

# Neighborhood News

News and information for the residents of Wells Branch.  
Vol 20, Issue 6, Holiday, 2012



## Holiday Happenings in WB

By Debby Thompson, President, WBNA

We hope you'll join us over the next few weeks as Wells Branch celebrates the holidays. Reach out to the newcomers so they feel welcome. We all lead very busy lives. This season, make time to reconnect with family, friends and neighbors. 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 & Thanksgiving Potluck-Nov.17



Before the dinner begins, Wells Branch staff and residents will congregate around the dedication grove to recognize new pavers added in memory and achievement.

The dedication will begin at 3:30 p.m. Following the dedication, our Wells Branch neighbors come together once again for our annual Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner. Fellowship will be held from 6-8pm at the Recreation Center, located at 3000 Shoreline Drive. 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.



### Luminary Festival December 14 & 15

Experience the glow of the holidays as our trails light up with luminaries around Katherine Fleischer Park on

December 14 & 15. 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 ornaments and frames for their photos with Santa. Volunteers 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 (Saturday only) to see the luminaries up close. There will be live entertainment and indoor refreshments for all to enjoy in the CC. Keep an eye out on the website [www.wellsbranchmud.com](http://www.wellsbranchmud.com) for performance dates and times.

## Election Turnout In Wells Branch

By Michele Samuelson

This long election season has finally come to an end, and the votes have been counted. Wells Branch made its voice heard and turned out a significant number of voters. Turnout for the 2012 election was comparable to countywide and statewide totals, though for the most part, turnout here was equal to what it was in 2008.



Information was only available for the four Travis County precincts included in Wells Branch. Because only a portion of Williamson County precinct 138 is in Wells Branch, specific turnout data was unavailable at press time.

The Travis County portion of Wells Branch consists of precincts 215, 216, 225, and 229. The total number of registered voters in those precincts is 10,572. The total number of ballots cast was 6070. This means approximately 57% of registered voters in Wells Branch turned out to vote, either during early voting or on election day.

Looking at votes cast down ballot, however, a disturbing trend emerges. Depending on the race, less than half of voters cast votes in non-partisan races such as MUD board director, Round

*See Voter Turnout on page 2*

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# Voter Turnout from page 1

Rock ISD trustee, and Austin Community College trustee. This held true in all four Travis County precincts, and the lowest number of votes cast happened in the ACC races. As an example: Precinct 229 cast 1367 total votes this year in the presidential race, but only 403 in the race for ACC Trustee Place 9, 434 in Round Rock ISD Place 7, and 1008 in the WBMUD Director Place 4 race. The drop-off is typical down-ballot, but is disheartening, as the lower a race is down the ballot, the more effect that position has on our day-to-day lives.

Increasing voter turnout is a crucial civic duty for our neighborhood. We have learned that one way to have our needs addressed by our local elected officials is to show them that we are engaged, and the easiest way is by voting. The WBNA works to inform voters of their choices in a non-partisan manner, and we encourage new ideas and your participation informing our neighbors, registering voters, and reminding each other to vote.

*"I never consider a difference of opinion in politics, in religion, in philosophy, as cause for withdrawing from a friend."*

*-Thomas Jefferson*

## 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. Brown Santa helped 1957 families in the 2011 season for a total of 19,219 men, women and children and expects to do the same for the 2012 season.



Help celebrate the joy of Christmas by donating or volunteering; browse their website for more information and donation suggestions by age and gender at [www.brownsanta.org](http://www.brownsanta.org). You can also call 24-SANTA (247-2682), or email the volunteer coordinator at [volunteer@brownsanta.org](mailto:volunteer@brownsanta.org).

**Donation barrels will be available at the Wells Branch Recreation Center on Shoreline beginning November 17 for the Thanksgiving Potluck thru December 12. Delivery will be before Luminary Fest this year so make sure you get your donations in before then!** Please share if you can to help make a special Christmas morning for each child.

The new location for 2012 Brown Santa is: 12317 Technology Blvd. Ste. 300 Austin, TX. 78729 at the corner of Technology and Mc Neil.

Watch for "WB Business Spotlight" highlighting neighborhood merchants within the Library and ESD tax districts and our series of articles honoring community leaders to return in our January issue.

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 \*\* When a first complete pair is purchased at regular price. Some restrictions apply. Not valid with other offers. Not to be combined with insurance. Offer expires 08/01/2014.

# 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

New WB resident, **Freelance Graphic Designer**, Great rates (flyers, logos, ads, invitations, etc.) Please call Donna at 512-810-3598.

## Honesty. Respect. Professionalism. Courtesy.

**Lee Cramer, Agent**  
 2013 Wells Branch Pkwy, #107  
 Austin, TX 78728  
 Bus: 512-251-3473  
[lee.cramer.b4hp@statefarm.com](mailto:lee.cramer.b4hp@statefarm.com)

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## Project Graduation for WB Seniors



Project Graduation is a nationally recognized alcohol and drug free party designed to give high school graduates a safe alternative for celebrating their special night. Statistics have shown that students celebrating on the evening of graduation can experience one of the most dangerous nights of their young lives.

### Cedar Ridge High School Project Graduation

We are planning many events to raise funds and invite the entire community to help us make our FIRST Project Graduation a success. Thanks for supporting the Cedar Ridge Class of 2013!!

#### Save the Dates and Keep Your Kitchen Clean!

##### Monday Dec 3rd 4pm-9:30pm-\*Rio Grande Restaurant

(Pflugerville location, across the highway off of Grand Avenue at 15821 Central Commerce Drive) \*Mention CRHS Project Grad and they will donate 30% of net sales!

##### Monday Jan 14th 11am-10pm Fuddruggers (RR Location)

\*Print out ticket at [www.crhsprojectgraduation.org](http://www.crhsprojectgraduation.org) and present when ordering, they will donate 15% of net sales

#### Golf Tournament-December 17, 1pm

Forest Creek Golf Club, Players and sponsors needed! Sign up online or contact Trish Koester (WB resident) at [crhsprojectgrad-raiserchair@gmail.com](mailto:crhsprojectgrad-raiserchair@gmail.com). The deadline is December 10.

Monetary donations may be mailed to CRHS Project Grad Class of 2013, PO Box 5622, Round Rock, TX 78683-5622 or may be made online at [www.crhsprojectgraduation.org](http://www.crhsprojectgraduation.org).

### Connally High School • Cougar Celebration 2013

is the senior parent organization from Connally High School that provides a **safe alcohol and drug free** party for graduating seniors on the night of their graduation. We are raising money and taking financial or product donations. There are many ways for us to help you and for you to lend support. We've chosen these fundraisers because they benefit people while raising money toward our financial goal:

- N. Austin to Hutto coupon book. Only \$30 with 365 great deals. There's a buy one get one at Schlotzsky's and the Zed's coupon alone saves you up to \$19.00!
- Now selling **1200 thread count** sheet sets in 12 different colors, any size \$45.00 (GREAT HOLIDAY GIFT!)
- Come to Connally PTA's 8<sup>th</sup> annual Holiday Bazaar, at CHS on November 17, 9:00am-3:00pm. Cougar Celebration will be selling sheets, small gift baskets, gift tags and stocking stuffers.

Just call Sherry Hinesman for sales, donation forms or information, at 512-461-7561, or email [ccprojectgrad@gmail.com](mailto:ccprojectgrad@gmail.com)

**McNeil High School's Project Graduation** is once again hosting the 9<sup>th</sup> annual **Home for the Holidays Arts & Crafts Show**. Our event will be held on Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am-4:00pm at McNeil High School. **Home for the Holidays Arts & Crafts Show** is a juried show of vendors from throughout Texas. Space in each category is limited in order to insure a variety of merchandise. Join us for your one-stop shopping needs!

**Thank you for supporting all Wells Branch seniors!**

## TEJAS LIQUOR #2

2113 Wells Branch Pkwy, Ste 700, Austin, TX 78728

Phone: (512) 989-9437 • [www.tejasliquor2.com](http://www.tejasliquor2.com)

(Next to Raggedy Anne's Bar, Papa John's)

### PUBLIC NOTICE

"Tejas Liquor #2" is an independent store and is not affiliated with any other "Tejas Liquor". Since 2003, it has been serving the neighborhood under the same ownership. Our only other location is Dany's Liquor (Pflugerville, TX). Thank you for your continued patronage. - **Desh & Roopa**

### HOLIDAY SPECIALS

#### WHISKEY

BLACK GROUSE BY FAMOUS GROUSE 1.75L	40. <sup>99</sup>
CANADIAN MIST BLACK DIAMOND 1.75L	21. <sup>99</sup>
CROWN ROYAL 750ML/1.75L	\$24. <sup>99</sup> /50. <sup>99</sup>
DEWAR'S WHITE LABEL 1.75L	\$36. <sup>99</sup>
GENTLEMAN JACK 750ML	\$23. <sup>99</sup>
GLENLIVET 12Yrs 750ML	\$34. <sup>99</sup>
JACK DANIEL'S BLACK 750ML/1.75L	\$20. <sup>99</sup> /37. <sup>99</sup>
JAMESON IRISH 750ML	\$21. <sup>99</sup>
JIM BEAM WHITE 750ML/1.75L	\$14. <sup>99</sup> /23. <sup>99</sup>
MAKER'S MARK 750ML	\$23. <sup>99</sup>
TULLAMORE DEW 750ML	\$18. <sup>99</sup>

#### NOW IN STOCK (LIMITED AVAILABILITY):

FOUR ROSES SINGLE BARREL, GEORGE T. STAGG, THOMAS HANDY, VAN WINKLE & WILLIAM LARUE WELLER.

#### VODKA

ABSOLUT 750ML/1.75L	\$17. <sup>99</sup> /29. <sup>99</sup>
DEEP EDDY 1.75L (LOCAL - AUSTIN)	\$21. <sup>99</sup>
DRIPPING SPRINGS 1.75L (LOCAL - DRIPPING SPRINGS)	\$25. <sup>99</sup>
ENCHANTED ROCK 1.75L (LOCAL - SAN ANTONIO)	\$25. <sup>99</sup>
PINNACLE 1.75L	\$16. <sup>99</sup>
RUSSIAN STANDARD 1.75L	\$24. <sup>99</sup>
THREE OLIVES (DUDE/PURPLE/RANGTANG) / STOLI	\$9. <sup>99</sup>
BLACKBERRY 750ML (2-375ML) MIX-N-MATCH	\$15. <sup>99</sup>
UV 1.75L	\$15. <sup>99</sup>
VIKINGFJORD 1.75L	\$14. <sup>99</sup>

#### RUM/GIN

APPLETON RESERVE 1L	\$24. <sup>99</sup>
BACARDI RUM 1.75L (SUPERIOR/GOLD/SELECT)	\$20. <sup>99</sup>
CORUBA (COCONUT/MANGO/PINEAPPLE) 750ML	\$9. <sup>99</sup>
FLOR DE CANA WHITE/GOLD 1.75L	\$17. <sup>99</sup>
MALIBU COCONUT/CRAN-CHERRY 1.75L	\$20. <sup>99</sup>
SAILOR JERRY SPICED RUM 1.75L	\$20. <sup>99</sup>
BOMBAY SAPPHIRE 1.75L	\$36. <sup>99</sup>
TANQUERAY 1.75L	\$39. <sup>99</sup>

#### TEQUILA

1800 SILVER 100 PROOF 800ML (4-200ML)	\$24. <sup>99</sup>
BLUE NECTAR 750ML (SILVER/REPO/SPEC RES)	\$23. <sup>99</sup> /27. <sup>99</sup> /33. <sup>99</sup>
EL JIMADOR SILVER/REPO 750ML/1L	\$15. <sup>99</sup> /19. <sup>99</sup>

IN-STORE SPECIALS ON TEQUILAS SUCH AS: 1800, CABO WABO, CORRALEJO, DON EDUARDO, EL GRADO, PATRON & TEZON.

#### COGNAC/BRANDY

PAUL MASSON VS 1.75L	\$16. <sup>99</sup>
REMY MARTIN VSOP 750ML/1.75L	\$36. <sup>99</sup> /74. <sup>99</sup>

#### LIQUEUR/READY-TO-DRINK

ALIZE LIQUEUR 750ML & CORUBA RUM 750ML COMBO PACK	\$19. <sup>99</sup>
BARENJAGER HONEY LIQUEUR 375ML & HONEY WHISKEY 375ML	\$20. <sup>99</sup>

#### WINES - 15% OFF 2 OR MORE

BUDWEISER • BUD/MILLER/COORS LT \$10.<sup>99</sup>/12PK \$15.<sup>99</sup>/18PK

#### 10% OFF ALL OTHER SPIRITS

(WHEN YOU PURCHASE TWO IDENTICAL BOTTLES)

**MORE THAN 100 ITEMS ON SALE EVERY DAY. VISIT OUR STORE FOR MORE IN-STORE MONTHLY SPECIALS.**

We will **MEET OR BEAT** any neighborhood liquor store prices. Prices valid 'til Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> & while supplies last.



**FIGHTING FIT**  
**BOOT CAMP™**  
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**FIRST MONTH FREE**  
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**www.FitnessBootCampAustin.com**  
**14735 Bratton Lane #285 - Austin, Texas**




## Wells Branch's Got Talent

January 26 • 6-9pm

Got Talent? Whether you're six, sixteen, or sixty, we want to see it! 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 4th annual talent show from 6-9 pm 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.

## Going for a "walk" in style...

by Barbara Romero

Bear had hip surgery. He didn't follow the vet's orders and overdid himself even though he comes from a vet's family. Bear loves his walks and checking out the 'hood so Tim and Laura, whom Bear owns, put him in his wagon and get him around this way. Bear is practicing his wave but since it needs a little more work, his tail is doing a great job.



## Youth Fowl Shot Contest

November 20 • 6-8pm

Wells Branch youth are invited to test their basketball skills and maybe win a turkey to take home for Thanksgiving starting at 6pm in the Wells Branch MUD Recreation Center on Shoreline. Participants accumulate points by competing in a variety of basketball activities (Free Throw, 3-pt Around the World, and Knockout). Age groups will be split into three 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 or purchase a day pass to enter the gym and compete in the contest. Registration is free and will begin early November in the Rec. Center.



## Northwest Elementary News!

By Betsey Harper

Happy Fall & Winter from Northwest Elementary! Have you noticed how much your kids have grown since school started? Have you checked if they have outgrown their winter coats and shoes? Well, don't discard those gently worn coats & shoes; donate them to the new Northwest Coat and Shoe Closet. Drop locations in Wells Branch include donation boxes at 14717 Bescott Drive, 1808 Gaylord Drive, and Northwest Elementary.

Here are a few of Northwest's upcoming events:

Nov 30 – Parent's Night Out

Dec 6 – PTO meeting at 6:30pm in the library; all parents are welcome

Dec 8 – Breakfast with Santa

Dec 13 – PTO Meeting at 6:30pm in the library; all parents are welcome

Jan 17 – Family Science Night

For a complete up to date list of events and volunteer opportunities, check out our website at <http://cms.pflugervilleisd.net/page/475> and like us on Facebook too.

## Four Seasons

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With coupon only.  
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Expires 6-30-13

**\$4 OFF**  
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**Dinner Only**

with minimum \$30 purchase.  
With coupon only.

Cannot combine with any other coupon.

Expires 6-30-13

**FREE**

Choice of Chicken, Beef, Pork, Shrimp or Four Seasons Fried Rice with minimum \$40 purchase.

With coupon only.  
Cannot combine with any other coupon.

Expires 6-30-13

## Wells Branch Elementary Bulletin

Wells Branch  
Explorers



By Belinda Cini, Principal

Explorers have been so busy working and learning together at Wells Branch Elementary! Our families have enjoyed learning together too - thank you to everyone that came out for our Health and Fitness Fair, International Fair, McTeacher Night, and PTA

Movie Night! Much more is planned for the second quarter of the school year at WBE:

Nov. 21-23: No School, Thanksgiving Holidays

Nov. 27: School Spirit Patriotic Day, Wear red, white & blue!

Dec. 3-7: Scholastic Book Fair

Dec. 5: Fall Picture Retakes

Dec. 5: Early Release Day, 12:45pm

Dec. 11: PTA Holiday Performance, 6:30pm

Dec. 18: School Spirit Pajama Day

Dec. 20: First Semester Ends; Holiday Parties

Dec. 21-Jan. 7: No School - Happy Winter Holidays!

# Chicoine Chiropractic

www.chicoinechiropractic.com

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Whether it's back pain, headaches, or you're just feeling out of alignment, we're here to get you back in the game.

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(Residents of Wells Branch)

Shelly Chicoine Hogan, D.C.

Nicole Chicoine Edwards, D.C.

### \$50 Invitation to Better Health

• Includes a **20 minute therapeutic massage**

Initial consultation, exam, x-rays if necessary, and a discussion of the results.

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**(512)255-1777**

**Near Walgreens at the corner of Wells Branch Parkway and Mopac.**

*Our Family Has Been Caring For Your Family Since 1989.*



### WBNA Annual Safety Seminar with Sgt. Smith

**November 29 • 7pm , WB Community Ctr**

WBNA will host our Annual Holiday Safety

Seminar with Sgt. Craig Smith of the Travis County Sheriff's Office on Thursday, November 29 at 7pm in the Wells Branch Community Center on Klattenhoff. Sgt. Smith will discuss ways to keep our homes and families safe during the holidays. Please make a point to join us for this informative session and **PLEASE** bring your questions! Refreshments will be served. We hope to see you there!

### WB Happy Hour & Free Music Showcase

**Tuesday, November 27 • 7-10pm • Fours Seasons**

**Restaurant & Kenny's Coffee (corner of Bratton/Merrilltown)**

Come meet your friends and neighbors for our monthly Wells Branch Happy Hour beginning at 7pm at Four Seasons and then slide on over to Kenny's Coffee for a free music showcase from 8:00-9:30pm. Visit [www.wellsbranchhappyhour.com](http://www.wellsbranchhappyhour.com) for more details (and deals) as they become available! Questions? Call Grayson at 484-2614.

### From Recent MUD Board Meetings

by Debby Thompson

Regular 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 begin at 6:30pm. Agendas are posted the week prior to the meeting at [www.wellsbranchmud.com](http://www.wellsbranchmud.com).

### New Interim District Manager

Shirley Ross, Interim District Manager, may be reached at [ssross@wellsbranchmud.com](mailto:ssross@wellsbranchmud.com) or 251-9814. Jesse Kennis is no longer an employee of the District.

### WB District Office Relocation & Renovation

Renovations to the Annex on Wells Port have been completed and MUD staff are settling in to their new offices. Only a portion of the Annex will be used for District offices; both BSA & GS meeting rooms will remain intact. **Customer Service will remain at the Rec. Center on Shoreline.**

### WB Disc Golf Course

The Wells Branch Disc Golf Course has moved south of Wells Branch Parkway. Parking is available on Owen Tech. See [www.wellsbranchmud.com](http://www.wellsbranchmud.com) for details.



**THANK YOU Chuck Walters for more than 20 years of service to the Wells Branch Community!**

From your friends and neighbors, all of the children whose lives you've touched, and all of the WB Community Service Groups you have supported.





**2 for 1** *The Perfect Gift!*  
**Gift Certificate Special!**  
*Repeat or New Customers.*  
**Massage | Private Yoga | Stretching**  
 Wells Branch 78728. Offer expires December 31, 2012

**Massage + Yoga**

Schedule Online:  
**MassagePlusYoga.com**

## KUDOS! KUDOS! KUDOS!

A HUGE 'Thank You' to all of you who delivered our Fall issue of the WBNA Neighborhood News. This was our first 20-page newsletter. I know they were heavy and many of you had to make multiple trips out. Your efforts paid off though; we had great turn-outs for ALL of the Fall events. You were wonderful! Short notice and we got them all out before National Night Out on Tuesday! Many, many thanks to our WBNA family of deliverers and to all of you who offered to do extra sections. I'm thankful for each and every one of you!

**Mary Alverson, June Apprill, Daniel Barnekow, Henry & Owen Bennett, Emily Berver, Mike & Joyce Best, Garland Bullock, David Burke, Sheridan Dennis, Delian Filip, \*Chris Flores, Michelle & Jenny Gadush, Miriam, Melissa & Briana Garate, Dave Gezana, Georgene Goforth, Cynthia Hannon, Betsey, Tessi & Cole Harper, Travers Hough, Bill Johnson, Gus Kohn, Dan, Kim, Brendan & Sarah Lanicek, Brian & Rachel LeBansky, Ray, Samantha & Alexandra Lee, Brian & Jennifer Litke, Erik Macdanz, Sivaram, Jyoti & Arjuna Manda, Jim & Judy Mauldin, Katie & Becky Moore, William Olson, Angela Orth, Mekala Padmanabhan, Chris & Adrienne Plekenpol, Kim & Kat Sands, \*Scott Smith, Virgil Smith, Scott Swain, Debby Thompson, Lisa, Sarah, Faith, Grace & Liam Ward, Pamela & Bre Woodward**

**\*Volunteered to do additional sections – THANK YOU!** I'm pretty sure I've forgotten someone as I have an empty spot on my list. If you're the "one", **PLEASE** let me know so that I may thank you in the January issue and please accept my apologies! *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 [info@wbna.us](mailto:info@wbna.us) or 656-0654. 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.

**Also, thank you to all who've been contributing articles! Your input and participation bring a true sense of community to Wells Branch!**



## Food Drives for Central Texans in Need

Submitted by: Tammy DeWitt Le

48,000 Central Texas neighbors look to the Capital Area Food Bank of Texas as their hunger safety net. 20,000 of those in need are children. Many children in low-income families do not receive well-balanced evening meals because their caregivers work late hours or cannot afford nutritious food. Hunger is hurting our economy, our future, our health, our opportunities and our national security.

The Capital Area Food Bank nourishes hungry Central Texans by providing food and grocery products to more than 21 Central Texas counties. It reaches 300,000 clients each year through a network of 300 agencies. In fiscal year 2010-11, Central Texas Food Rescue brought in 6.2 million pounds of food.

We have several opportunities to support area food banks in our community. Let's show our neighbors in need how generous Wells Branch can be!

- Horizon Realty is sponsoring a food drive during the month of November. You may drop off your non-perishable food donation at the Wells Branch Recreation Center located at 3000 Shoreline Drive or at Northwest Elementary School located at 14014 Thermal Dr. (just off Wells Branch Pkwy). Donations will be accepted through Mon, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- The Pflugerville Fire Dept. Annual Food Drive will run through Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>. It will support local Pflugerville Food Banks. Drop your donations off at ESD No. 2 Fire Station 2 on the corner of Shoreline Drive and Bratton Lane. Monetary donations can be taken or mailed to 203 E. Pecan St., Pflugerville, TX 78660.
- The Wells Branch Community Library is also collecting donations through their own food drive beginning Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> and continuing through Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>; the library is located at 15001 Wells Port. Check their website for hours: [www.wblibrary.org](http://www.wblibrary.org).

For a list of things to donate, please go to [wbna.us](http://wbna.us). For questions, contact Tammy DeWitt Le (Horizon) at (512) 773-3214, Lt. Tim Wallace (PFD-ESD No.2) at 251-2801, or Donita Ward (WB Library) at (512) 989-3188. **Thank you for your support!**

## Oct. Hazardous Waste Collection Success!



Fantastic turnout for the MUD Bulky Trash & Hazardous Waste collection on October 13. Over 50 Wells Branch residents cleaned out their garages & sheds and brought in tons of large trash items, numerous truckloads of

recyclable materials for Habitat for Humanity and Goodwill, and two trailers full of batteries, oil, paint and anti-freeze. Thanks go out to Ed & Kay Peterson who volunteered their time, energy and gasoline to get the recyclable stuff to Habitat and Goodwill (and Scott Smith who took a load too), Lara Bennett who ran the hazardous waste collection and MUD staff: DeWayne, Fred, Manny, Braxton & Brandon for all their hard work and help! Numerous residents stopped to say they really appreciated this service and how much they LOVED living in Wells Branch! Great job, everyone!

## Quick Tips for **AVOIDING** those Holiday

### **Pounds** By Michael Massie, BAAS, CPT

Every year, you tell yourself it's going to be different this year. You're going to have willpower. You're going to avoid eating all that junk your family, co-workers and neighbors foist on you each year. You're going to exercise religiously through the holidays so you can get a head start on your New Years weight loss goals...

And every year, it's the same old story. You party more than you probably should, you eat more than you probably should, and between giving thanks, having a very merry Christmas, and auld lang syne, you gain between five and ten pounds. And if you're like many Americans, those pounds will be permanent, despite your best efforts at keeping your resolutions in the New Year.

So what can you do to avoid a replay this year, and maybe even take off some weight from last year as you pursue your New Years weight loss goals? Simple; you can follow the simple tips I'm about to share with you for avoiding those holiday pounds.

#### **Tip #1: Plan Ahead**

Having a plan - a real, actionable plan - is the most common weight loss secret among people who lose more than twenty pounds permanently. Regardless of which diet they follow, what workout they do, or which diet and exercise guru they follow, all successful "losers" have a plan and a routine that they stick to without fail.

We'll discuss routine in a minute... but weight loss success starts with having a plan. And over the holidays, that means planning ahead so you don't blow your weight loss by overdoing the holiday cheer. As you read the rest of these tips, start formulating a plan for sticking with your eating plan and workout routine through the holidays. That way, you'll never be caught flat-footed when you get busy and are faced with the temptation to overeat or skip a workout.

#### **Tip #2: Set a Routine and Stick With It**

Following a routine is crucial to successful weight loss. Prepare your healthy meals for the week at the same time (many people choose Sunday night to do this and freeze their meals for the week). Carve out time to exercise for at least 30 minutes four times a week and make it a habit before the holidays get here. Find ways to get more exercise in each day by walking or taking the stairs at work, by parking further away from your office, and by spending part of your lunch hour walking or exercising each day. Make it a habit now, and it will make it easier to resist the temptation to slip when the holidays are here.

#### **Tip #3: Always Have a Plan B and an Exit Strategy**

If you get to a party or event and there's nothing healthy to eat, you're going to eat junk. So, plan ahead. Eat a healthy, filling meal before you leave the house. Do an extra half hour on the treadmill, or better yet, some heavy strength training on days when you are attending a party or have a large meal planned. And, bring something healthy to eat to the parties you attend, instead of bringing cookies, cakes, and other fattening holiday staples (my favorite is a big bowl of hummus and veggies for dipping). Finally, plan your exit strategy by having an excuse to bug out when your willpower starts to fade.



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#### **Tip #4: Get an Accountability Partner**

Having an accountability partner will definitely help you stick to your goals over the holidays. This can be a workout partner, a spouse, friend or coworker who is following the same nutrition and exercise program as you, or a fitness coach or trainer. Whomever you choose, this person should be someone you trust enough to be honest with; they should also be someone who supports you and yet who holds you accountable when you cheat. Also, make sure you have to check in with them at least once a week (for example my clients have the option of weighing in and getting their body composition checked each week by my staff).

#### **Tip #5: Find Your Reason Why**

This is perhaps the most important tip of all. Finding your "reason why" is crucial to achieving any personal goal that requires discipline over an extended period of time. Your reason why needs to be powerfully motivating and deeply emotional for you. In addition, you need to anchor your reason why in positive emotions by visualizing daily what it will feel like to achieve your ultimate goal. Until you have a deep-seated, emotionally powerful reason why you are losing weight and exercising regularly, your efforts will sputter out and fail time and again. Do some soul-searching and spend some time on yourself to find your reason why; you'll be amazed at how powerful this strategy is for keeping you on track when the going gets tough.

*-Michael Massie owns Fighting Fit Boot Camp, a small group fitness and weight loss studio in Wells Branch. He has been a personal trainer and fitness instructor for over 15 years.*

## **Silver Branchers** Submitted by Darlene Bauhs

Regular meetings of the Silver Branchers will resume in January. The Silver Branchers meet the first three Thursdays of each month from 1:00 to 3:00pm at the WB Recreation Center on Shoreline Drive. Residents 55 years and older are welcome. For additional information, call the Wells Branch MUD at 251-9814.

## Recycling Update!

Recycling numbers continue to hold steady at 60% participation each month. This number is the percentage of households who put their blue recycling bins out for collection every other week. **We can do better, Wells Branch!**



Please encourage your neighbors to participate. Every pound counts! For each ton of recycling, the MUD receives \$20 (usually between \$500-\$800 a month). If we up our participation rate, the rebates increase too. These funds are dedicated to purchasing trees for our trails.

**Think green (literally) • Recycle!**

Recycling pickup only occurs every other week on regular trash pickup days. Clip and save this calendar or download the new calendar for 2013 from our website: [wbna.us](http://wbna.us). Visit our Recycling page under "Community" for the calendar and list of materials accepted.

### November 2012

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

### December 2012

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

### January 2013

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

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## Advertising and Article Submission

Do you have a business or service you would like to advertise? Have an article of interest to other WB residents? If so, please contact [ads@wbna.us](mailto:ads@wbna.us) for information.

Publication is not guaranteed, and all article submissions are subject to editing. All ads must be pre-paid. Please note that it is the policy of the WBNA not to publish political ads of any kind. **The deadline to receive ad payments, ad materials (including revisions to existing pre-paid ads) and article submissions for the next issue is January 4, 2013.**

Please see [www.wbna.us](http://www.wbna.us) for ad rates and sizes.



**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 512-484-2614**

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Ph#: 989-3188  
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Sun. 1pm-6pm

Enlighten, Enrich, Entertain

### Holiday Closures

Nov 21: early close at 4pm, Nov 22 & 23: closed all day  
Dec 24 and 25: closed all day  
Dec 31: early close at 4pm

### Adult Book Clubs

**Book clubs will be having parties in December in lieu of regular meetings.**



**Potluck Mystery Book Club:** Read any book from the series and bring a treat to share on the second Thursday of the month at 7pm.  
Dec 13: Janet Evanovich's *Stephanie Plum* series.

**Needles Hooks & Books:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month at 2pm in the Quiet Reading Room: Bring your project (knitting, embroidery, whatever) and discuss the book.

Nov 18: *Anna Karenina* by Leo Tolstoy



**Clueless Mysteries:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month at 3pm in the Quiet Reading Room: Come share your sleuthing skills and solve the mystery with us. Nov 18: *Ready Player One* by Ernest Cline

### Wine, Women and Words Book Club:

Newcomers are always welcome. This group meets at 7pm on the first Thursday of the month.



**Writer's Group:** Saturdays at 10am: All writers are invited to join the library's new group to write, work and share in a quiet, supportive environment.

**Arts and Crafts** (ages 8+ or with an adult) Wednesdays at 6pm: Creative projects for the family

### Adult Computer Classes: NO CHARGE.

Nov 17 @ 1pm: Twitter and Facebook- set-up, use and safety  
Nov 28 @ 6pm: Overdrive Digital Library- downloading direct  
Dec 5 @ 6pm: Learn a language online, for free!  
Dec 8 @ 1pm: Twitter and Facebook- set-up, use and safety  
Dec 19 @ 6pm: Overdrive Digital Library- downloading direct

\* Limited space- reserve your seat at least 3 days in advance\*

### Storytimes

Mondays at 10am: Baby Storytime (0-18 months)  
Mondays at 10:45am: Monkey in the Middle (12-24 months)  
Tuesdays at 6pm & 7pm: Pajama Storytime & craft (all ages)  
Fridays at 10am: Toddler Storytime (18-36 months)  
Fridays at 10:45am: Preschool Storytime (3-6 yrs)  
Saturdays at 11am: Storytime (all ages)



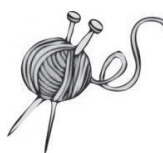
### After-School Programs for Kids

Wednesdays at 4:30pm

Nov. 28: Lego Club - build with our guides or your imagination

Dec. 5: Brain Games - play board and video games

Dec. 12: Comic Club - read, discuss, draw, & do crafts



**Knitting Group:** Thursday, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> at 7pm: Our instructor will help you work on a beginning project. The Library will provide needles and yarn.

**Conversational English:** Tuesdays, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm: Hosted discussions to work on English in a relaxed, informal environment.

### Homemade Ornament Workshop:

Sunday, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm: Make and decorate one-of-a-kind holiday ornaments



**Holiday Craft Event:** Saturday, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> at 3pm: We'll have the supplies to make lots of different projects – just bring your creativity and imagination!

### Polar Express Pajamarama:

Friday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> at 6 & 7:30pm: Enjoy holiday crafts, hot cocoa and cookies, a bedtime reading of *The Polar Express* and a special visit from Santa! Registration is required.



### Thank you, *Friends of the Library*!

The Friends raised over \$1000 at the Neighborhood Garage Sale. You can be a part of this vital group. Contact [friends@wblibrary.org](mailto:friends@wblibrary.org) today!



"Like" us on FACEBOOK to be linked for up-to-date information! Or Follow us on Twitter: @wblibrary



## Visit WBNA.US for More WB News



Our Holiday Issue is always packed. Try as we may, we just didn't have room for everything. Please visit the website at [www.wbna.us](http://www.wbna.us) for the following stories.

- Most important!! Photos & Thanks (Fall Holiday Events)
- Holiday Safety for the Home
- Waters at Willow Run Update
- Wells Branch Visions Workshops Continue
- Trees for Trails & Stream Team Plan
- WB Soccer Association Update
- Connect with your Neighbors
- Netiquette
- A Community to be Thankful for...

Watch for meeting updates for Friends of the Library and the Wells Branch Merchants Association as well as info on the WBNA New Year's Eve Extravaganza by logging in and going to [www.wbna.us](http://www.wbna.us).

## Garden Guild

In November, the Garden Guild elected not to have a regular meeting, but to meet at the Thanksgiving Potluck hosted by the WB MUD on November 17. Many are planning to fix "something from the garden" and bring it to share with the neighborhood. On Thursday, November 29, Chris Flores has invited the gardening group and others interested in yard and garden lighting to his home at 2327 Dowd Lane at 8pm for some Q & A and a tour of his set-up and yard lighting. Chris says you can just drop by but an RSVP would help as the yard is not huge. Call him at 512-578-6378 to save a spot.

The December meeting will be Saturday, December 1, at the MUD Rec. Center on Shoreline. Richard Fadal from TexaScapes will discuss preparing the winter garden. Richard always shares a wealth of information on doing things in a natural and organic way. Gardens (and gardeners) are NOT limited to vegetables so anyone who has an interest should come. Please remember to come at 10:30am to chat and share either food or gardening things and help set up chairs. Program is 11am-Noon or so.

## Open Ears Concerts at St. Andrews

Open Ears Concerts, hosted by St. Andrews Presbyterian Church on Wells Port, is a monthly non-profit series that presents established and emerging artists, mainly in acoustic genres such as folk, bluegrass, world, and jazz. Bring a dish to share in our potluck dinner and enjoy free fair trade coffee in a family-friendly, peaceful, listener-oriented environment. Doors open and potluck starts an hour before show time. All ages are welcome. While there is a suggested donation of \$10-\$15 for all shows, no one will be turned away.

Friday, Dec. 7, 7:30 pm: RJ Cowderly and Beth Wood

Sunday, Jan. 13, 1 pm: James Lee Stanley and John Batdorf  
For more information, see: [www.openearsconcerts.com](http://www.openearsconcerts.com)



## Wells Branch New Year's Eve Extravaganza!

**December 31, 8pm-12:30am**

Come celebrate and ring in the New Year in style with your friends & neighbors without ever leaving Wells Branch!

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 he'll be taking your requests.

The celebration is BYOB and we'll provide set-ups, punch, snacks, and a champagne toast at midnight.

Free admission with a donation to the Food Bank. Visit [wbna.us](http://wbna.us) for details.

If you'd like to help with the party or have questions, email Karen at [party@wbna.us](mailto:party@wbna.us).

## Toxin of the Month: Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC)

By Dianna Gielstra, Ph.D.

As the holidays approach, please keep in mind merchandise that contain toxic chemicals are lurking on store shelves. Many chemicals considered toxic are banned from use in toys in the United States; however, these chemicals are found in other products marketed to children, such as lunch boxes, Halloween costumes, and school supplies. Polyvinyl chloride, better known as PVC, is such a chemical used in these products. PVC is classified an "air toxic" by the United States Environmental protection Agency (US EPA). It is a plastic copolymer, and when combined with phthalates is classified as a Carcinogens, Mutagens, and Reproductive Toxicant (CMR).

Exposure to PVC is common. In PVC's inert form it is bound as a plastic used in materials such as vinyl, pipes, bottles, upholstery, and automotive parts. If phthalates are added to PVC, these plastic softeners are not bonded to the plastic, and the chemical can leach out into water, air, and soils over time. Health effects are considerable with PVC in its active form. For example, Diethylhexyl phthalate (DEHP) can leach out. It is a known endocrine disruptor, or hormone disruptor that may have an adverse impact on fertility. DEHP is also a known carcinogen. Furthermore, vinyl additives can contain lead and cadmium. Health effects from these combined materials are associated with Raynaud's syndrome, scleroderma, brain cancer, and irregular heartbeats to name a few. Lead specifically can damage brain development in children. The production of these chemicals also contributes significant pollution in the form of dioxin and phthalates. Thus, production of PVC increases endocrine disruptors presence in the environment.

### References:

Stanners, P. 2012. Denmark goes it alone with phthalates ban. Retrieved from URL: <http://cphpost.dk/news/national/denmark-goes-it-alone-phthalates-ban>  
Thornton, J. Environmental Impacts of Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) Building Materials. Retrieved from URL: [https://www.usgbc.org/Docs/LEED\\_tsac/PVC/CMPBS%20Original%20Submittal.pdf](https://www.usgbc.org/Docs/LEED_tsac/PVC/CMPBS%20Original%20Submittal.pdf)  
United States Environmental Protection Agency. 2012. Fact sheet: final air toxics standards for polyvinyl chloride and copolymers (PVC) production. Retrieved from URL: [http://www.epa.gov/airtoxics/pvc/pvc\\_fr\\_fs\\_021312.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/airtoxics/pvc/pvc_fr_fs_021312.pdf)



## How to avoid Phthalates and PVC

By Tara Fisher-Munoz

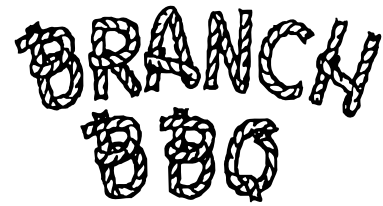
Phthalates, called “plasticizers,” are a group of industrial chemicals used to make plastics like polyvinyl chloride (PVC) more flexible or resilient and are also used as solvents. Phthalates



are nearly ubiquitous in modern society, found in, among other things, toys, food packaging, hoses, raincoats, shower curtains, vinyl flooring, wall coverings, lubricants, adhesives, detergents, nail polish, hair spray and shampoo.

Phthalates are known as “endocrine disruptors” because they mimic the body’s hormones and have, in laboratory animal tests, been shown to cause reproductive and neurological damage. It is best to avoid phthalates as much as possible and special attention should be given to PVC and avoiding it at ALL costs. Below are some tips on how to avoid exposure to phthalates and PVC:

- Avoid personal-care products with heavy artificial fragrance, especially those with “Fragrance” or “Parfum” listed as an ingredient. Check your products toxicity level on the EWG’s Skin Deep website: [www.cosmeticdatabase.org](http://www.cosmeticdatabase.org).
- Take down that smelly PVC shower curtain and replace it with one made of recycled polyester or natural fibers.
- Unplug your air fresheners. Baking soda is a natural alternative that can be used to absorb bad odors. Plug-ins and similar products are the number one indoor air pollutant. Air freshener chemicals have been implicated in cancer, neurological damage, reproductive and developmental disorders. They can also trigger asthma attacks.
- Avoid using plastic cling wrap on food items. Glass, stainless steel and unbleached wax or parchment paper serve as healthier alternatives.
- Go to [Healthytoys.org](http://Healthytoys.org) to check out the ingredients in toys and avoid the toys that have the highest levels of toxic chemicals.
- Avoid purchasing products that contain vinyl, especially children’s school supplies, such as vinyl binders and pencil pouches.
- Look for the recycling code #3 or V to spot PVC products before they enter your home. And remember that P-V-C is B-A-D.
- Let elected officials know that you want products without toxic chemicals, including PVC, phthalates and vinyl.



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### ‘Tis the season to water wisely

Wells Branch residents can save money year-round by conserving water during the winter wastewater averaging period beginning November 12, 2012 and ending February 13, 2013.

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. The usage during this time frame determines the wastewater charge each month from April 2013 to March of 2014. Now is the time to make sure that there are no leaking faucets or running toilets!!! Customers may contact Margret Wingrove at 246-5908 or [mwingrove@crossroadsus.com](mailto:mwingrove@crossroadsus.com) with any questions.

Visit the following site for more tips on water conservation:  
<http://www.watერიq.org/apps/watერიq/default.aspx>

## Save the Date: Winter Clean-Up Day, Saturday, January 12 from 8am-5pm

**Bulk Trash Drop Off • Hazardous Waste Collection Site • Drop Off for Easter Seals & Habitat for Humanity  
Saturday, January 12 • 8am-5pm • 13905 Thermal**

At the request of Ed & Kay Peterson, the WB MUD decided to let us continue to hold these recycling events on a quarterly basis (January, April, July & October). Bring your old batteries, oil, paint, and antifreeze to the WB MUD Maintenance Facility at 13905 Thermal Drive, Saturday, January 12, from 8am-5pm. The MUD is providing a trailer and staff to transport these items to the Hazardous Waste Facility in far South Austin as part of our continued Keep Wells Branch Beautiful efforts.

There are restrictions as to what can be collected and transported. Oil, paint and antifreeze need to be in closed containers. If bringing car or boat batteries, a cardboard box would be appreciated (but not necessary). We cannot take light bulbs, fertilizer, pesticides or other chemicals at this time.







# Community Calendar

Nov. 17, 3:30pm: Dedication Grove, Pavilion at KF Park\*\*

Nov. 17, 6-8pm: Thanksgiving Potluck, WBRC\*\*

Nov. 20, 6-8pm: Youth Fowl Shot Contest, WBRC\*\*

Nov. 27, 7-10pm: WB Happy Hour & Free Music Showcase, Four Seasons & Kenny's

Nov. 29, 7pm: WBNA Meeting/Travis Co. Safety Seminar, WBCC\*

Nov. 29, 8pm: WBGG - Outside Lighting - Chris Flores - 2327 Dowd Ln.

Dec. 1, 11am: WBGG - Preparing a Winter Garden - Richard Fadal

Dec. 7, 7:30pm: Open Ears Concert - RJ Cowdery & Beth Wood - St. Andrews on Wells Port\*

Dec. 14 & 15, 6-9pm: WB Luminary Fest, WBCC & KF Park\*

Dec. 31, 8pm-12:30am: WBNA New Year's Eve Extravaganza, WBCC\*

Jan. 12, 8am-5pm: Winter Clean-Up Day, WB MUD Maintenance Yard, 13905 Thermal Drive\*

Jan. 13, 1pm: Open Ears Concert - James Lee Stanley & John Batdorf\*

Jan. 26, 6-9pm: Wells Branch's Got Talent, WBRC\*\*

\*See [www.wbna.us](http://www.wbna.us) for details

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

MP=Mills Pond; WBCL=WB Comm Library;

WBCC=Community Center on Klattenhoff;

WBRC=Rec Center on Shoreline;

WBP=Willow Bend Pool, Bratton & Sauls.

Are you a nonprofit with a free event to share?

If so, send the details - date, place and time via email to: [ads@wbna.us](mailto:ads@wbna.us).

PLEASE NOTE: Events put on by for-profit entities do not qualify for this space.



## Your Wells Branch Neighbor & Specialist!

**WELLS BRANCH SOLD HOME STATS\***  
Total homes sold: 134 • Average days on market: 38 days  
Avg sold/list price %: 98.88% • Avg sold price per sq ft: \$94.43

**TAMMY & JUDY'S WELLS BRANCH SOLD HOME STATS\***  
Total homes sold: 11 • Average days on market: 6 days  
Avg sold/list price %: 99.98% • Avg sold price per sq ft: \$101.53

\*Includes last 6 months of statistics as of 10/22/12

Judy DeWitt, Realtor, GRI, ABR  
(512) 917-8037



Tammy DeWitt Le, Realtor  
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[www.familypair.com](http://www.familypair.com)



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Pam Wachholz, WB resident for 19 years  
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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 2013

Holiday 2012

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