



Neighborhood News

News and information for the residents of Wells Branch.
Vol 20, Issue 6, Holiday 2011

Holiday Happenings in Wells Branch

By Debby Thompson, President, WBNA

We hope you'll join us over the next few weeks as Wells Branch celebrates the holidays. To all the regulars, we look forward to seeing you there and if you've never attended a community event here, please make time to come and join your neighbors in the festivities.

Dedication Grove and Thanksgiving Potluck - November 19

Wells Branch Staff will congregate around the dedication grove to recognize new pavers added in memory and achievement. The dedication will begin at 3:30 p.m. Directly following the dedication, our Wells Branch neighbors come together for our annual Thanksgiving potluck dinner.



The fellowship will be held 5-7 p.m. at the Recreation Center, located at 3000 Shoreline Dr. Everyone is encouraged to bring a dish to serve 10. The turkey, ham, dressing, potatoes, bread, and beverages will be provided and served by the MUD

Youth Fowl Shot Contest – November 22

Wells Branch youth are invited to test their basketball skills and maybe win a turkey to take home for Thanksgiving starting at 6 p.m. in the Wells Branch MUD Recreation Center. Participants accumulate points by competing in a variety of basketball activities (Free Throw, 3-pt Around the World, and Knockout). Youth will be split into three age groups: 8-10, 11-13, and 14-17. Grand-prize winners from each age group will receive a turkey. Participants must have a valid recreation tag to enter the gym and compete in the contest. Registration is free at the Rec. Center.

Luminary Festival – December 9 & 10

Experience the glow of the holidays as the trails in Katherine Fleischer Park are illuminated with luminaries on December 9 & 10. Once again, the WBNA will be hosting Friday night's events and the Wells Branch MUD will host Saturday evening. Santa will be visiting the Homestead Cabin both nights from 6-9pm with FREE photos provided again this year by the WB Community Church.



Craft tables will be set up Friday night inside the Community Center and children

will have the opportunity to decorate frames for their photos with Santa. The WB of WB and the WB Library will be on hand to assist the children with crafts and keep refreshments flowing.

Join us outdoors for a caroling hayride (both nights) or a trip around the trails on our holiday express train (Sat. only) to see the luminaries up close. There will be live entertainment and indoor refreshments for all to enjoy in the CC. Times are to be announced, so keep an eye out on the website, www.wellsbranchmud.com, for performance dates and times.

House Decorating Contest

Remember to decorate your house this year! Awards will be given in several categories including Most Elaborate, Most Original, Most Traditional and Best Use of Lights. Judging will begin Friday night, December 9, so make sure you go all out!



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CLASSIFIED ADS

Hannah's Petsitting: \$11/day for 1 pet (\$5 for ea. addl) to water, feed & play with your pet twice a day. References available. 922-3853

ATTN: All WB residents

A public notice was received by many residents of the Willow Run section of Wells Branch advising of a pending application for rezoning of the 14 acres of land behind Newton Nursery and across the street from Shoreline Church.

The application requests rezoning so that 245 units of multi-family housing (Apartments) can be constructed. These units, together with the 250 homes from Preston Village (off Quick Hill) are scheduled to feed into Wells Branch Elementary.

Neighbors are concerned about overcrowding and a lack of infrastructure and would like all residents of Wells Branch to join in communicating these concerns. Please see their page on our website for contact information and updates.

www.wbna.us => community => rezoning opposition

Clockwise: Joey; The Cheerleader and the Witch; Zombie van; Ladybug; Ladies from Wells Branch Community Church; Little Witches; Zombiel; Sock Monkey; Pussycat; Oz!



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Halloween Photos: see more & download yours from our Facebook page. Many thanks to Madonna Johnson for taking pictures at Trunk-or-Treat.

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**Please contact me for your real
estate needs and let me put my
knowledge of WB to work for you!**



Celebrate New Year's Eve in WB

at the Wells Branch New Year's Eve Extravaganza

Saturday, December 31, 2011



Ring in the New Year in style with
your neighbors and friends without
leaving the neighborhood!

Come dance the night away at the
Wells Branch Community Center on
December 31 from 8:00pm to
12:30am.

Music will be provided by a DJ, and we are taking
your song requests. The celebration is BYOB and we'll
provide punch, set-ups, snacks, and a champagne
toast at midnight.

Tickets are \$35/couple, \$17.50/single (just to cover
costs!). Seating is limited, so register and pay online
NOW at www.wbna.us

Email questions and song requests to Karen at party@wbna.us
For more info visit www.wbna.us

Wells Branch's Got Talent , January 28

Start putting your acts together now! Wells Branch
MUD invites talented groups and individuals of all
ages with any type of talent to participate in our third
annual talent show from 6-9 p.m. inside the Recreation
Center located at 3000 Shoreline Drive.

Prizes and trophies will be awarded for Best Individual
Performance, Best Group Collaboration, Judge's Pick,
and Audience's Pick.

Admission is free for spectators and all performances
will require a \$5 entry fee. Registration begins in
December. Space is limited. For further questions,
please contact the recreation manager at 251-9814.

WB of WB Happy Hour

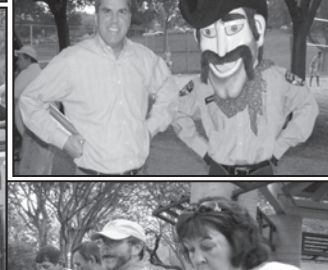
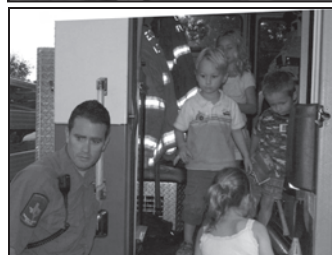
November 25 • 5:30-9:00pm • 2207 Klattenhoff

The Women Businesses of Wells Branch is hosting a
Happy Hour on Black Friday to kick off the holiday sea-
son. Take a break from the hustle & bustle of the malls
and come have a glass of wine with your neighbors.
For questions, contact Kim at 589-5443 and be sure
and visit their page under "Community" at wbna.us.

NNO a Huge Success!!!

Thanks so much to all of you who attended NNO. We
had a great showing of good old-fashioned Wells
Branch community spirit with the largest attendance
EVER! (We think) If we can go by hot dogs and sausage
wraps (650), we had an amazing turnout! There were
politicians, law enforcement and best of all friends and
neighbors. The WBNA provided food and drinks and a
good time was had by all.

To read more about our guests, see our giant "Thank
You" and view photos, please visit our website: www.wbna.us.



Top L-R: Residents enjoying
NNO.

Middle L-R: Kids tour the Fire
Safety House and the fire
truck.

Bottom L-R: Volunteers from
the MUD and WBNA at the
grill; State Rep. Mark Strama
& Travis, TCSO's new Mascot.




Above: WBNA volunteers Keith Nett, Tom
Cheshire, Gus Kohn and Linda Baird cooking
hot dogs and sausage wraps.

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KUDOS

Thanks to all of you who delivered our September issue. We had an amazing turnout for National Night Out because of your efforts – the BEST EVER! You really do make a difference! We couldn't get the newsletter out to everyone without your help. Together, we deliver each issue to 3366 homes – ALL of Wells Branch!

Fiona Adams, Mary Alverson, Mike & Linda Baird, Lara, Clay & Henry Bennett, Emily Berver, Mike & Joyce Best, Kathy Brown, Gary, Joy & Chance Bryant, Garland Bullock, Creola Burns, Marlene & Jennifer Cantu, Kathleen Clark, Meaghan Cruz, Tara Fisher-Munoz, Michelle & Jenny Gadush, *David Gezana, Sonya Hindman, George & Wanda Holcombe, Travers Hough, Abbie & Thierry Joffrain, Deanna Johnson, Dianne Koehler, Dan, Kim, Brendan & Sarah Lanicek, Ray, Samantha & Alexandra Lee, Jacque Longino, *Sivaram, Jyoti & *Arjuna Manda, James & Judy Mauldin, Becky Moore, Maia & Matias Munoz, William Olson, Angela Orth, Ed & Kay Peterson, *Barbara Romero, Micki Rosiles, Julie Schwartz, Magdalena Silva, Peggy Simmons, Virgil Smith, Allen & JoAnn Sparks, Diane Starkey, Jill Traffanstedt, Linda Watts, Pamela & Bre'Anna Woodward

*Volunteered to do additional sections – THANK YOU!

As always... Thanks to all of you for keeping Wells Branch Great! If you would like to deliver the newsletter, please contact our distribution team at dhowe@austin.rr.com or deborah_thompson@earthlink.net. We'll bring the newsletters over to you along with a map of the delivery area. If you've never done this before, it takes about 45 minutes to an hour.

We always try to match up everyone with the area they live in. Sometimes there's a lot of response for one area and none for other areas. If so, we try to "get you close". Or, if you'd like to see other parts of Wells Branch, let us know and we'll gladly find a section for you.

WB is a digital community By George Holcombe

The Wells Branch community is well represented on the Internet. We've got Websites, Facebook pages and a neighborhood listserve just to mention a few. These websites are handy references for all you need to know about what's going on in the neighborhood. The Wells Branch MUD is in the process of revamping their site. Expect a brand new and improved version coming in the next few days!

With the Facebook pages you are free to post messages of your own and respond to other's input. The WBNA Facebook page features photos from all of the community events. Residents have the ability to contribute by posting their photo albums to the site as well. The WB Community Library site and the Garden Guild site help keep us on top of upcoming events with their regular updates.

With over 300 members now, the email listserve also gives neighbors ways to post questions, opinions and receive messages from their neighbors. This listserve creates a forum for the entire neighborhood.

All are ways to keep on top of what's going on in your neighborhood and to participate with your own input.

Join us on the Web! Links to the community sites are posted on the WBNA site: www.wbna.us



To find community groups on Facebook, login to your FB account and in the "search" box, enter the following to pull up local pages:

WBNA Wells Branch Neighborhood Association
 Wells Branch MUD
 Wells Branch Library
 Wells Branch Garden Guild

Water Conservation Signs are here and FREE to a good home!

Whether you've been doing the "right thing" all along and following our water schedules or just want to learn more about water conservation, we have a sign for you. These signs provide an educational opportunity and conversation piece and can help create that culture of conservation that is so important to us all.

They can be used no matter what stage of water conservation we're in - whether we're watering 1x per week or 2x per week or not at all and they can also be stored and used during our next dry cycle (just in case it starts raining right after we get them).

Thanks go to Donna Howe and her work with the Central Texas Water Efficiency Network for this opportunity to help the WBNA get the word out to all our neighbors!

To receive your **FREE** sign, email WBConserves@wbna.us

HAVE A HEALTHY HOLIDAY!

Come in for a spinal check-up.

* Make your new patient appointment before the new year and receive an additional gift card for a 20 minute massage to give away this holiday season.

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(Residents of Wells Branch)
Shelly Chicoine Hogan, D.C.
Nicole Chicoine Edwards, D.C.

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'Tis the season to water wisely **Winter averaging has begun**

Wells Branch residents can save money year-round by conserving water during the winter wastewater averaging period that started November 14 and ends February 14, 2012.

There are no meters on customers' wastewater lines. To determine wastewater usage, a customer's water usage is reviewed over three consecutive, low demand winter months when lawn watering and irrigation are less frequent. The customer's wastewater charge for future billings will be based on the new wastewater average or actual monthly water usage, whichever is lowest. Customers may contact Margaret at 246-5908 or mwingrove@crossroadsus.com with any questions.

Because the MUD is a wholesale customer of the City of Austin, the City's Water Conservation Program is available to Wells Branch residents to help reduce charges for both water and wastewater.

For information consult
<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/watercon/>

Visit the following sites for more tips on water conservation:
http://www.epa.gov/watersense/water_efficiency/cons.html
<http://www.wateriq.org/apps/wateriq/default.aspx>

Eco-friendly holiday tip By Tara Fisher-Munoz

Green Christmas cards, recycled wrapping paper and reusable bags are great options for a Green Christmas. Consider re-using paper already in your house, rather than buying new wrapping paper, a waste of both paper and the plastic it is wrapped in. Make your own cards with supplies at home, or buy cards made of recycled paper. Use your creativity to make presents for loved ones, rather than buying them. There are a plethora of DIY ideas -- try searching the Internet for simple crafts, bake a batch of homemade cookies or bread, or start seedlings for an indoor house plant. Browse thrift stores, used book shops, local small businesses or consignment stores for treasures. People usually appreciate homemade Christmas gifts much more than mass market ones, and the planet will appreciate your consideration as well.

Soles4Souls Shoe Drive By Tammy Le


Soles4Souls facilitates the donations of shoes, which are used to aid the hurting worldwide. A donation bin will be available in the Rec. Center, 3000 Shoreline Drive thru November 27. They take any kind of gently used or new shoes, including flip flops, heels, sandals, athletic shoes, dressy shoes, boots, etc. For questions, contact Tammy at 773-3214 or tammy@familypair.com.



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What you don't know about Medicare may cost you more than money by Joy Smith

It's the time of year again when the TV airwaves are filled with ads for all manner of Medicare supplements and alternative plans. For those folks under the age of 65, you may just be annoyed at the overwhelming number of ads, similar to the influx of political ads during election season. For those 65 and over, it's often very difficult to sift through all of the information and claims to determine what might be the best choice for ongoing healthcare, particularly in light of last year's healthcare reforms.

For the "under-age" folks, what's going on is that there is an annual open enrollment period for Medicare Advantage programs and Part D prescription drug plans. If "seniors" (those eligible for enrollment in Medicare) do not choose to enroll in either of these two programs during this period...this year, through December 7....they lose their opportunity to do so until the open enrollment period next year, except for very specific situations. Medicare supplement plans are not impacted by these dates (you can sign up for or switch supplement plans anytime.)

Failure to enroll in a Part D drug plan when first eligible to do so and not having "creditable coverage" for longer than 63 days **may result in increased premiums through a "late enrollment penalty" which will be applied for the rest of the time the senior is enrolled in any Part D plan.** Many Medicare Advantage plans include prescription drug coverage making it unnecessary to enroll separately. If a senior leaves an Advantage plan, it will generally be necessary to enroll in a separate Part D plan.

From the annual Medicare and You 2012: Medicare Advantage Plans, sometimes called "Part C" or "MA Plans," are offered by private companies approved by Medicare. If a senior joins a Medicare Advantage Plan, they still have Medicare. They will get their Part A (Hospital Insurance) and Part B (Medical Insurance) coverage from the Medicare Advantage Plan and not Original Medicare. In all types of Medicare Advantage Plans, they're always covered for emergency and urgent care. Medicare Advantage Plans must cover all of the services that Original Medicare covers except hospice care. Original Medicare covers hospice care

even if they're in a Medicare Advantage Plan. Medicare Advantage Plans aren't supplemental coverage.

Medicare pays a fixed amount for their care every month to the companies offering Medicare Advantage Plans. These companies must follow rules set by Medicare. However, each Medicare Advantage Plan can charge different out-of-pocket costs and have different rules for how they get services (like whether they need a referral to see a specialist or if they have to go to only doctors, facilities, or suppliers that belong to the plan for non-emergency or non-urgent care). These rules can change each year. There is a website: www.medicare-newswatch.com that will allow seniors to compare yearly out-of-pocket costs of each of the available Advantage plans by area of the state sorted by good health, fair health and poor health.

For seniors who want to keep more control over their own health care choices, there are also multiple Medicare supplement plans known as Medigap policies. The government specifies what each plan covers (Plans A through N) so seniors' choices boil down to what company offers which plans, how well they pay their bills, and what they charge for each plan. Seniors can research all companies offering plans in Texas by going to the Texas Department of Insurance website www.tdi.texas.gov/ and looking on the right side of the screen where there is a "hot spot" to click "I want to check companies". For more information on Medigap policies and the laws governing them, download the brochure "Choosing a Medigap Policy: A Guide to Health Insurance for People with Medicare" from www.medicare.gov/ under the Publications spot.

As of June 1, 2010, some plans (E, H, I and J) are no longer available anywhere in the US. Anyone currently covered by one of those plans may keep it, but it is important to realize that not only are there holes in what is covered, but all plans prior to that date are in "closed" blocks. No new folks can be added which will result in higher and higher premiums as those who keep those plans age and make more claims. The "holes" in coverage may result in folks getting bills where once everything was paid.

See Medicare on page 8

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For a new or Used Nissan
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Burn Ban Reminder:

There is still a burn ban in effect due to the extreme drought. Please exercise caution over the holidays. For safety tips on turkey frying from the Travis County Fire Marshal, please see our website wbna.us under "Safety".

If traveling over the holidays:

Let someone know you'll be out of town and when you'll return.

They should have the following: your emergency contact information; contact information for anyone with access to your house (pet sitter, etc.); when they should be expected; what they look like and a description of their vehicle(s).

Put your lights, stereo or TV on timers and have a neighbor park in your driveway.

File a Close Patrol Request. This alerts patrolling officers so that they may pay close attention to one's residence. To do so contact the Travis County Sheriff's Office, 854-9721 & ask to make a Close Patrol Request.

Wells Branch has a hero!

It's not often that an average man has a chance to be a hero! Buddy Allen, a Wells Branch neighbor, never gave a thought about not helping when he spotted thick black smoke on his way home from a computer class. As he turned down Surrender, the fire was obvious and heading toward a house. Buddy grabbed a hose, but the fire was too close. He ran to the front door, waking up the resident in time to not only escape but also get his car out of the garage. The two of them then helped the next-door neighbor get out of that house with her newborn baby. Buddy's neighbor, Sandra Jones, said that Buddy is always keeping an eye out for the neighbors and helps in many ways.

We all heard about the fire, but no one knew who the mystery man was until now. Thanks for being our hero, Buddy!

If you have a neighbor you'd like us to recognize, please email your story to articles@wbna.us.

Family is why WE DO IT ALL

We all feel the same commitment to care for our families. As your good neighbor agent, I can help you meet your insurance needs. Call me today.



Carmina Eaton, Agent

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30 year Wells Branch resident

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Locate & know how to use your water shut-off valve

By Margret Wingrove, Crossroads Utility Services

Don't wait for a water emergency to locate your water cut-off valve. Find it now so it can be accessed quickly when needed. A properly operating cut-off valve allows you to cut off water quickly should you have a leak in the house, need to work on your sprinkler system, or wish to turn off the water to your house as a precaution when traveling.

The water shut-off valve is located between the water meter near the street and your house. It is generally located in the ground adjacent to the meter box and should be protected by a 6" circular cover. The handle underneath the cover should be exercised to make sure it is operable. To verify the water valve is operable, turn on a hose bib next to the house. Turn the house valve off and the water from the hose bib should stop flowing. Turn the valve on and water should resume flowing from the hose bib.

It is the homeowner's responsibility to maintain the cut off valve.

Neighbors inNEED

A loving hand to take care of small needs around your home.

Wells Branch Community Church would like to help with some of the needs in our community. Some of us may be reaching an age that makes it difficult to do work around our home.

Others are suffering from medical conditions that render it difficult to take care of things that were once routine.

We are here to help.

Please call 512-775-2660

 **Wells Branch**
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Save your pipes: Tips to keep water flowing in cold weather



We may be in Texas, but we're still vulnerable to destructive winter weather. Here are tips to protect your water system from winter blasts.

Before a freeze:

- Wrap all exposed pipes located outside or in unheated areas of your home.
- Remove garden hoses from outside faucets. Insulate the faucet with a Styrofoam cover, rags, disposable diaper or paper.
- Cover vents around the foundation of your house.
- Know where your property's water cut-off valve is located and know how to use it.

In sub-freezing weather:

- Let water drip slowly from inside faucets during a freeze.
- Open cabinet doors under sinks where pipes are along outside walls.

If you're not going to be home:

Cut off your water at the property's cut-off valve and drain all outside water faucets if your house will be unoccupied for several days.

Or leave your home heating system on at a low setting, with the cabinet doors open. That may cost a few bucks, but it's better than returning home from your holiday trip to find your carpet and furniture soaked from burst pipes.

Renters should contact the manager or landlord for more information on freeze precautions.

Source: Wells Branch Word, December 2003

Medicare from page 6

Special times for folks just turning 65 and/or those who have received a notice that their plan is being discontinued (Advantage plans are only required to stay active on a yearly basis): Open enrollment is a 6-month period starting on the senior's 65th birthday, and enrollment in Medicare Part B. Open enrollment means that the senior may sign up for any supplement plan based solely on age and address. No health questions may be asked. This is particularly important for anyone who has health issues that might keep them from qualifying for coverage (or qualifying for coverage, but having to pay hefty premiums.) Everyone only gets one open enrollment period. For those who have had coverage discontinued as well as several other special circumstances, there is a time called guaranteed issue. When a senior has a guaranteed issue right, he/she cannot be turned down for a Medicare supplement plan....just as in open enrollment, no health questions can be asked. Seniors may have multiple guaranteed issue rights times throughout their tenure with Medicare, but everyone only has one open enrollment period (not to be confused with the open enrollment period for Medicare Advantage programs and Part D plans when seniors must either enroll or drop their enrollment in those plans.)

What to do? Everyone enrolled in Medicare should already have received his/her Medicare and You 2012 book. This year, instead of adding it to the pile in the corner, pick it up and read at least the What's New section and any other parts that might or might not pertain to your situation. Check out the websites cited in this article. If you're not yet 65, but want to start preparing, go to www.medicare.gov/ and download any of the publications that interest you. Talk to your insurance agent and/or feel free to call me with any questions at 512-517-1552. I am licensed and trained as a senior healthcare specialist. Happy health!

Editor's note: Ms. Smith is trained, but does not sell senior healthcare products, and is lending her expertise as a service to WB seniors.

Garden Guild News

The Wells Branch Garden Guild has had a very successful year! Please check our page on the WBNA website: www.wbna.us => Community => Gardening in Wells Branch=>Garden Guild for upcoming meetings and be sure and visit our Facebook page.

Silver Branchers

The Silver Branchers meet from 1-3pm the first three Thursdays of each month at the Rec. Center on Shoreline Dr. Residents, 55 years and older, are welcome. Plans for a Christmas luncheon on Thursday, Dec. 1, are in the works! For info, call 251-9814.

Second Annual Holiday Bazaar: December 3, 11am-5pm:
Buy from your friends and neighbors; find great holiday items and gift ideas from local vendors. 20% of sales go to the library. *It's not too late to register for a booth at the Bazaar. Contact Etta at the library for more information.*

Ornament Making Workshop: December 4:
Make and decorate an ornament for the holidays with the family.



Staci Gray Holiday Concert: December 10 at 11am:
Local musician Staci Gray will perform holiday songs that will get kids and parents to sing, dance and be just plain silly! All ages are welcome! Seating is limited, so plan on arriving early.

10th Annual Polar Express Pajamarama: December 16:
FREE winter crafts and activities, hot chocolate, cookies, a bedtime reading of The Polar Express, and a visit from Santa. Bring your camera!



Fun loving volunteers are still needed to help with these exciting programs and the library's daily operations. Please contact Allison at allison@wblibrary.org to learn more.

2011 Storytime Schedule

0-18 months- Baby Bookworms: Fridays at 10am
1-2 years- Monkey in the Middle: Mondays at 10:45
18-36 months- Toddler Storytime: Fridays at 10:45
3-5 years- Preschool Storytime: Fridays at 11:30
All ages- Pajama Storytime: Tuesdays at 7pm
All ages- Family Storytime: Every Saturday at 11am

Weekly Programs

Kinder Crafts: Tuesdays at 6:30 for ages 3-6:
Process-oriented art projects for kids.

Arts & Crafts: Wednesdays at 6pm for age 8+ or with an adult: Fun and creative art projects.

New program: Growing Up Wild: Wednesdays at 5:00pm: Environmental Science for ages 3-7. *Watch the critter of the month grow and develop.*



Fitness Checklists: Think you're "fit"? This fall, the library will offer a checklist on a different kind of "fitness" each month. Pick one up, and when you've completed at least ten items on the list, turn it in at the library for a chance to win a prize!

November- Know Your Neighborhood

December- Organize Your Life

BOOK CLUBS

Needles Hooks & Books: 2nd Sunday of each month at 2pm in the 'Quiet' Reading Room: Bring your project (knitting, embroidery, whatever) and discuss a book you've always meant to read, or wanted to talk about.

December 11: The Christmas Train by David Baldacci

January 8: The Historian by Elizabeth Kostova

February 12: Lamb by Christopher Moore

Wine, Women and Words Book Club:

Join the group that's been reading together for more than a decade, whether you finish the book or not. Newcomers are always welcome.



Mango Language Learning Workshop: December 7 at 6:30pm: Learn to use the library's subscription service. Over twenty languages are available with step-by-step instructions and pronunciation aids. Reserve your spot in this hands-on workshop.

Overdrive Digital Library Workshop:



December 14 at 6:30pm: We have e-books and audio books available for immediate download at home to your computer and personal device (nook, MP3, iPad, etc). Reserve your spot in this hands-on workshop to learn more.

Science Fair Workshop: December 8 at 6pm: It's time to start thinking about the science fair. Come talk to Ms. Kristin about project and presentation ideas and see what resources the library has to help with your experiment.



ADULT COMPUTER CLASSES

Classes are free and hands-on. Reservations are required.

December 1 @ 6pm: Excel Basics

December 15 @ 6pm: Excel Intermediate

December 17 @ 10:30am: Computer Basics



Find us on Facebook "Like" us to be linked for up-to-date information.

Make your donation to the library by December 31, 2011. Public service budgets, like libraries, have been cut dramatically. In 2010, the library delivered over \$4.25 in services for every dollar spent- that's a 425% return on investment in your community! Your contribution will help us to continue to deliver exemplary daily service to everyone.



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Park patrol nabs burglar By Tom Cheshire, WB MUD Board Director and Safety Chair

Over the years, the Wells Branch MUD Board has supported the Public Safety Committee's recommendations as to how to help protect our residents and their property. One suggestion was to hire off duty Travis county sheriff's office deputies and Travis County constable officers to patrol our parks and trails.

In addition, the Wells Branch MUD Board has made available a Neighborhood Resource Center to the patrol units, the dive team uses the pool at KF to practice rescue techniques and the WB MUD board allows the Travis County Sheriff's Office to host their Extravaganza here each year. Through these efforts, the WB MUD Board has fostered a great relationship with these law enforcement agencies which has resulted in more patrol units and officers in our area at all times of the day and night. The following information is a direct result:

On Wednesday, October 11, 2011, an individual burglarized five residential homes in Wells Branch: two on Jennave and three on Gaylord Drive. What's unique about these burglaries is that they occurred after 5pm. Most residential burglaries happen during the daytime between 9am and 3pm.

This particular individual was seen the day before driving slowly through the neighborhood looking at

homes as if perhaps he was a landscaper or tree trimmer. He would look at the house and then the driveway, to see if any or how many cars were parked there, and then drive on down the street. This person then returned after 5pm to those homes that still did not have vehicles in the driveway and no one home and kicked in the back door to gain entry. Surprised by a homeowner who came home after 5pm, the subject ran out onto our hike & bike trail. Fortunately the homeowner was not injured and called 911 and reported the situation in progress. The sheriff's office sent out a dispatch to units in our area. Travis County Sheriff Deputy Deke Pierce, also a resident of WB, happened to be on Security Patrol for WB on the hike & bike trail. Deputy Pierce heard the dispatch and was able to catch the subject as he got to his vehicle parked in the area near the hike & bike trail behind St. Andrews Church. Later that evening, deputies returned to the area and found more items that had been taken from other residences.

This is a great opportunity to thank those officers for all that they do for our residents. Thanks again to Deputy Deke Pierce and Sgt. Craig Smith, supervisor over the Wells Branch area.

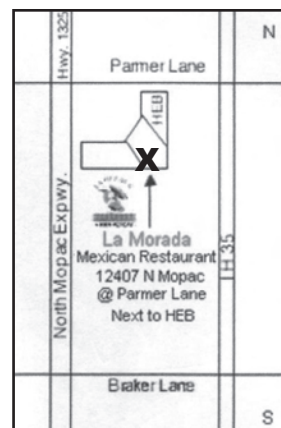


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Recycling numbers continue to grow!

Way to go Wells Branch! We're up to a participation rate of 70.6%. Our recycling efforts for September brought in \$1,314 to buy trees for the park system. Please, recycle wherever you can and encourage your neighbors to join you.

WB awarded HEB green bag recycling grant

By Katie Hutcheson

Congratulations to the 2011-2012 winners of the H-E-B/Central Market/Keep Texas Beautiful Green Bag Recycling Grants! The Green Bag Grants provide a total of \$50,000 in funding for new and existing recycling programs and our Wells Branch MUD/Keep Wells Branch Beautiful program was one of the lucky winners. Wells Branch will receive \$2,000 to use for our recycling program.

Funding from the Green Bag Grant will be used to purchase recycle bins for all of the MUD facilities in order to help our community recycle. The bins will be placed in parks, pools, the recreation center, the community center and offices.

Recycle—Help keep WB Beautiful!

Northwest Elementary will be collecting plastic grocery bags and as an incentive for the students, those who choose to donate will receive STAR tickets. STAR tickets are based on school-wide expectations: Be Safe • Be Respectful • Be Responsible. Students earn these tickets for demonstrating any of the “3 B’s” and can turn them into the office in hopes of being recognized as the STAR student of the week.

Northwest Elementary Events

Saturday, December 3, 8am-12pm Garage Sale & 10-11:30am Vet Clinic

Saturday, December 10, 8am-12pm Holidays Around The World

Brown Santa needs your support

Brown Santa is a community service program of the Travis County Sheriff's Office, and the many sponsors and volunteers (like you) who make it happen each year.



Brown Santa started in 1981 with a few deputies helping about 25 families in the unincorporated areas of Travis County. Last year, Brown Santa helped 1828 families for a total of almost 20,000 men, women and children. They expect to do the same for the 2011 season. Please share if you can to help make a special Christmas morning for each child.

Help celebrate the joy of Christmas by donating or volunteering, browse their website at www.brownsanta.org for more information. You can also call 24-SANTA (247-2682), or email the volunteer coordinator at volunteer@brownsanta.org.

Donation barrels will be available at the Wells Branch Recreation Center on Shoreline beginning November 18 for the Thanksgiving Potluck thru December 18 and at the Luminary Festival at the Community Center on December 9 & 10. In addition, the Wells Branch Community Church will have a donation barrel for Brown Santa located at the Homestead for those visiting Santa on luminary nights.

Eco-Friendly Gift Baskets

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www.VidaGreenConsulting.com/gifts





Community Calendar

thru Feb. 12-Winter Wastewater Averaging,
See page 5

thru Nov. 27: Soles4Souls collection box,
WBRC

thru Dec. 18: Brown Santa collection box,
WBRC

Nov. 19, 3:30pm Dedication Grove, pg 1**

Nov. 19, 5-7pm: Thanksgiving Potluck, pg 1**

Nov. 22, 6pm: Youth Fowl Shot, WBRC

Nov. 25, 5:30-9:00pm: WB of WB Happy
Hour/Open House - See page 3

Dec. 1, 1-3pm: Silver Branchers' Luncheon**

Dec. 9-10, 6-9pm: Luminary Festival** -
KF Park, WBCC

Dec. 10, 8am-Noon: NW Elem. Holidays
Around The World

Dec. 31, 8pm-12:30am: *NY Eve party - WBCC

Jan. 8, 1-5pm: Babysitter Cert. Class - WBRC

Jan. 26, 7pm: *WBNA Meeting/Elections -
WBCC

Jan. 28, 6-9pm: **WB's Got Talent - WBRC

*See www.wbna.us for details

**Contact the MUD for more info, 251-9814

MP=Mills Pond; WBCC=Community Center on Klattenhoff;
WBCL=WB Comm Library; WBRC=Rec Center on
Shoreline.

Have a free event to share? If so, send the
details - date, place and time via email to:
wbnanews@sbcglobal.net. PLEASE NOTE: Events
put on by for-profit entities do not qualify for
this space.



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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 2012.

Holiday 2011

I am: _____ renewing my membership _____ a new member

Name(s) _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

I/we want to help with: _____ Newsletter Delivery _____ Crime Watch
_____ 4th of July _____ Easter Egg Hunt _____ Nat'l Night Out

MAIL TO: WBNA Membership, 2104 Klattenhoff, Austin, TX. 78728