals, and art discussions. Each week has its own theme. Enroll for one or several. Camp is \$45 per 3-day session. Register in person at WB MUD, 2106 Klattenhoff or by phone at 512-251-9814.

### Junior Artist Sessions (age 7 1/2 or completed 1st grade-age 12) Hours: 12-3:30pm Tu-W-Th

**June 14-16 • Way Out in Space** - We'll create a galaxy mural, work with glow in the dark paint, and lots more.

**June 21-23 • Not Your Usual Paintings** - From the battle of the sunflowers (Monet vs VanGogh), to cave art, we'll explore it all & see how the artists created the effects.

**June 28-30 • Stars & Stripes (July 4th)** - We will work on lots of patriotic themed projects including a float for the WB parade on July 4th.

**July 12-14 • Drawing & Painting** - Can you draw your hand, a cat or dog, a blue horse, a guitar, a Martian, or winged fairies? We'll try them all and more!

**August 2-4 • Let's Imagine It - Let's Make It (science)** - We will explore our creativity and make things that move and interact.

**August 9-11 • Design It & Make It - Bags & mosaics & jewelry & more!**

### Beginning Artists Sessions (age 4 1/2 going into Kindergarten-7) Hours: 9-11:30am Tu-W-Th

**June 21-23 • Painting and Drawing - A Sampler**

**July 19-21 • Artistic Fun with Foods**

**August 2-4 • Wild-n-Wacky Arty Science**

## 11 New Volunteer Deputy Voter Registrars in WB! Get Registered!

On February 27, Travis County Tax Assessor/Collector Bruce Elfant trained 11 Volunteer Deputy Voter Registrars from Wells Branch!



The WBNA would like to thank Travis County Tax Assessor/Collector and Voter Registrar, Bruce Elfant for giving up his Saturday afternoon to come out and train us.

Special thanks to each and every one of our neighbors who volunteered their time to get trained and help get Wells Branch registered to VOTE! New WB VDRs (in alphabetical order): David Gezana, Mary Graf, Deanna Johnson, Gus Kohn, Janet Maxey, Victoria Maxey, Tracy Simon, Margaret Suftke, Debby Thompson, Kevin Ward, and Lisa Ward. Vicky Linsalata, Jane Marawar, Tina Holmes Pitzer and Yvette Shelton are also certified and willing to volunteer their time to help register folks. This is what community is all about!!

The last day to register to vote in the May 24 primary is April 25. You have until October 11 to register to vote in the November 8 election. Just moved? Name change? Not sure if you're registered? 15 of your favorite neighbors can help you with that now. All you have to do is ask. Call (512) 656-0654 or email [VOTE@wbna.us](mailto:VOTE@wbna.us) and we'll make arrangements to get you registered.

*\*For those of you interested in taking the next VDR class, please email [VOTE@wbna.us](mailto:VOTE@wbna.us) and we'll notify you just as soon as it's scheduled.*

## Birdwatching Lectures Continue

by Brittany Hecker, Adult Program & Service Librarian



The library has two exciting programs for bird watchers and nature lovers this March! On March 24<sup>th</sup>, come see live birds-of-prey, such as hawks, up close & personal with the animal ambassadors of The Urban Interface. Learn about these impressive birds and how they fit in to our local environment. We have a show for families with small kids from 6:00-6:30pm; a session for adults & older kids (8+ only) runs from 6:30-7:30pm. No registration is needed for either event. For more information on The Urban Interface, visit [www.theurbaninterface.com](http://www.theurbaninterface.com).

To wrap up our bird presentations and celebrate springtime in Wells Branch, Dr. Jane Tillman of Travis Audubon Society will present *A Songbird's Guide to Gardening* on March 31<sup>st</sup> at 6pm. Take a look at your yard & garden from a bird's point of view to learn what it takes to attract songbirds, hummingbirds, and butterflies. Find out how native plants, water features, shelter, and gardening practices combine to create a bird-friendly landscape for your enjoyment! Bird watchers and gardening enthusiasts alike will love this presentation. No registration is needed. Presented in partnership with the Wells Branch Birding Group.

For more information on these programs, please call the library at 512-989-3188 or visit us at [www.wblibrary.org](http://www.wblibrary.org).

*Photo of Cooper's Hawk by Dave DeVore*



## Leaf Blower & Mower Etiquette

Edited and submitted by "Your Leaf Raking Neighbor"

\*originally by: klimkm (z5) September 6, 2007



Spring is here and the leaves have already begun to fall. Please be considerate when operating your leaf blowing equipment (or any other loud outdoor equipment) and please, please, please properly dispose of the leaves!

It would be a shame for your neighbors to spend the same amount of time dealing with *your* leaves as you did!

**Please leaf blow at reasonable hours.** Give your neighbors some consideration as those machines can be loud. No leaf blowing before 8:00am especially on the weekends when people may be sleeping in!

**Do not use the equipment for excessively long periods of time.** Don't use it on High so you can go faster, it only has a higher pitched whine. You may have ear protection while using, but the neighborhood does NOT so give them a break.

**Do NOT dispose of your leaves by blowing them into your neighbor's yard.** Essentially this is akin to dumping your garbage in their yard. The leaves that blow into your yard are yours to deal with, no matter where the leaves came from.

**Do not blow your leaves into the streets.** It clogs up the sewers, and they get wet and slimy and pose a hazard on the street. It is prohibited in Travis County to blow your leaves into storm drains. You could potentially be held liable if your debris, in the right of way, causes any accidents. Report illegal dumping (leaves/debris blown into drains) to: Wells Branch MUD: (512) 310-4127

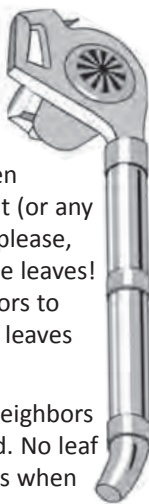
**Dispose of the leaves properly according to your area's laws.** Please ensure that bags are closed at top and containers are not over filled, otherwise all your hard work will blow away with the next breeze that blows by.

## MUD Retirees

**Virginia Almon, WB Homestead Curator,** has retired after 12 years of undoubtedly, the most enthusiastic service an employee could ever give. Virginia embodied the pioneer spirit. She reveled in history and absolutely glowed when speaking of the Homestead. We will miss Virginia and Brian terribly and wish them a joyous retirement.



**Margarito Arteaga, a stone mason with Wells Branch MUD,** has retired after 8 years of service. Margarito has been wonderful to work with as volunteers on our part; he's always been gracious and eager to help residents and has set a fierce example of what hard work is for the younger folks around him. The WBNA will miss him and wish Margarito and Maria a wonderful retirement!



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## WBE Garden News by Dianne Koehler

**Update on the Chandra Patel Mediterranean Garden:** We are hoping to dedicate the Chandra Patel Mediterranean Garden in May. The drainage work has been completed and Heather Johnson is working on getting the landscaper lined up for installation of Shelley Palmer's design. Not all of the plantings will be in place; the area will sustain a variety of plants and provide a great sensory experience for students. Thank you to all who made donations in Chandra's honor.

**FARMERS MARKET:** 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 for weekly reminders to the Google Group and Wells Branch Facebook pages as we update featured produce and any changes to schedule there.

## Northwest Elementary News by Cindy Padavick



All parents are automatically members of the PTO (Parent-Teacher Organization), so there are no dues to pay! There are vacancies in various committees, so plan on attending our next PTO meeting to see which ones you might be interested in for next school year. Many of our members have students that will be moving on to middle school and we have always had strong parent support and hope to continue this next year. Everyone is invited! The school year is coming to an end in a few months and we hope to finish strong with STAAR testing, Spring Fun Run, music programs and much more.

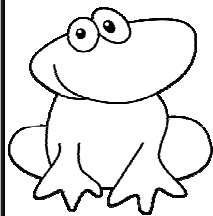
Stay informed by checking your student's folder, the school calendar, Facebook, and the NW listserv emails for notices, times and information on all events.



3407 Wells Branch Pkwy  
Austin, TX 78728  
(512) 218-4662



**Spring has sprung!**  
**Hop on in for fast,**  
**friendly service and a**  
**mouth-watering**  
**meal!**



Located in  
**The Market at Wells Branch,**  
(on the end next to Walgreens).

## Concordia High School Moves Forward with Building Plan Proposal

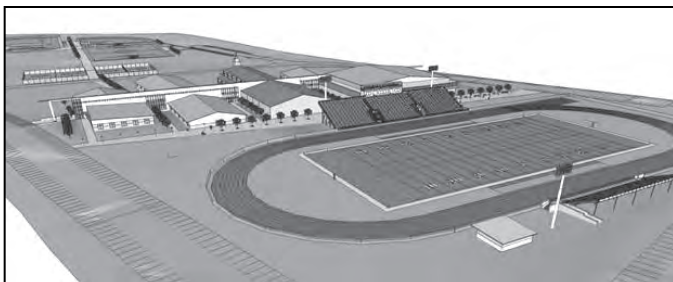
by Jim Binneboese



Located at 1500 Royston Lane, just north of Grand Ave. Parkway, Concordia High School is the closest Christian high school to WB. The Royston Lane address is temporary until construction of the permanent structure is complete. The permanent location for the school will occupy 45+ acres on Heatherwilde Blvd. just north of Wells Branch Parkway. Plans for the buildings and athletic fields for the first of the 6 phases have been drawn by the architect and are in the final stages of design and approvals.

Plans in final approval include a shell building with completed gymnasium and future classrooms, a football field with track and associated parking and driveways. An artist rendering of a completed site development and all 6 phases is shown below.

Development and fundraising work continues as the school moves toward a date for ground-breaking. The students, faculty and administration are excited about the future plans and look forward to a permanent classroom home and full athletic facilities. Those interested in enrolling at Concordia High School or being a part of the donor team are encouraged to call the school office at 512-248-2547.



## WB Elementary PTA Updates

by Blythe Jewell Gander

We hope everyone had an amazing Spring Break! We'll be back on Monday and preparation will start for the STAAR test! (Check school calendars for grades, dates, and times.) We've got 2016 yearbooks on sale already... and don't forget our Spring Festival and Silent Auction on April 9th, which is not only our biggest and most important fundraiser of the year, but also a huge event that brings families and friends from the whole community together each year.

**Volunteers Needed!** This will be our 11th Annual SpringFest, and we expect it to be our biggest and best so far – which means we need all the help we can get. So PLEASE consider volunteering or donating items for our Silent Auction! Signing up for either is easy – just visit our website at [tinyurl.com/wbegive3](http://tinyurl.com/wbegive3) to see a list of volunteer duties and take one, or contact us at [springfest@wellsbranchpta.org](mailto:springfest@wellsbranchpta.org) to find out more.

The PTA uses the funds from SpringFest to support our students, faculty, and staff throughout the year, sponsoring field trips and special programs like the Science Fair, International Fair, and Field Day... so the money we generate through this event has a direct impact on our school and students. Please consider helping!

**More on Yearbooks...** You can still order your copy of the 2015-16 Wells Branch Elementary Yearbook! Yearbooks sell out every year, so don't put off ordering yours – it's easy and convenient, with online ordering available at <http://www.bal-four.com/texas/austin/wells-branch-elementary-school/>.

## WBE Gardening Team Wins Award!

Thanks to the hard work of **Heather Johnson, Dianna Gielstra & Dianne Koehler**, Wells Branch Elementary has been awarded the 2015-16 Nourish U Award!

Here is information from the official award letter:

"Wells Branch Elementary was awarded a 2015-2016 Nourish U: Healthy Eating and Drinking Mini-Grant from the Michael & Susan Dell Community Collaborative for Child Health. This award of \$500 will support the **Discovery Food Taste Tests** for the 2016 school year, and the results are to be presented at the Collaborative's 4th Annual Wellness Summit in May, 2016."

To increase food knowledge and health, Round Rock ISD gives their students an opportunity to try a Discovery Food that is presented each month in the cafeteria. Wells Branch Elementary is currently conducting a "Taste Test" during P.E. for every class the week before the food is offered in the cafeteria. Thus, every student in the school learns what the new food is, hears about the health benefits, and gets an opportunity to see the food whole and taste the new food. In November the Discovery Food was spaghetti squash. For many, this was their first exposure to this vegetable.

Learn more about The Community Collaborative for Child Health, hosted by the Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living on their website: [www.childhealthcollaborative.org](http://www.childhealthcollaborative.org).



## Project Graduation

Project Graduation is an all-night, substance free party held to keep high school graduates safe on a night that had been one of the most dangerous. Parent volunteers plan and raise money for more than a year to make this a (safe) night to remember! Please support their efforts.



### McNeil HS Project Grad 2016

May is almost here and we still need to raise \$15,000 - everything helps. Donations are appreciated. To find out how you can help, visit: [mcneilprojectgrad.ch2v.com/content.asp?PageID=3](http://mcneilprojectgrad.ch2v.com/content.asp?PageID=3)

Smokey Mo's Supports McNeil Project Graduation! On **Monday, March 28**, from 4:00 to 9:00pm, we will have a fundraiser night at two Smokey Mo's locations: 10621 W. Parmer Lane (Avery Ranch & Parmer) and 6001 W. Parmer Lane (Parmer & McNeil). Tell them when you place your order that you are supporting McNeil Project Graduation and Smokey Mo's will donate 15% back to Project Graduation.

THANK YOU for taking the time to support our senior class!



### Connally Cougar Celebration 2016

Our CHS parents have been raising funds for two years to make this happen.

#### Reverse Raffle Dinner and Silent Auction:

We'd like to thank everyone who supported this event on February 28. It was our biggest fundraiser and we hope everyone had a great time!

**Rio Grande Restaurant Night:** Eat out at Rio Grande at 15821 Central Commerce Dr. in Pflugerville on Monday, April 4th, from 5 to 9:30pm, and they will donate 20% of ALL sales during that time to CC2016! .

**Goodwill Collection:** On April 9, we will host a collection for Goodwill at the Extreme Clean Spring Event (at the MUD Maintenance Yard, 13905 Thermal Drive). Drop off your items anytime before 4pm and help us fill a 26' truck and Goodwill will make a donation to Project Graduation.

**Cougar Crop:** Come enjoy a FULL DAY of Scrapbooking at CHS. CC2016 is planning an All Day Crop. Join us on May 7, 2016 from 8am to 6pm at the CHS Cafeteria. Your \$30 ticket price will include generous table space, snacks and beverages, lunch (Schlotzsky's), a chance to win fabulous door prizes, a silent auction with scrapbook supplies and craft items & tons of fun! For information, please contact Teresa Nicholson, 512-965-0276, [teresa@thecasinoconnection.com](mailto:teresa@thecasinoconnection.com)

**Deutschen Pfest:** CHS Junior and Senior parent groups will have booths at the Deutschen Pfest in downtown Pflugerville on May 20, 21, and 22. Look for us at the Wings N More booth and the famous Car Smash booth, where anyone can take swings at an old car with a sledgehammer!

**Sheet Sales:** Our popular 1200 Thread count sheet sets sell for \$45 (no matter what size), come in a variety of colors and are amazingly soft and long-lasting. To order, contact Debbie Brown at [marketingimpress@austin.rr.com](mailto:marketingimpress@austin.rr.com) or call 512-422-2372.

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## Garden Guild

by Dianne Koehler

This beautiful weather is really getting everyone excited about gardening and plantings. We have a full Spring ahead!

April 16, we'll have representatives from several Wells Branch organizations here to discuss how you can volunteer your time in WB and what has been accomplished in places like the Butterfly Garden, St. Andrew's Garden, School Gardens, and the new Keep Wells Branch Beautiful monthly volunteer program.

Coming up May 21, join us at 9am to sneak a peek behind the fences and see some of the best and most interesting gardens in Wells Branch. Take a look at how neighbors are planting to create an oasis in the shade or a sunny paradise. We visit both vegetable and flower gardens and take away great ideas. If you'd like to have your garden included on the tour, contact us via Facebook or email Susie Gillespie at [susangillespie4@gmail.com](mailto:susangillespie4@gmail.com).

The group meets the 3rd Saturday of each month at 11am at the WB Annex at 14611 Wells Port. Come early to share seeds, plants, food and conversation. All those interested in gardening are invited!

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*MUD News from page 2*

variables that would impact each choice: location; proximity to WB Pkwy; accessibility for all WB residents; purpose (more trails, children's natural playground, educational adaptation); kids/safety/fencing/WB Pkwy. Destination or pass-through? What are your thoughts? The Board would like to hear from YOU.

### Rec. Center Expansion

Estimated completion: March 29, 2016. Following completion, the facility will close for a few days for move in. An Open House will be held at a later date. Watch wellsbranchmud.com and the WB MUD Facebook page for updates.

### Wells Branch Soccer Complex

Fields remain scheduled to be ready for play August 2016.

### Rain Water Collection information & Approval Guidelines

intended to streamline the process are now available at wellsbranchmud.com/community-resources/architectural-control-committee.

### Dog Park Focus Group Updates & Amenity Improvements

The Dog Park Focus Group continues to meet and has made suggestions to the Board regarding the addition of new off-leash areas. The Bratton Lane Dog Park is in the process of receiving several upgrades. A gazebo for shade has been added. Benches are on order and the water tank should be installed by the time this newsletter hits your door (or shortly thereafter).

### WB Homestead has a new Facebook page

You can now find the Homestead on Facebook! Check out <https://www.facebook.com/wellsbranchhomestead/> for fun facts, a little bit of history, and event updates. Stop by and give a big WB welcome to the new curator, Gwendolyn Johnson, at the Homestead Festival, April 16 from Noon-5pm.

## Birding in WB - Spring Migration

by Sharon Richardson

The Wells Branch birders are welcoming the spring migration of birds. Join us on the first Monday and the second Saturday of every month at 8:00am at the Mills Pond pavilion. We walk the trails doing a bird survey that is entered into the ebird.org database.

The American Wigeons that have wintered on Mills Pond will be leaving soon for their northern breeding grounds. We should soon begin to see more herons and egrets as well as glimpses of yellow warblers in the wooded areas.

We have a new team of Purple Martin stewards monitoring the gourd station in the North Meadow removing House Sparrow nests and checking on Purple Martin activity. The Purple Martins rely heavily on man-made structures for nesting and breeding and reward our efforts by singing melodically and eating lots of bugs. If you would like to be a Purple Martin steward, or for more information on Wells Branch bird walks, contact Wanda Holcombe (wanda70@gmail.com), Sharon Richardson (srich816@austin.rr.com), or Heather Johnson (frioswimmer@gmail.com).





15001 Wells Port Drive  
Ph#: 989-3188  
<http://www.wblibrary.org>  
Mon -Thurs 10am-8pm  
Fri - Sat 10am-6pm  
Sun 1pm-6pm

### Book Clubs

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

### DIY at the Library- Everyone can learn a new skill!

**DIY Thursdays:** 2nd Thursday at 6pm- Ages 16+  
4/14 Sun Print Photos. 5/12 Essential Oils  
*Limited materials, registration required.*

**DIY Teens:** 2nd Saturday at 2pm for ages 10+  
4/9 Washi Tape 5/14 Bath Goods

**DIY Kids:** Skill building just for ages 5+  
1st & 3rd Monday workshop 3:30-4:30pm  
3rd Monday open creativity 4:30-6pm  
4/4 Button Making 4/18 Bottlecap Magnets  
5/2 Build a Robot 5/16 Fun with Circuits

**Tech Help Hour:** Get one-on-one help with digital devices and content each Fri, Sat and Sun from 4-5pm .  
Bring your device or borrow one of ours for first-come, first-serve help .

**Drop Everything And Read:** 4/12 is National DEAR Day!  
Celebrate with a special Llama Llama Storytime at 6:30. *Public computers are not available on DEAR Day.*

### Learn a language at the Library

**Adult Spanish Conversation Hour:** 1st  
Tues at 6:30pm. 4/5 & 5/10

**Spanish Storytime:** 3rd Thurs at 11am  
4/21 & 5/19

**Sign Language Storytime:** . 1st Thurs  
at 6:30pm & 2nd Thurs at 11am

**Mr Johnny and Sharon Concert:** 4/9 at noon. Sing, dance and play along.

**Mommy & Me Tea:** 5/7 at  
2pm Enjoy tea and light  
snacks as you read and do  
activities with your child.

**Screen Free Week:** Avoid screens  
except for work and school May 2-8.  
Take the pledge and complete an  
activity log for a prize.

**Resume Makeovers:** Get help with  
your resume. 3/26 & 4/23 at 10:30.  
*Eventbrite registration required.*

**Funding Your Child's Education:** 4/5 at 6:30pm. Information for parents.

**Teen Advisory Group (TAG):** Earn volunteer hours and make an impact  
Fill out an interest card at the library to get started.

## REGULAR LIBRARY PROGRAMS

### YOUTH

**Baby Bookworms** (0-18 mos.) Mon 10:30am  
**Baby Bookworms** (12-24 mos.) Mon 11:15am  
**Storytime & Craft** (all ages) Tues 6:30pm & Sat 11am  
**Lego Lab** (ages 5+) 2nd and 4th Mondays at 3:30pm  
**Arts & Crafts** (ages 8+ or with an adult) Wed 6pm  
**Toddler Storytime** - Fri 10:30am  
**Preschool Storytime** - Fri 11:15am  
**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. 4/14, 5/5 & 5/19  
**Writers' Guild-** 1<sup>st</sup> Wed of each month at 7:30pm. Connect with local authors and get feedback. 4/6 & 5/4  
**English Conversation Group** – Select Saturdays at 10:30am. 4/9, 4/16, 5/7 & 5/21  
**Knit & Crochet Group** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs at 6:30pm. Needles, yarn and instruction are provided. 4/21 & 5/19  
**Adult Computer Classes** – see our Eventbrite page for dates, topics and registration



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## Friends of the WB Community Library News

by Gus Kohn, President

**Thank You!** The Friends of the Library wish to thank Steve Lyons, Master Electrician, for his entertaining and enlightening presentations detailing the safe and efficient performance of electrical work possible by the average homeowner. Should you have any questions on material from the seminar, please contact Steve directly by email, [steven@lyonselectric.com](mailto:steven@lyonselectric.com).

### HUGE Community 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 1<sup>st</sup> or rent a space and sell your own treasures.

Concessions will be available for purchase and 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!

### FOL Photo Contest

Submit your Wells Branch photos 3/20 through 5/15/16, to be considered for the "A Portrait of Wells Branch" 2017 Calendar. See [wbfriends.org](http://wbfriends.org) for details.



### Membership Reminder:

If you are not a member of the FOL or your membership has lapsed, **please join**. Applications are available online at [wbfriends.org/membership](http://wbfriends.org/membership) or the circulation desk at the library.

## Celebrate Cultural Diversity!



Wells Branch is one of, if not the most, diverse populations in Travis County, and we want to celebrate this with a Diversity Fair this Fall. We need neighbors from the various cultures here to plan the Festival.

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 varied backgrounds. This type of event would be a great opportunity to learn about and explore cultural nuances with our neighbors. Each of us is invited to share our proud heritages and unique backgrounds.

If you would like to help define and shape this event, please email [community@wbna.us](mailto: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!

## MUD Events

### Keep WB Beautiful Trash Off

**Saturday, April 9 • 10am-1pm • 14611 Wells Port**

The Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off is part of the partnership between Keep Texas Beautiful and the Texas Department of Transportation. Participants will receive trash bags, volunteer giveaways, promotional items and more. Cleanup efforts will be from 10 am through 1 pm. Meet at the MUD Annex, 14611 Wells Port Drive. Volunteers from local neighborhood groups, civic organizations, businesses, industries, scout troops, youth groups, church groups, and other community organizations, as well as individual citizens, are welcome to participate. Questions? Contact Katie Hutcheson at [khutcheson@wellsbranchmud.com](mailto:khutcheson@wellsbranchmud.com).

### Pioneer Festival

**Saturday, April 16 • Noon-5pm • WB Homestead**

One of our Wells Branch traditions, the annual Pioneer Festival celebrates Texas history by offering a window to our past. Pioneer Fest is centered around the historic Wells Branch Gault Homestead, the 1850s-era cabin in Katherine Fleischer Park and features fun and educational activities throughout the day so each of us may experience the history of 19th Century Texas. Demonstrations include clothes washing, corn shelling, syrup making and butter churning, just to name a few. You will also find exhibits of antique bikes, antique coins, Texas camel history, weavers, spinners, and all sorts of 1850s era displays. There will also be fun things for the kids to make and take. If you would like to volunteer or have a craft or activity from that period for demonstration, call the MUD office at 512-251-9814. This event is hosted by the MUD with just about every single community service group participating - a TRUE community event!



### Spring Youth Fishing Tournament

**Saturday, May 7 • 9am-Noon • Mills Pond**

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

## WB Crime Stats

As an added feature for our neighborhood watch groups, the WBNA will now post monthly crime statistics for Wells Branch, as supplied by the Travis County Sheriff's Office, under the 'Safety' tab at [wbna.us](http://wbna.us). Data will be in Excel format so that you may sort either by crime or address. Street names will be listed; addresses will not. Please note that these lists do not include Deceased Persons, Sexual Assaults, all crimes against children, and Emotionally Disturbed Persons. This page will be updated monthly with the previous month posted around the 10th of the current month. Questions? [Info@wbna.us](mailto:Info@wbna.us)

For daily emails regarding criminal activity, sign up for notifications at [SpotCrime.com](http://SpotCrime.com).

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## Have you heard about the DIY club?

WB Handyman Daniel White has organized 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 at the Recreation Center from 6-8pm and all interested neighbors are welcome to attend. Questions? Email [wbdclub@gmail.com](mailto:wbdclub@gmail.com).

Our April 3rd meeting will be held at the WB MUD Annex at 14611 Wells Port and 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!

**11th Annual**

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10 tickets = \$5  
50 tickets = \$25  
110 tickets = \$50

**Saturday April 9th, 2016 2pm - 6pm**

at Wells Branch Elementary 14650 Merriltown Dr., Austin, TX 78728

## It's My Park Day at Wells Branch 2016

by Brian Litke

Over 80 people came out to the park to volunteer for It's My Park Day at the Wells Branch Disc Golf course and greenbelt on March 6. Volunteers included WB and Pflugerville residents, as well as many Scouts from Daisy Troop 1547, Girl Scouts of West Round Rock Troops 488, 1358, 1742, and Cub Scout Pack 728. Thank you all for lending a hand to Keep Wells Branch Beautiful!

Volunteers helped out by:

- distributing mulch around trees to protect them from drought and soil compaction.
- picking up lots of litter
- pulling invasive ligustrum, and
- planting 14 new trees and bushes in the greenbelt.

We planted drought-tolerant plants, including:

- 2 Texas Cedar Elm trees
- 2 Chinkapin Oak trees
- 2 Monterrey Oak trees
- 2 Crepe Myrtles trees
- 1 Texas Buckeye tree
- 1 Anacacho Orchid tree
- 4 Possumhaw Holly bushes
- Many inland sea oat grasses along the creek.



Thank you to Austin Parks Foundation for sponsoring the event. Thanks to Wheatsville COOP for donating snacks. Thank you to the Wells Branch Disc Golf Club for donating \$350 worth of trees. Thank you to the MUD for continuing to maintain our wonderful greenbelt. Thank you to Wells Branch MUD staff, led on this workday by Katie Hutcheson. Thank you to Brian Litke for organizing the workday. And thanks to WB MUD Board members Janet Maxey and Shelley Palmer who helped out at the event.

## Disc Golf Tournament in May

by Brian Litke

Wells Branch residents are invited to participate in the 4th Annual WB Disc Golf Tournament, on Saturday, May 21. Registration will run from 9-10am. An awards ceremony will be held after the round at 1:30pm after the final group has completed their round.

Each participant will receive a disc golf disc with custom artwork as part of their registration (\$10 Pre-register or \$15 On-site). There will be door prizes from local businesses awarded at signup, and the Wells Branch Disc Golf Club is donating prizes for the winners of each division.

In this casual tournament, players will compete in age brackets with separate male and female divisions as defined by the Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA) rules. (Legend 70+, Senior Grandmasters: 60+, Grand Masters: 50+, Recreational: 20-49, Junior I: 17-19, Junior II: 14-16, Junior III: 11-13, Junior IV: 10 and under). Preregistration is only \$10 at the WB Recreation Center, 3000 Shoreline Dr. You may also call to register at 512-251-9814 or email your registration request to [rec@wellsbranchmud.com](mailto:rec@wellsbranchmud.com).

The Wells Branch Disc Golf Course is located on Owen Tech Blvd across from Whataburger. Parking is available along the street.

## **EXTREME CLEAN** **Saturday, April 9** **WB Maintenance Yard** **13905 Thermal Drive**

### **FREE Drug Disposal** **8am-Noon**

Safe & easy disposal of excess, expired or unwanted prescription AND over-the-counter medication, including vitamins. More information on how to properly dispose of medication can be found at [www.dontflushdrugs.org](http://www.dontflushdrugs.org).

### **FREE Shredding** **8am-1pm**

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

### **Habitat for Humanity • 8am-1pm** **Goodwill Donations** **Benefitting Connally HS Project Graduation** **8am-4pm**

All donations accepted.

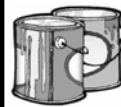
### **Homeless Helpings • 8am-4pm**

Accepting hotel-size toiletries for those experiencing homelessness.

### **E-cycling • 8am-5pm**

Dispose of unwanted computers and other electronics responsibly **HERE!**

### **Bulk Trash • Styrofoam • Metal** **& Cardboard Drop Off** **Household Waste Collection** **8am-5pm**



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\***MUST** be in closed container.

**ATTENTION:** We will no longer be able to accept ANY TYPE of OIL (cooking or motor), car or boat batteries.

Motor oil may be dropped off at McSpadden's Automotive (NW corner of IH35/WB Pkwy) from 8am-4pm free of charge. For a complete revised list of acceptable items, see [WBNA.us](http://WBNA.us). Questions? Call 512-656-0654.





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## Fitness in Wells Branch

### Get FIT with Aquafit! 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! For more information, contact Katie Hutcheson at [khutcheson@wellsbranchmud.com](mailto:khutcheson@wellsbranchmud.com).

### WB Running Club by Russell Jones

The Wells Branch Running Club is a completely free and fun group of over 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.

For more information go to [www.wbrunclub.com](http://www.wbrunclub.com) or contact Russell at [Russell@wbrunclub.com](mailto:Russell@wbrunclub.com) or (512)825-2369.

### 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? Contact Katie Hutcheson at [khutcheson@wellsbranchmud.com](mailto:khutcheson@wellsbranchmud.com).

## WB Inaugural Kite Fest

Special thanks to Mark and Heather Johnson for this spectacular idea! We had perfect weather and a steady crowd all day long. It was a great event that all enjoyed—let's make it happen every year!



Photo by Bruce Jones

Thanks go out to BSA Troop 1409 for selling water. Check out the WBNA Facebook page (under Photos/Albums) where our wonderful Wells Branch photographers have posted pictures of the event. Thanks Rob White, Bruce Jones, and Gus Kohn!

## It's Springtime and the CRITTERS are BACK!

Expect an increase in critters of all kinds (possums, raccoons, snakes, rats, coyotes) this spring as we have several new construction projects underway in and around Wells Branch. There have been reports of increased coyote sightings in the area so remember to keep small-medium size pets inside, especially around dusk and after dark.



Photo by Brad Dushkin

With the mild winter we've had, our slithery friends are already out and about! Please remember that rat snakes are our FRIENDS. They earn their keep around here by keeping the rodent population down. While they can get quite large, they don't pose a threat to you, your children or your pets and are reluctant to bite unless messed with - leave them be and they'll go on about their business.

Unsure about which snakes are harmless and which may be venomous? Visit [austinreptileservice.net/guide](http://austinreptileservice.net/guide) to learn more. This site makes it easy by breaking them down by stripes, blotches, diamonds, bands and solid color snakes.

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## Styrofoam Collection

For those requesting Styrofoam pick up, it's back! We will be accepting it at the quarterly Extreme Clean events held the second Saturday of January, April, July & October each year. Bring your Styrofoam to the MUD Maintenance Yard, 13905 Thermal from 8am-5pm Saturday, April 9. Friendly WBNA volunteers will help you unload it and the MUD will graciously transport it the COA/ Travis County recycling facility for us on Monday.



## Silver Branchers

By Darlene Bauhs

The Silver Branchers' March 3rd trip to Wimberley provided some lovely Hill Country vistas due to an I-35 detour. Wimberley shops did not disappoint and lunch at a restaurant with a patio on the river bank was idyllic. A few miles upstream toward Pioneer Town, we saw firsthand the jaw dropping evidence of the 2015 floods. Unbelievable!

On April 16 the Branchers will watch over Elmo the buffalo during Pioneer Day. Be sure to come by and say hello!

Each Thursday, the Silver Branchers meet from 1-3pm at the WB MUD Annex at 14611 Wells Port Drive. We are an active group of seniors who gather for an afternoon of fun and laughter each week. All residents 55 years and older are welcome. Check the Calendar at WBNA.us for event updates.

## WB Armada News

by Marcynda Verdicchio, President



Spring is on its way and that means...time to think swimming! It's going to be an exciting season and we hope you'll join us!

**Registration:** Online registration opened Friday, March 18.

There will be two in-person registration opportunities, both held at the WB Community Center, 2106 Klattenhoff:

Saturday, March 19 • 4-6pm

Wednesday, March 30 • 6-8pm

**Registration fees for 2016:** Before April 3 – \$125 for the first swimmer from each household; \$100 for each additional swimmer from the same household. Each family is also responsible for raising or donating \$50 via our Swim-A-Thon fundraiser. **Please note that fees increase by \$25 per swimmer on April 3.**

Please check our website for information on Junior Coach applications, New Parent Orientation and other updates: <https://wellsbranch.swimtopia.com/>

## Spanish Conversation Hour

2nd Tuesday of Each Month from 6:30-7:30pm  
WB Community Library • 15001 Wells Port



Practice your conversational Spanish in a friendly, no-pressure group of language learners! All skill levels are welcome. No registration required.

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## 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](http://wellsbranchmud.com) to learn more about: Stuff-2-Do Summer Day Camp, Volleyball Clinics, Basketball Clinics, Art Mini-Camps and Swim Lessons. Don't wait! Registration starts early and fills fast!

### Stuff-2-Do Summer Day Camps

Wells Branch MUD will again offer its Stuff-2-Do Summer Day Camp in weekly sessions in 2016 for children K-5th grades. Registration for In-District Wells Branch residents with Rec. Tags will begin Monday, April 18, 6am-10pm. Registration for In-District WB residents with or without Rec. Tags and Out-of-District residents WITH Rec. Tags begins Monday, April 25, 6am-10pm. Open enrollment for all others, with or without tags, begins Thursday, April 28, 6am-10pm. Registration continues until the camps are full. Register at the Recreation Center, 3000 Shoreline. The age-appropriate camp will be determined by the grade your child just completed. Check [wellsbranchmud.com](http://wellsbranchmud.com) for more information, theme weeks and dates.

### WB Photo Club by Margaret McGhee-Sufke

Wells Branch Photo Club has exciting events and projects coming up! Over the next few months, our group will be partnering with the FOL (Friends of the Library) to create our very own Wells Branch calendar. The project, open to all Wells Branch residents, will include a photo contest. Follow the FOL on Facebook or check their site, [wbfriends.org](http://wbfriends.org), for details.

Several meet up sessions at local "photo-op" areas to capture our magnificent Texas wildflowers and wildlife are planned for March and April. Our recent photo essay and critique sessions have provided some great learning opportunities. A mini macro photo workshop is coming soon.

We meet the second Tuesday of each month. Check the [wbna.us](http://wbna.us) calendar or join our email list or Facebook group for updates and meeting details. WB Photography Club maintains a private Facebook page, but welcomes new members. Send your request to join the Facebook group and/or email list to Margaret at [mmsufke@gmail.com](mailto:mmsufke@gmail.com).

Springtime in WB provides many opportunities to improve our skills as well as give back to the community. As a community service group, the photos our members take offer a real value to the WBNA and WB MUD and contribute to our sense of community. If you photograph an event, please share your pictures with Debby at [info@wbna.us](mailto:info@wbna.us). For a current list of events, go to [wbna.us](http://wbna.us), click on Upcoming Events and download the WB calendar through December 2016.

Questions? Contact Margaret McGhee-Sufke at 208-869-5224 or [mmsufke@gmail.com](mailto:mmsufke@gmail.com).



*Photos by Rob White*

## 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  
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#### WHEN:

Move In's Coming March 2016

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- 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](http://www.AffinityatWellsBranch.com)

\* Restrictions Apply



## BSA Troop 1409

by Greg Jewett & Daniel White, Troop 1409

Our WB Scouts sold water and helped repair downed kites at Wells Branch's Inaugural Kite Fest on March 6. It was a great hands-on community event!



The Troop has yet another busy spring and summer planned for 2016. On April 2, our Scouts will be helping out at the Friends of the Library Garage Sale with setup and teardown. We'll also have a booth at the garage sale, so please stop by for a visit.



Both Troop and Crew will be going "up a creek" on a canoe trip at the Village Creek Paddling Trail the weekend of April 8-10. On April 16, the Troop will be assisting the WB Homestead Association with events at Pioneer Fest in KF Park from noon-5pm. Troop 1409 has invited the Webelos Scouts from Packs 140 and 728 on a overnight campout at the end of April to introduce the Scouts to some of the fun activities that they can look forward to in the future. BSA Order of the Arrow Spring Assembly is being held on May 6-7. We have some fishy business helping the MUD out that same weekend with the Youth Fishing Tournament at Mills Pond. We look forward to grand adventures and serving our community this year.

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](http://www.troop1409.com) or our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Troop1409>.



## Venturing Crew 1409

by Jill Douglass

Lists, packing, shopping... the final events before the Crew's trek to the Grand Canyon. Do we have the right equipment, clothing, and food for the trek? Our shake down hikes at Lake

Georgetown and Colorado Bend State Park helped us determine our equipment needs as well as our nutritional needs. The Crew discovered that when you hike ten miles with a fully loaded backpack you need CALORIES! We've had fun with "backpacking potlucks" in which we bring our own backpacking food creations (curry chicken & rice, coconut peanut butter oatmeal,...), cook them (only boiling water required), and share.

Other preparations for the Crew involved fundraising. The base cost for the trip is \$225. Most of the Crew Members self funded the trip by saving money from a variety of fundraising events (selling chocolate, garage sales, water sales). They should be proud of their hard work!

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



## Cub Scout Pack 140

by Roger DeLeon, Den 3 Leader

The most exciting event on the Cub Scout calendar is the annual Blue and Gold Banquet celebrating the birthday of Cub Scouting. The banquet is held each February, as February is the anniversary month of the Boy Scouts of America. The BSA began in 1910 and Cub Scouting followed twenty years later. The Blue and Gold gets its name from the Cub Scout colors -- blue and gold.

Wells Branch Cub Scout Pack 140's celebration at the Community Center on February 27, 2016 included a banquet and Blue & Gold cupcakes! The Scouts had an opportunity to educate fellow Scouts and parents on cultural practices around the world. Scouts and Den Leaders also were recognized with leadership awards.

If you or your son are interested in serving the Wells Branch Community through Scouting, please contact us at [info@pack140.org](mailto:info@pack140.org) or visit us at [www.Pack140.org](http://www.Pack140.org).



## Pack 728 Update

by Shannon Best

Pack 728 was fortunate enough to work with Brian Litke on It's My Park Day. Many families showed up to plant, mulch, pick up trash, and beautify the Wells Branch Disc Golf area



and adjacent creek bed and trail. Our Pack strives to give back to our community anytime we can. Do you have a boy who's interested in Cub Scouts? Email [wbpac728@gmail.com](mailto:wbpac728@gmail.com) for more info. Come join us!

Photo by Brian Litke

## Wells Branch Neighbors

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## Change to WBNA Bylaws & Officer Elections by Debby Thompson, WBNA President

The Bylaws of the WBNA, last revised in 1999, were amended at a general meeting of the Wells Branch Neighborhood Association held on February 25. The vote was unanimous.

Previous boundaries were listed by plat and did not include any of the homes built after 1985. New boundaries have been expanded to include all of Wells Branch.

The number of Directors was increased from six to seven as an additional board member will allow us to better serve the community.

Previously, officers were elected by position to one-year terms. Members voted to assign Place Numbers 1 through 7 and create two-year staggered terms beginning with the 2016 election. Each WBNA Director drew for a place number. Even places shall be elected in even years; odd places in odd years with self-alignment with division of duties for the following positions after 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).

In the past, a vacancy remained open until the next General Meeting of the Members. Due to the infrequency of "General Meetings" as opposed to "Events", the Board will appoint a Director to serve until the next General Meeting where said Director may be ratified or replaced by the Members.

Existing descriptions of Board positions were outdated and have been revised. Such descriptions may be found on our website.

Corrections were made to various assorted typos throughout the document.

The following Board Members were re-elected: Debby Thompson, Chuck Walters, Lara Bennett, Tom Cheshire and Donna Malone. We welcome our new Directors, Donna Lyons and Margaret Sufke. Board Member Linda Baird chose not to seek re-election. We thank her for her four dedicated years of service to our community. Linda plans to continue volunteering with the WBNA.

## Silent Auction Items needed

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



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

We are seeking donations of merchandise, gift cards/certificates, theme baskets, services.... to auction. In return, you receive exposure for your business at the auction, 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 help solicit items, please email us at [silentauction@wbna.us](mailto:silentauction@wbna.us).



# Community Calendar

- 3/19, 4-6pm: Armada Registration, WBCC
- 3/24: Birds of Prey Program, WBCL, 6:00-6:30pm Kids & Families; 6:30-7:30pm Adults and ages 8+
- 3/25: Spring Holiday, PfISD & RRISD No School
- 3/26, 10:30am: WBNA Easter Egg Hunt, WBH
- 3/30, 6-8 pm: Armada Registration, WBCC
- 3/31, 6pm: A Songbird's Guide to Gardening, WBCL
- 3/31, 7pm: RRISD Community Meeting, WBCC
- 4/2, 7am-noon: Community Garage Sale, WBCL Parking Lot
- 4/2, 1-3pm: North Meadow Dedication, See pg. 5
- 4/4, 5:30pm: WB MUD Work Session, WBCC
- 4/5, 6:30pm: Saving for College, WBCL
- 4/7, 6pm: RRISD-Johnson Elem Parent Night, WBCC
- 4/9, 8am-5pm: Extreme Clean Spring, See page 12
- 4/9, 10am-1pm: KWBB Trash Off & Volunteer Day, WBA
- 4/9, 12-1pm: Mr. Johnny & Sharon Concert, WBCL
- 4/9, 2-6pm: WB Elementary Spring Fest & Silent Auction
- 4/12, 10am-8pm: D.E.A.R. Day (Drop Everything & Read), WBCL
- 4/16, 11am: WB Garden Guild, Volunteer Opportunities, WBA
- 4/16, Noon-5pm: Pioneer Fest, WB Homestead
- 4/18, 6am-10pm: Stuff-2-Do Camp Registration Begins, See pg. 17
- 4/20, 6pm: RRISD-WB Elem Parent Night, WB Elementary
- 4/21, 6:30-7:30pm: Armada New Parent Orientation, WBCC
- 4/23, 8am-Until...: Brattonwood HOA Garage Sale
- 4/25, 6am-10pm: Stuff-2-Do Camp Registration, See pg. 17
- 4/28, 6am-10pm: Stuff-2-Do Camp Registration, See pg. 17
- 4/30, 8am: \*\*\*BRATTON GLEN HOA ONLY\*\*\* Spring Curbside Bulk Trash Collection
- 5/7, 9am-noon: Youth Fishing Tournament, Mills Pond
- 5/7, 10am-noon: Mommy & Me Tea, WB Library
- 5/8, 2-4pm: KWBB Volunteer Day, WB MUD Annex
- 5/14: Bulk Trash Day for In-District MUD Residents, WBMtc
- 5/21, 9am: WB Garden Tour, WB Rec. Center [wbna.us](http://wbna.us) for map
- 5/21, 9am-4pm: Disc Golf Tournament, Course on Owen Tech
- 5/21, 12-1pm: Cody Fisher Magic Show, WB Library

## Calendar Legend :

- MP**=Mills Pond; **WBCC**=Community Center on Klattenhoff;
- WBCL**=WB Comm. Library; **WBH**=WB Homestead Cabin;
- WBRC**=Rec. Center on Shoreline; **WBA**=WB Annex 14611 Wells Port;
- KF**=Katherine Fleischer Park on Klattenhoff;
- WBMtc**=WB Maintenance 13905 Thermal Dr.

See [WBNA.US](http://WBNA.US) for details of all calendar events

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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

March 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

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—Sachi Amero, 2016 Wells Branch Seller

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—David Thomas, 2015 Pflugerville Buyer

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## YOUR Membership COUNTS!

WBNA is literally a labor of love. It was created by and is run by VOLUNTEERS. All of our 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 below and a printable version on the website. Can we count on your support this year?