



Neighborhood News

News and information for the residents of Wells Branch.
Vol 22, Issue 1 January 2014

It's that time, again! by Debby Thompson, WBNA Pres.

Time to renew your Wells Branch Neighborhood Association membership. Memberships run from February 1 to January 31. So, start your new year off right – rejoin! Household membership is only \$20.

Think of your WBNA membership as a second insurance policy on your home. Your primary insurance protects you from weather, fire, and physical damage while your WBNA membership helps to protect the value of your home by keeping you informed about neighborhood crime, proposed developments that might affect the value of your home (i.e. housing, toll road construction, school boundary changes) and community events.

We monitor crime statistics, have a very active neighborhood watch program, maintain excellent relationships with the sheriff's department and much more to insure our members know what is happening. We were instrumental in getting Travis County on SpotCrime so that each and everyone of you could have the option of receiving daily reports about criminal activity in Wells Branch.

We attend regular monthly MUD board meetings to stay informed on governmental activities that might affect your family or home.

In addition, The WBNA sponsors many events each year that improve the neighborhood and help foster a close relationship between you and your neighbors. The annual Easter Egg Hunt, Fourth Fest Silent Auction, National Night Out, Luminary Fest (Friday night), Candidate Forums and Safety Seminars throughout the year.

Last, but certainly not least, the WBNA Neighborhood News (six issues per year), our website: wbna.us, and our Facebook page provide you with the latest information on what's going on in our community.

All of these activities are funded through membership, advertising in the newsletter and the 4th Fest Silent Auction & Raffle. Sometimes we're stretched a little thin. While you receive all the benefits of having an active neighborhood association for free, your \$20 membership really does make a difference in what we can provide. There's a membership form on the back page and a printable version on the website. Can we count on you to help this year?

Help shape YOUR Community! Get involved!

2013 saw another year of continued growth in our neighborhood association. Our community needs your participation and involvement. Please consider joining the neighborhood association and volunteering your time and talents.

Annual WBNA Officer Elections

Thursday, February 27, 7pm • WB Community Center

All residents (both in-district and out-of-district) are invited and encouraged to attend the annual WBNA meeting on Thursday, February 27, 7pm at the Community Center on Klattenhoff.

Guest Speaker - Travis County Sheriff Sgt. Craig Smith will join us at our annual meeting to discuss recent crime trends in Wells Branch, precautions we can all take to make our lives safer, and answer residents' questions.

We'll begin the evening with WBNA officer elections. Below is a list of current board members who are willing to continue serving the neighborhood with their time and talent in 2014 and will be seeking re-election. They are:

President – Debby Thompson
Vice-President – Chuck Walters
Treasurer – Lara Bennett
Secretary – Linda Baird
Community Liaison – Tom Cheshire
Member at Large – Donna Malone
Editor - Pam Wachholz

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

We hope you'll bring your ideas and suggestions for what you'd like to see from your neighborhood association in 2014. See you on the 27th



Inside this Issue

Birding in WB	Library News
..... page 14 pages 4,6
Business Spotlight	Luminary Fest Photos
..... pages 8,9 pages 10,11
Community Calendar	MUD Events
..... page 20 page 16
Disc Golf	Recycling Calendar
..... page 8 page 17
From MUD meetings	RRISD Bond
..... page 18 page 2
Garden Guild	School News
..... page 2 pages 15,19
Hazardous Waste Team	Soccer Registration
..... page 17 page 7
KUDOS	Waterfowl
..... page 18 page 3

WELLS BRANCH VISION CARE

Great deals on vision care for the whole family!

**50%
OFF**

**SUNGLASSES
WITH THE
PURCHASE OF A
YEAR SUPPLY
OF DISPOSABLE
CONTACTS***

**\$75
OFF**

**EXAM AND A
COMPLETE PAIR
OF GLASSES***

**50%
OFF**

**A SECOND
COMPLETE PAIR
OF GLASSES****

Bringing life into focus.

512.251.4040 • wbvision.com

2013 Wells Branch Parkway • Suite 102 • Austin, TX 78728

*Some restrictions apply. Not valid with other offers. Not to be combined with insurance. Offer expires 12/31/2014.

** 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 12/31/2014.



WB Garden Guild by Dianne Koehler

The Garden Guild will focus on *"Easy Plants to Grow for Spring and Summer"* at the February 15 meeting. We'll talk about plants that do well as it heats up here in Texas, what will tolerate the expected continuing drought, those that grow well from seeds, what needs to be transplanted, and

any other questions that neighbors might have. The meetings are open to anyone with an interest in gardening.

We meet at the MUD Recreation Center at 3000 Shoreline on the 3rd Saturday of each month from 11:00am-Noon, but come early at 10:30 for plant trades, sampling of garden produce, garden/yard item sharing and just general meet and greet.

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

RRISD Bond Committee Update

Due to current and projected growth throughout the District, RRISD has determined a need for a Citizens Bond Committee (CBC) study regarding the possible need for a bond election in May 2014.

Four sub-committees have been formed: Elementary Needs, Secondary Needs, District/Technology Needs, and Finance. If Trustees choose to proceed with a May election, they must call the election by February 28, 2014.

On January 9, the CBC met with Wells Branch residents at WB Elementary to discuss overcrowding and possible solutions. WBE is currently at approx. 135% capacity with a steady increase in enrollment forecast over the next 6 years. Community input was taken with the majority of residents requesting the addition of a second RRISD elementary school for Wells Branch. RRISD owns land at the corner of Sauls and Bratton where the soccer fields are currently located.

The CBC has been visiting schools, asking questions and hearing from residents-all of this information is being reviewed to assess the needs of the entire district. The CBC will begin making their recommendations to the RRISD Board of Trustees on February 3. The Board will then decide whether to hold a bond election in May and if so, what the bond will include. Members of the Elementary Subcommittee voted unanimously to recommend a relief school for Wells Branch.

WBNA would like to thank Wells Branch residents Michael Farris and Emily Spiars for donating their time, energy, and expertise to serve on the Elementary Needs Subcommittee of the Citizens Bond Committee. For more information, see: roundrockisd.org.



WB Walking/Jogging Club Forming

Interested in completing a 5K, 10K or marathon? Want to meet other people to jog/walk the trails? The Wells Branch MUD is starting a walking/jogging club and wants to hear from you! Please contact Katie Hutcheson at khutcheson@wellsbranchmud or 512-251-9814 ext. 111 and let her know when and what time works best for you.



**Honesty.
Respect.
Professionalism.
Courtesy.**

Lee Cramer, Agent

2013 Wells Branch Pkwy, #107
Austin, TX 78728

Bus: 512-251-3473

Lee.Cramer.b4hp@statefarm.com

It's how I treat all my customers.
**Like a good neighbor,
State Farm is there.®**

CALL ME TODAY.

AUTO • HOME • RENTERS • LIFE

...30th year serving Wells Branch...





A new addition to the Pond...

As part of their ongoing efforts to improve and maintain water quality and a healthy environment for the residents of Wells Branch as well as the wildlife inhabiting Mills Pond, the MUD has posted **"PLEASE DO NOT FEED THE WATERFOWL"** signs around the pond.

As you may recall, the ducks which were re-homed this past Fall had a host of illnesses. **NOT** feeding our migratory birds can help to keep them healthy.

Reasons Not to Feed the Waterfowl – Betsey Harper

Malnutrition - Bread, crackers, popcorn, chips, etc. offer little nutritional value.

Overcrowding - Feeding attracts birds in excess which stresses natural food and water supplies.

Pollution - Leftover food pollutes water and land; it smells and attracts pests like rats, mice, raccoons, coyotes, etc.

Diseases - Angel Wing, Duck Plague, Avian Cholera, Influenza, and Botulism become more probable.

Loss of Natural Behavior - Destroys fear of humans, causes food aggression and/or nesting in populated areas.

Delayed Migration - Feeding encourages waterfowl to overstay in ponds which interrupts their natural migration.

Please help keep our Pond healthy by not feeding the wildlife and helping to educate other park patrons on this important issue.

Silver Branchers

By Darlene Bauhs & Ron Robinder



The Silver Branchers closed out 2013 with an enthusiastic Christmas luncheon at Zeds and are looking forward to an exciting 2014!

Each Thursday, the Silver Branchers meet from 1 to 3pm at the WB Recreation Center

on Shoreline Drive with occasional day trips and guest speakers. Residents 55 years and older, are welcome. For additional information call the Wells Branch MUD at 251-9814 or check the calendar at WBNA.us.

February 20 at 1pm, Doug Mitchell, a financial planner associated with the Telco Federal Credit Union, will speak about finances in our senior years. Doug will describe for us what a financial counselor can do for seniors and share tips regarding living on a very constrained budget. Come and bring your questions. Game Time will follow.

February 27 the Silver Branchers will be hosting an AARP Safe Driving class. Cost for AARP members is \$15 and non-members is \$20. This will last from 1-5pm and will qualify those who complete it for a discount from most insurance companies. Sign-up will be at the class. Limited to WB residents. Suggestions for day trips? Contact Ron (robinder@sbcglobal.net), Darlene (dgbauhs@gmail.com) or Matt (mfuller@wellsbranchmud.com) with your suggestions and we'll present them at a future meeting.

TEJAS LIQUOR #2

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

Phone: (512) 989-9437 • 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**

SPECIALS WHISKEY

BLACK VELVET	
TOASTED CARAMEL/CINNAMON RUSH 750ML	\$10.99
BLACK VELVET RESERVE 1.75L	\$18.99
CROWN ROYAL 750ML/1.75L	\$24.99/\$51.99
GENTLEMAN JACK 750ML	\$25.99
JACK DANIEL'S BLACK 750ML/1.75L	\$21.99/\$39.99
JAMESON 750ML/1.75L	\$23.99/\$48.99
JIM BEAM WHITE 750ML/1.75L	\$13.99/\$23.99
WILD TURKEY 101 1.75L	\$35.99

VODKA

ABSOLUT 750ML	\$17.99
DEEP EDDY 1.75L	\$26.99
DRIPPING SPRINGS 1.75L	\$27.99
NEW AMSTERDAM 750ML/1.75L	\$11.99/\$18.99
RUSSIAN STANDARD	
REG/PLATINUM/GOLD 375ML TRIO PACK	\$29.99
SKYY INFUSION 750ML (ALL FLAVORS)	\$15.99
SKYY 1.75L	\$23.99
THREE OLIVES REGULAR 750ML	\$17.99
UV 1.75L	\$15.99

RUM/GIN

BACARDI 1.75L (SUPERIOR/GOLD)	\$20.99
KRAKEN BLACK SPICED 1.75L	\$24.99
SAILOR JERRY SPICED 1.75L	\$23.99
BEEFEATER 1.75L	\$33.99
BOMBAY SAPPHIRE 1.75L	\$38.99
TANQUERAY 1.75L	\$40.99

TEQUILA

1800 SILVER/REPOSADO 1.75L	\$41.99
1800 SILVER/REPOSADO 750ML (2 OF 375ML)	\$22.99/\$23.99
ALTOS SILVER/REPOSADO 750ML	\$18.99
AVION SILVER 750ML	\$29.99
CABO WABO SILVER 750ML	\$29.99
EL JIMADOR SILVER/REPO 750ML/1.75L	\$16.99/\$31.99
MAESTRO DOBEL PREMIUM TEQUILA 750ML	\$35.99
PEPE Z SILVER 750ML	\$24.99

BRANDY/COGNAC

PAUL MASSON VS 750ML/1.75L	\$8.99/\$16.99
----------------------------	----------------

LIQUEUR

JAGERMEISTER 750ML/1.75L	\$20.99/\$42.99
--------------------------	-----------------

**WINES - 15% OFF WHEN YOU BUY 6 OR MORE
10% OFF WHEN YOU BUY 2 OR MORE**

BUDWEISER • BUD/MILLER/COORS LT \$11.49/12PK \$16.99/18PK

**SALES ARE NOT LIMITED TO THESE ITEMS.
THERE ARE LOTS OF IN-STORE SALES ALSO.**

We will **MEET OR BEAT** any neighborhood liquor store prices.
Prices valid 'til March 14th & while supplies last.

AUSTIN IMPACT
JEET KUNE DO

FIGHTING FIT
BOOT CAMP

50% Special Off Morning Classes!
NEW Kids Fit Kickboxing Classes!
2 Week FREE Trials!



FREE Fitness Newsletter!
 (Packed With Tons Of Weight Loss Tips)
Just Visit Our Website At:
FightingFitAustin.com



Second Chance
CONCRETE

WE COVER UGLY CONCRETE!


Jerry • Your WB Neighbor


512-779-0040
SecondChanceConcrete@gmail.com
www.sierrastone.com

Friends of the Wells Branch Community Library News by Gus Kohn, President



HUGE Community Garage Sale!

Planning a garage sale to declutter this spring? Let the Friends of the Wells Branch Community Library help

you! Reserve your space today in the library parking lot for Saturday, March 29th from 7am-Noon and we'll send lots of customers your way! You **KEEP** all your profits!

A large turnout is expected once again after the tremendous successes of the past two years' sales so come join your friends and neighbors. The Community Garage Sale will help the Friends of the WBCL raise funds for the Summer Reading Program and other programs at the library. Space is limited so reserve today!

We will have approximately 25 more spaces for rent than last year. Prices will be \$15 for one space or \$20 for two spaces if purchased before February 28th, and \$20 for one and \$25 for two after February 28th. Sign up now! First Come First Served! Drop off the registration form in this newsletter at the library with your fees, TODAY! Everyone knows this sale is not to be missed!

Don't want to rent a space? Save the date and come shop for treasures from your neighbors and support your neighborhood library at the same time! The Friends of the Wells Branch Community Library will sell concessions again this year so come hungry!

Raffle Results

The FOL would like to thank everyone who purchased a raffle ticket in our recent raffle for their support and we congratulate the 6 winners.

Grand Prize: iPad Mini 64GB & WiFi - *Kristen Johnson*

Second Prize: \$250 HEB Gift Card - *Scott Smith*

Third Prize: \$150 Leather Purse, Dog Collar and Key Ring - *The Joffrains*

Fourth Prize: \$130 Wine & Snack Picnic Basket - *Katie Halling*

Fifth Prize: \$100 Starbucks Gift Basket - *John Altman*

Sixth Prize: \$85 Handmade Silver Ring - *Janet Maxey*

We also thank our Donors for their gracious gifts; HEB, Stick Dog Leather, UFCU Pflugerville Branch, Starbucks and Stones Throw Jewelers.

Funds generated by the raffle went to provide two presentations of *The Polar Express* and an appearance by Santa himself at Pajamarama. Please see our Facebook page "WBFOL" for more pictures.

FOL Elections and General Meeting

A General Meeting of the Friends of the Wells Branch Community Library was held on December 29th at 2pm at the library. Activities and programs provided by the FOL were outlined and an election of officers was conducted.

All incumbent FOL Board members were re-elected with the exception of Lara Bennett who resigned to have more time to spend with her family. The Friends of the Wells Branch Community Library could not have progressed and achieved the many programs and events we did in the past two years without Lara's generous help and excellent directorship. We will miss her on our board although she will still be an active FOL member.

Tracy Simon a staunch supporter and active participant of the FOL was elected to the vacancy and Joy Hall Bryant another staunch supporter and active participant of the FOL was appointed to the remaining opening on the board.

Current board members include: Gus Kohn, President; Pamela Woodward, Vice-President; Madonna Johnson, Secretary; Theresa Faris, Treasurer and Library Trustee Liaison; Tracy Simon, At-Large Director and Joy Hall Bryant, At-Large Director. Please congratulate these individuals when you see them for their support of the Friends of the Wells Branch Community Library. If you are not already a member of the FOL or your membership has lapsed, please join. Applications are available on the circulation desk at the library.



Top: Santa visited Pajamarama.

Left: L-R: Owen Bennett, Lara Bennett, Pamela Woodward, Madonna Johnson, Gus Kohn and Nathan Kohn as they draw the raffle winners.

Chicoine Chiropractic

www.chicoinechiropractic.com

A Healthy Spine Awaits You.

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

*We also perform school physicals.



We accept most major insurance.



(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.

3407 Wells Branch Pkwy. #625 - Austin, TX 78728

(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 Holiday Home Decorating Contest Winners by Debby Thompson

Judging the Home Decorating Contest this year was not an easy task. Special thanks to our neighbors Donna Malone, Lara Bennett, Betsey Harper, Madonna Johnson, Chris Flores, and Scott Smith who volunteered their time to drive the neighborhood and look at all the lights. All the homes were beautiful and we appreciate everyone's hard work!

Thanks to your suggestions, we've already made plans to add some categories next year: **Visible from Space** (Thanks, Gus), **Most Patriotic** (Thanks, Maribel), and **Best Block** (Thanks, Randy). Please let us know if you have any other suggestions at lights@wbna.us or if you'd be willing to work on a Yard of the Month committee.

Congratulations to all the Winners!

Most Original: Dan & Kim Lanicek

Best Use of Lights: Jesus & Daisy Valdez

Most Energy Efficient: Neal Gibson & Hester Weikel

Most Elaborate: Wes & Janice Burch

Most Traditional: Jeffrey & Sally Kutalek

WBNA Appreciation Award: Scott Ballenger

Visit our website to see full color photos of all of the holiday lights.





Enlighten, Enrich, Entertain

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

In 2013, we added over 5,000 items and patrons saved \$2,170,822 by borrowing library materials.

Wells Branch Bird Watching Series

Make the most of the beautiful weather by learning how to find & attract local bird species. *Presented by the Travis Audubon Society.* Free & open to all ages! Thursdays at 6pm

Feb 13: Finding Birds in the Austin Area

Feb 27: Hummingbirds of Central Texas

Mar 27: Care & Feeding of Backyard Birds

Apr 10: Birds Matter: 5 Actions for Bird Conservation



Special Love Your Library Month Programs

High Tea at Downton- Adults (ages 14+) only. Fall in love with Downton Abbey by enjoying tea and watching all of Season 1 over 4 weeks. Sundays at 1:30pm Feb 2, 9, 16 and 23.

Reading Raffles: Turn in an entry for every hour you read.

Adults can win a gift basket of gourmet goodies and kids can win a giant stuffed dog.

Show Your Love- For \$1 donation, you can decorate and display a special valentine for the library.

Free Family Concert: Songs and stories with Kim Lehman- Feb 15 at 11am- Interactive fun for families.



Storytimes

Mondays at 10:15am: Baby Storytime (0-18 months)

Mondays at 11am: Toddler Storytime (18-36 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)

Adult Book Clubs

Steamy Reads: 1st Wednesday of each month at 6pm: Read and discuss a new steamy romance over a steamy coffee/tea/cocoa. ****New Members get a FREE book, while supplies last****



February 5th - *Enchanted: Erotic Bedtime Stories for Women* by Nancy Madore

March 5th - *A Rogue by Any Other Name: The First Rule of Scoundrels* by Sarah MacLean

April 2nd - *In Dreams Begin* by Skyler White (**Author will be attending the meeting!**)



Clueless Mysteries: 3rd Sunday of each month at 3pm: Solve the mystery with us.

Feb 16: *The Cutting Season* by Attica Locke

Mar 16: *Watching the Dark* by Peter Robinson

Wine, Women and Words: Newcomers are always welcome at 7pm on the first Thursday of the month.

Feb 6- *A Fine Balance* by Rohinton Mistry

Mar 6- *Dreams of Joy* by Lisa See



***NEW* Fantastic Fantasy:** 2nd Thursday of each month at 7pm. Join us to choose future books!

Feb 13: *Sister Light, Sister Dark* - Jane Yolen



Adult Computer Classes- FREE! Take charge of the digital domain with our knowledgeable instructors! *Registration required – Call or visit the library to sign up!*

- Saturday, Jan 25 at 10:30am – Excel Basics
- Saturday, Feb 1 at 10:30am – Excel Intermediate
- Wednesday, Feb 5 at 6pm – Internet Basics
- Wednesday, Feb 19 at 6pm – HTML Basics
- Saturday, 3/01, 10:30am – Word Basics
- Wednesday, 3/05, 6pm – Excel Basics
- Wednesday, 3/19, 6pm – Excel Intermediate
- Saturday, 3/22, 10:30am – Word Intermediate

eBook Basics: Wednesday, Jan 15 at 6pm

We will walk you through how to borrow the library's eBooks on your eReader, tablet, or laptop. Bring your eReader or laptop if you have one. *Registration required.*



Knitting Group: Thursdays Feb 20 and Mar 20 at 6:30pm: Whether you're just learning the basics or refining your skills, our instructor can help you. We provide the needles and yarn!

Resume Workshop: Saturday, Feb 15 at 10:30am. Learn how to tailor your resume to a specific job opening so it will catch the eye of any employer. Bring a paper copy of your resume and a job posting to the class. *Registration required*

Spring Break at the Library

See our calendar for registration and more information.

Sunday, Mar 9: Lego Fun Day 10am-noon & 1-3pm

Monday, Mar 10: ages 5+ Juggling Show and Class

Tuesday, Mar 11: 5pm Movie- *Monsters University*

Wednesday, Mar 12: 9:30 & 10:45am Heartsong Music

Thursday, Mar 13: 3pm Board Games

Friday, Mar 14: 3pm Wii Challenge- Mario Kart



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

WB Food Pantry Report by Wendy Valdez



St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church would like to thank the WBNA for your tremendous support of our Food Pantry. Your generous donations helped us to serve over 3,300 clients in 2013. With an annual

operating cost of over \$13,000, the Food Pantry requires the continued dedication and compassion of all members of the Wells Branch Community. Thank you for standing with us in the fight against hunger!

If you would like to make a donation to our Food Pantry, you can drop it off at St. Andrew's located at 14311 Wells Port Dr. (Office hours Mon-Fri 9am-1pm). If you have any questions, feel free to contact Wendy Valdez at 512-251-0698 or admin@staopen.org.

From the WBNA - A HUGE THANK YOU to EVERYONE for your generous donations! The WBNA has chosen to support THIS food bank because it is a LOCAL service that directly supports the WB Community.

Open Ears Concerts

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, 14311 Wells Port Drive
www.openearsconcerts.com

Open Ears Concerts, hosted by St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, is a monthly series that presents established and emerging artists, mainly in acoustic genres such as folk, bluegrass, world, and jazz. Bring your family and friends, and a snack to share and enjoy free fair trade coffee in a family-friendly, peaceful, listener-oriented environment. Doors open and Potluck begins at 6pm. While there is a suggested donation of \$15, no one will be turned away.

Saturday, February 1: James Lee Stanley & Cliff Eberhardt
Saturday, March 1: Gurf Morlix

WBSA Spring Soccer Registration NOW Open!

by Nick Marquez, WBSA President

Wells Branch Soccer spring registration is now officially open! Families have until January 30th to get their children enrolled. **Although, we will continue to take registration past the deadline until all teams are full.**

We are proud to be the most convenient, most affordable, and most enjoyable soccer in Austin. WBSA offers 20+ practices, ~10 games, a uniform, practice jersey, friendships, exercise, and leadership skills for as little as \$95. Every team is also provided access to amazing facilities right in Wells Branch. Exceptional parents are encouraged to register as coaches at this time as well.

Thanks for helping make Wells Branch soccer a success. We appreciate your assistance in spreading the word about registration. Go to

www.wellsbranchsoccer.com to get your child signed-up.

Let's make this our best season yet!



Get your game faces on!



With life insurance, the benefits live on.

Carmina Eaton, Agent
4201 W. Parmer Lane Bldg. B
Austin, TX 78727
Bus: 512-244-6641
carmina.eaton.cao9@statefarm.com

There are also benefits now.
I'll show you how life insurance can come in handy for more immediate family needs, like college.
We put the life back in life insurance.™
CALL ME TODAY.



State Farm Life Insurance Company (Not licensed in MA, NY or WI)
State Farm Life and Accident Assurance Company (Licensed in NY and WI)
Bloomington, IL
1311019

Santa Cruz Landscaping

A Family Business & Wells Branch Neighbor

- Maintenance
- Installments
- Clean-up
- Fertilizing
- Tree Trimming

Free Estimates!



Ricardo Gonzalez
(512) 428-6568
(512) 203-7941
SantaCruzLandscapes.com
info@santacruzlandscapes.com

We meet all your landscaping needs.

LEASED!

**PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
LEASE MARKETING
LEASE LOCATING**

*Houses, Condos, Duplexes, or
Apartments—all areas!*



Sheila K. Foster, REALTOR®
Leasing Associate

512-779-3731 Cell • 512-345-9886 Office
KNOWLEDGE • EXPERIENCE • RESULTS
www.recarandassociates.com



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



Baby it's cold outside...

Stay inside where it's warm!

**Fast & Affordable
Catering Available**



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

WB Business Spotlight - The Piazza Shopping Center

by Gus Kohn



This is the third in the series of articles about the various shopping areas in our neighborhood. Remember that sales tax paid within Wells Branch benefits both the Library and the Fire Department (ESD#2), so remember to "Shop WB"!

The Piazza at 2113 Wells Branch Pkwy., has new businesses and some familiar ones that have undergone recent changes.

Little Spurs Pediatric Urgent Care, a new addition to the Piazza moved in the West anchor space 3 months ago. Marketing Liaison, Jill Verrico tells me that this clinic is unique; it is the only neighborhood Pediatric Urgent Care/ Minor Emergency Facility in Austin. Usually parents have to pay high prices and spend long waits for an ER visit; instead they can bring them to the Little Spurs clinic and be seen in a shorter time. Parents may call 512-831-3396 for an appointment or walk in with their kids under 21 years for anything from immunizations to broken bones and other issues most pediatricians refer to Emergency Rooms. They are open M-F 9am-9pm, Sat 9-6 and Sun 10-6 and open all holidays except Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Enjoy the neighborhood convenience of Little Spurs' two board certified Pediatricians; Will Garner, MD and Hana Zibdeh-Lough, D.O., who will take excellent care of your children. See their ad on page 13.

Papa John's Pizza has been at this location for almost 18 years and Manager Melanie Herren says they serve great pizza with the "freshest ingredients" and excellent service. Papa John's and Melanie are big supporters of neighborhood community service organizations and schools and clubs that cater to kids. They have graciously supported the WBNA Silent Auction with donations for several years. Papa John's is open M-Th 10am-11pm, F & S 10am-Midnight and Sun 10am-10pm so call 512-251-7272 and order a fresh, hot, delicious pizza for carry out or delivery today!

Taqueria #2 Los Jaliscienses Restaurant, has been in Wells Branch 7 years but owners Mr. & Mrs. Roberto Ramirez and their son Roberto took over this restaurant as new management 2 years ago. Son Roberto says their specialty is fast and friendly service as well as good food. Customer favorites are the Carne Asada, the Menudo and the Calde de Res (a Mexican beef stew/soup). They also have breakfast tacos from 7-11am. Open M-Th 6am-8pm, F 6am-10pm, Sat 7am-10pm and Sun 7am-5pm.

Taqueria Los Jaliscienses makes lunch breaks in this part of town much more enjoyable! Come early; Lunch is very busy! Call 512-252-8389 for to-go orders.

Express Cut 9 has been serving WB residents for 4 years offering men's and women's haircuts, highlights, color, perm, style and waxing. Open M-F 10am-7pm, Sat 10am-6pm and

See The Piazza on page 9

The WB Disc Golf Year in Review

by Brian Litke

Disc golf really took off in Wells Branch in 2013. The 17-year old disc golf course was expanded from 9 to 18 holes, and the redesigned course was officially launched with a tournament on May 18, 2013, attended by over 90 people. In addition to the expansion, the course was upgraded with a course kiosk as well as a bench and sign at each tee box. The course starts on Owen Tech Blvd. with street parking across from Whataburger. Popular with young and old, it's a common sight to see players getting exercise at the disc golf course.

Local residents Brian Litke and Mike Shay organized a Wells Branch Disc Golf Club that grew in size to 200 members by the end of 2013. The disc golf club organized three course work days during 2013, spreading 25 cubic yards of mulch to protect trees during the drought and planting 11 trees at the course to start a new generation of trees in that area of the greenbelt. Club membership is \$10 per year, and 60% of club dues are allocated to course enhancements such as purchasing trees. The club has created community among the players at our course, giving the MUD a way to communicate with disc golfers, enabling the players to communicate among themselves to retrieve lost discs, and increasing awareness among club players about care of the course to keep it looking its best. The disc golfers take pride in the Wells Branch course and appreciate the WB MUD Board and staff for creating such a pleasant recreation opportunity.

In 2014, the club will again be hosting course work days, starting with "It's My Park Day" on March 1, 2014, when Austin Parks Foundation provides free mulch for park improvement projects. The club also is planning a "Course Appreciation" disc golf tournament in 2014 to celebrate the amenity. Look for more information in future editions of the newsletter and the WB MUD website.



The Piazza from page 8

closed Sunday. Two fabulous stylists make any wait short.

Come in for Discount Days: Tuesday Men's Cut \$9.99 and Wednesday Women's Cut \$12.99. Proprietress Nasrin welcomes walk-ins but appointments may also be made at 512-251-8939.

Peter S. Shay, DDS was not available for interview but has hours by appointment at 512-251-1699.

Tejas Liquor #2, (not affiliated with any other Tejas Liquor) is owned by Desh Dhingra and family and has been serving Wells Branch residents for the past 11 years. They have been a generous donor to the WBNA Silent Auction for many years. Tejas Liquor #2 sells Liquor, Beer, Craft Beers, Wine and Cigars with over 100 major brand items on sale EVERY DAY. They will special order hard to find items upon request and often get them faster than other Austin area stores. Come by on Friday and Saturday from 6-9pm to enjoy one of their many tasting opportunities.

Mr. Dhingra who also owns Dany's Liquor in Pflugerville says Tejas Liquor #2's large selection and great prices give the big stores competition; they specialize in price, selection and service. Open M-S 10am-9pm; stop in and see what great customer service is all about. Look for their ad on page 3 of this issue.

Raggedy Anne's Bar & Grill has been serving Wells Branch residents for 20 years and is open M-F 11am-2am, Sat & Sun 10am-2am. Owner Carlos Vazquez offers Cocktails, Wine and Beer as well as a made to order breakfast on Saturdays and a FULL breakfast buffet including omelet and waffle stations on Sundays from 10-Noon. Nine flat screens show the Longhorn network & Direct TV NFL Sunday Ticket. They have dart tournaments on Friday, Saturday and Sunday as well as pool tournaments Tuesday and Wednesday with Karaoke 3 times a week.

Raggedy Anne's also offers a full menu featuring made from scratch wings, delicious burgers & Philly Cheese Steaks with the buns baked in-house daily. Every Friday they have off menu homemade lunch specials from 11-1 or until gone. Daily specials include Taco Tuesday with \$1.75 crispy tacos, Wing Wednesday and Burger Thursday. Find their Friday specials posted on their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Raggedy-Annes-Bar-Grill/123431347677399> every week. Come in and enjoy this hidden neighborhood gem. 512-251-9647.

The Roost Live Music just opened on New Year's Eve in the space where Ropers once was, with a live performance by Joe Ely. EXTREMELY ENTHUSIASTIC REVIEWS were given by several Wells Branch residents who attended. Managing partners, brothers John and David Cotton have repurposed Ropers' dance floor to make the new front doors and wall behind the bar and to shelve an enormous vinyl collection amassed over the years. They used the wood awning inside as frames for the many posters, pictures, and memorabilia. John says they are "all about the experience for the customers as well as the artists."



Hagemann Realty

Howard Hagemann (Broker), MBA, GRI

Buying, Selling or Leasing

I will work for you!

Cell: (512) 633-8599

Email: howard@txhomes4u.info

David has been booking music acts since the mid 70's; Mother Earth, Steamboat, Antone's, Hanover's in Pflugerville, Saxon Pub, Poodie's, Threadgill's & MoMo's just to name a few. Expect big name acts from the Roost and watch for our NEW WB club to become "the new place to be in North Austin for live music" with a happy hour or live show every night. See their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/theroostaustin> or their new website (still being enhanced) www.theroostaustin.com and follow them on Twitter <https://twitter.com/TheAustinRoost> for upcoming events.

They are neighborhood friendly, so help us give our new neighbors, The Roost, a warm Wells Branch welcome.

Donut Palace, 512-990-5337, has been serving Breakfast Tacos, Kolaches and delicious Donuts for the past 15 years. They are open M-F 5am-1pm and S & S 5:30am-1pm. The favorites here are Croissant Sandwiches, Kolaches and Glazed Donuts. They have Milk, fruit juices, sodas, energy drinks, coffee (including Starbucks) and Cappuccino. I especially like their donut holes!

SI Nails 512-252-2858 offers Manicures, Spa Pedicures and Waxing M-S 10am-7pm and Sun 11am-5pm. Walk-ins are welcome.

Super Care Cleaners offers Dry Cleaning, Laundry and Alterations. Owner Robbie Huynh and family have provided low prices with high quality service to neighbors for the past 7 years, as well as being the main plant for numerous other laundry/dry cleaners around town. They are open M-F 7am-7pm and Sat 9am-2pm with Same Day Service M-F; if in by 8:30am out by 5pm. Give this Wells Branch neighbor a try; you will be very satisfied with the quality of service and competitive prices.

Metro Mart anchors the East end of the Piazza offering Citgo Gas, Beer, Wine, Cigarettes and other convenience items.

Remember, when we "Shop WB" we all benefit!

McSpadden's Tire & Automotive

Northwest corner of Wells Branch & I-35
(behind the Shell station)

\$25 OFF
Any repair

(excludes state inspections, and oil changes)

New customers only, please.



Raymond & Dianne McSpadden
New Owners

WE HAVE
YOUR BRAND
OF TIRES!!!

**COMPLETE
CAR & TRUCK REPAIR**

FOREIGN,
DOMESTIC, DIESEL
& EURO

SHUTTLE SERVICE
AVAILABLE

(512) 989-2878

www.mcspaddenautomotive.com

Luminary Fest a huge success, despite the weather! by Debby Thompson

Special thanks to WB MUD for hosting Luminary Fest once again. As always, management and staff did an outstanding job. Andy, DeWayne, Jim, Manny, and everyone else who worked on the lighting, thank you for all your hard work decorating the CC and Homestead. The lights were beautiful!

Matt, thank you for organizing and coordinating all the many volunteer groups who participate in Luminary Fest and thank you to all of the folks who came out on Saturday to set out the luminary bags and light them. We only had one night of luminaries, but it was spectacular! WBCC, thank you so much for providing the photos with Santa. And Santa (aka Chuck Walters), you were wonderful as always! BSA Troop 1409, you guys rock! Thank you for the toasty campfire even in the foggy drizzle Friday night.

Jennie, Angie, and Cande, thank you for keeping the hot cocoa flowing and cookie trays full both nights. Mouse, thank you for the work you did on the trailer for the hayride; it was the smoothest ride EVER! Manny, thanks for dressing the part and getting into the Christmas spirit; all the kids loved having Santa drive the tractor. Robert and Margarito, thanks for keeping us safe on the hayride. Gus Kohn and Donna Malone, thank you for helping with the hayride lines; it was neat and orderly and everyone was HAPPY! Special thanks to our two guest song leaders: Bob Bauhs and Brendan Berver; you both were exceptional!

Extra, Extra, Special Thanks to Dianne Koehler for managing

the Kids' Craft Night for the WBNA on Friday and then coming back by special request and doing it all over again on Saturday. Many thanks to our volunteer from the WB of WB, Christiane Lunsford, the folks from St. Andrew's, and our amazing kids from Connally High NHS and WBCC. Thanks go out to those who did all the prep work for Craft Night as well: George Koehler who painted all of those treasure box tins and the ladies who glued the snowflakes (Lara Bennett, Dianne Koehler, Debbie Brown, Madonna Johnson, and Debby Thompson). The kiddos LOVED the crafts!

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



What's Your Home Worth In Today's Market?

Get Your **FREE** Online Home Valuation at
www.WellsBranchHome.com

Performance... Not Promises

- ★ Sold in 39 Days, or We Pay You
 - ★ Communications Guarantee - Weekly Updates
 - ★ Easy Exit Guarantee - Cancel Anytime
- ... 100% Guaranteed!**

Dave & Linda Baird

RealNet Team, Keller Williams Realty

(512)238-8881

www.RealNetTeam.com

*Call for details. If your home is listed with another broker, please disregard.



Four Seasons

CHINESE RESTAURANT
SINCE 1988

"Our appreciation for your continuous support throughout the years."

251-0827 or 252-1064

WE DELIVER

Fine Dining or Take Out

Mon-Fri: 11:00am-9:30pm & Sat-Sun 11:30am-9:30pm

**14735 Bratton Lane, Suite 255
Corner of Bratton Lane & Merrilittown**

**10% OFF
Total Bill
Dinner Only**

With coupon only.
Cannot combine with any
other coupon.

Expires 6-30-14

**\$4 OFF
Total Bill
Dinner Only**

with minimum \$30
purchase.

With coupon only.

Cannot combine with any
other coupon.

Expires 6-30-14

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 6-30-14

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. We hope you will support these nonprofit parent-led groups who are working so hard for our Wells Branch seniors. All donations are tax-deductible!

Cedar Ridge High School Project Graduation

We are planning many events to raise funds and invite the entire community to help us make our 2nd Project Graduation party a success.

Feb. 13, 4-9pm: Eat at Chipotle in La Frontera

Mar. 3, 4:30-close: Eat at Rio Grande in Pflugerville

Mar. 22: Project Grad Golf Tournament

More info is on our website at CRHSProjectGraduation.org.

Monetary donations may be mailed to CRHS Project Grad Class of 2014, PO Box 5622, Round Rock, TX 78683-5622 or may be made online at www.crhsprojectgraduation.org.

Thanks for supporting the Cedar Ridge Class of 2014!!

Connally High School • Cougar Celebration 2014

Come join your friends and neighbors for a FUN FILLED Mardi Gras night on February 23rd!

We are selling tickets to Cougar Celebration 2014's Reverse Raffle and Dinner for \$40 each or two for \$75. Each ticket includes a catered dinner, live music, silent auction, reverse raffle game with \$1000 Visa Card as prize and other games with prizes.

We are also seeking items for our silent auction. If you find yourself with any surplus Christmas gifts, or want to expose your business, please consider donating to us. Contact Debbie Brown at 512-422-2372 if you have donations.

For more info go to www.cougarcelebration.com.



Save the Dates! March 22 • March 23 Community Conservation Event

Water WHY\$ For You

Learn **HOW** and learn **WHY**
water conservation
is important to our community.

**KIDS' ACTIVITIES • MUSIC
HOME TOURS
INFORMATIVE PRESENTATIONS
REFRESHMENTS • DOOR PRIZES**

Watch for info on these sites!

wellsbranchmud.com • wbna.us • wblibrary.org

Women Businesses of Wells Branch

by Christiane Boehme

Happy New Year to all WB of WB members and Wells Branch Residents! A BIG THANKS to everyone for their hard work last year in helping to promote the Women's Businesses of Wells Branch. Our GOALS are to grow our group, benefit from each other's knowledge and experience, support each other in our efforts, network and get the word out about all the local businesses right here in Wells Branch.

It has been almost 6 months since we re-started the WB of WB group. We have so far participated in the following Wells Branch family activities with information tables promoting the group and everyone's businesses at: National Night Out, WBNA Pumpkin Painting in the Park, Luminary Festival, and the Christmas Musical at St. Andrew's Church. In order for us to maintain our level of visibility, we need members to take turns and volunteer at community events. Make this year your year to jump in and get involved!

Our group is still small but growing. If you are interested in being a part of the WB of WB please contact me at: christiane_boehme@outlook.com or 512-774-8576.



McNeil High School's Project Graduation i

As of press time, we have been unable to reach anyone to get information about MHS' Project Grad activities. We did find contact information. If you would like to support McNeil's Project Grad, contact Stacey Daniel at jym.stacey@gmail.com or Debbie Dubelbeis at dubelbeis@yahoo.com.

Thank you for supporting all Wells Branch seniors!

LITTLE SPURS PEDIATRIC Urgent Care
 A Whole New Way To Treat Your Child
 Open 7 days a week | Extended evening hours | Open most holidays

(512) 831-3396

2113 Wells Branch Pkwy, Ste 1200
 Austin, TX 78728

No appointment? No problem!
www.littlespurspedi.com or  Find us on Facebook!



American Heritage Girls: Serving Our Community by Kevin Ward

American Heritage Girls is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the mission of building women of integrity through service to God, family, community and country.

In November, we were invited back to participate in the Veterans Day Ceremony at the Fallen Warrior Memorial and asked to lead in the Pledge of Allegiance at the opening of the ceremony.

Over the holidays the American Heritage Girls Troop TX240 was busy not only preparing for the holidays but helping out in the community. AHG collected canned goods for the food bank which has become an annual event; volunteered at Northwest Elementary School assisting with Parents Night Out and Breakfast with Santa activities; helped decorate the school for the holidays and they loved visiting the Heatherwild Assisted Living Center where they helped the residents, and sang Christmas Carols. They finished up the year by decorating a float and participating in the annual Pflugerville Christmas Parade by passing out candy to the kids along the parade route. 2013 was a great year! We look forward to 2014 and are currently planning our spring camp out.

If you are interested in joining American Heritage Girls we accept girls ages 5 -18 and encourage parent participation; we're always seeking parent adult leaders. Contact Beth Gintella at 512-285-3042 or bethdvg@austin.rr.com.

It's Girl Scout Cookie Time!

by Emily Berver & Kim Lanicek

Neighborhood Girl Scouts will be selling cookies through February 21. Be sure to take this opportunity to stock up on all your favorites; they freeze well!

If you are unable to enjoy cookies, please consider donating cookies to military families (most GS troops participate in this program, called "Troop to Troop").

Cookies are \$4 per box and the proceeds benefit both the Troop and Central Texas Girls Scouts. The cookie sale also teaches girls about goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills and business ethics.

This site has links to nutritional info for all the GS cookies (even the ones available in other regions): http://www.girlscouts.org/program/gs_cookies/meet_the_cookies.asp

Thank you for supporting Scouting!



**PROFESSIONAL IN-HOME
 DOG TRAINING
 BOARDING
 & WALKING**


LUCKY STAR
 DOG TRAINING AND MORE

Contact Jennifer at (713) 419-8686
 or luckystardogtraining@gmail.com

New Years Resolution - Build Character in your child

Cub Scout Pack 140 is chartered by the Wells Branch Homestead. We invite boys 1st grade thru 5th grade to join us to learn core values and become strong leaders. Cub Scouts teaches young boys to be:

- Good citizens** by being courteous and helping in community service projects
- Compassionate** by being kind and showing concern for the well-being of others
- Cooperative** by being helpful & working together with others
- Courageous** by being brave and doing what is right, regardless of our fears and difficulties
- Faithful** by being humble and having trust in God
- Healthy** by being fit and keeping our minds and bodies clean
- Honest** by being trustworthy and always telling the truth
- Perseverant** by being strong and never giving up, even if it is hard
- Positive** by being cheerful and seeking to find the best in all situations
- Resourceful** by being mindful and using resources to their fullest
- Respectful** by being reverent and showing worth to others
- Responsible** by being obedient and fulfilling our duty to God, country, other people and ourselves

Scouting can help fulfill your dreams for your son. Please join us!



For more information, please contact us at join@pack140.org

BRANCH BBQ Lunch Special

11AM-2PM MON-FRI

1 meat plate or 2 meat plate
\$6.95 \$7.95

Choice of Meats

Chopped Beef • Chicken • Sausage

Choice of 2 Sides

Pinto Beans • Cole Slaw • Potato Salad
Corn • Mashed Potatoes • Green Beans

Specializing in hassle-free catering since 1994!

1779 Wells Branch Pkwy. Austin, TX 78728
(512)990-5282
www.branchbbq.com

Central Texas Bird Watching Series

By Brittany Hecker, Adult Program & Service Librarian, WBCL

Spring is nearly here, and the perfect weather for bird watching is just around the corner! Wells Branch Community Library and the Travis Audubon Society are partnering to help you make the most of the season with a series of informative and entertaining presentations. Learn about the world of birds from expert bird watchers with years of experience! Admission is free and open to all ages. For more information, contact the library at 512-989-3188 or www.wblibrary.org

TOPICS (all held at Wells Branch Community Library):

Thursday, Feb. 13, 6pm: Finding Birds in the Austin Area
Presented by Cindy Sperry: Discover the beauty of Austin nature through bird watching! Austin's unique location boasts a variety of habitats where you can find an abundance of bird life. Find some of the best local spots for seeing both migratory and resident species. Learn expert tips & tricks for a successful bird watching trip!

Thursday, Feb. 27, 6pm: Hummingbirds of Central Texas
Presented by Sheila Hargis: Make your yard a hotspot for hummingbirds! This talk will introduce you to hummingbirds, and show you how to identify the common "hummers" in our area. Find out how to attract them to your garden and where you can see them during migration!

Thursday March 27, 6pm: The Care and Feeding of Backyard Birds – Presented by Jane Tillman: This spring, make your backyard come alive with bird song and activity! Learn about Austin's backyard species and how to attract them using native plants, feeders, nest boxes and water features.

Thursday, April 10, 6pm: Why Birds Matter: 5 Actions for Bird Conservation – Presented by Jeff Mundy: Explore what the future holds for birds and what their fate means to us. Why do birds matter, and why protect migratory birds? Discover the simple things you can do to protect these beautiful creatures for future generations to enjoy.

Birding in Wells Branch

by Wanda Holcombe & Sharon Richardson

On previous neighborhood Bird Walks, three different types of Woodpeckers living in Wells Branch have been spotted. We wanted to share those variations with you so that as you notice these birds while walking the trails or on your backyard tree and hear them "pecking" away you might enjoy identifying them per their differences. *Note: If you'd like to attract these beauties, they love backyard suet feeders or fresh cut oranges.*



Downy Woodpecker (male)

Males have a small red patch on the back of the head. The black upper parts are checked with white on the wings, the head is boldly striped, and the back has a broad white stripe down the center. The outer tail feathers are typically white with a few black spots.

Red-bellied Woodpecker (male)

Often easier to spot with its flashy red cap and nape, they sometimes appear pale overall, even the boldly black-and-white striped back. Look for white patches near the wingtips as this bird flies.



Ladder-back Woodpecker (male)



While it does have a small red stripe on the head, it is primarily colored black and white, with a barred pattern on its back and wings resembling the rungs of a ladder. Its rump is speckled with black, as are its cream-colored underparts on the breast and flanks.

The next Weekend Bird Walk is scheduled for Saturday,

February 8, at 8:00am beginning at the St. Andrews Presbyterian Church (corner of Wells Branch Pkwy. & Wells Port) parking lot and proceeding on the trail to the Klattenhoff Park area. For more information contact Heather Johnson by email at frioswimmer@gmail.com. Subsequent walks are scheduled for **February 24** and **March 24**, both beginning at 8:00am, the meeting place is TBD.

Monday morning Bird Walks will continue meeting on the 4th Monday of each month and at 8:00am instead of 7:30am in order to give the birds more time to wake-up and start feeding. Locations for February and March are yet to be determined. Please check the calendar at wbna.us for updates.

Join us when you can, and share thoughts and photos of birds you spot in the Birding section of the WBNA website: WB at: <http://wbna.us/community/birding-in-wells-branch/>

For more information or suggestions, contact Wanda Holcombe (wandah70@gmail.com) or Sharon Richardson (srich816@austin.rr.com).

**Woodpecker sketches courtesy of National Geographic*

**Check out the WBNA Facebook page
for photos of WB events, as well as
event reminders & other timely news.**

buywellsbranch.com

David Lotspeich, Broker/Owner/GRI Lori Page, Realtor® WB residents since 1985
Austin HomePage Real Estate

Wells Branch Elementary News



From the Principal by Belinda Cini, Principal
Students have returned from winter break focused and prepared for working hard to meet the individual academic goals they have set for grade level success. Take time in the evenings or at the dinner table to ask your student about their own learning goals, as well as about their daily content objectives in varied subject areas. Ask how they can show you their understanding of the day's learning objectives!

For upcoming events, visit our RRISD school webpage at <http://wellsbranch.roundrockisd.org/>, our PTA webpage at <http://wellsbranchpta.org/>, or PTA Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/wellsbranchpta>

Spring Festival & Silent Auction—Donations & Volunteers Needed!

by Sarah Marquez

The Wells Branch Elementary PTA is pleased to announce that we will be hosting our 9th annual Spring Festival and Silent Auction on Saturday, April 12, 2014 at Wells Branch Elementary School. Not only does this event bring families, friends and the community together, it is also our largest fundraiser of the year.

If you own a business or can offer a service, please consider donating an item, gift basket or a gift certificate for our silent auction. No donation is too small, and it's a great way to showcase your business to hundreds of potential customers. All of the money raised will go directly back to the students.

We are also in need of food sponsorships or donations and volunteers for the event. Please contact Sarah Marquez at 512-239-8792 or by email at springfest@wellsbranchpta.org if you are able to help.

\$12,000 in Grants Awarded

By Dianna Gielstra & George Holcombe

WBE won the General Mills Champion for Healthy Kids grant for the 2013-2014 school year! WBE was one of four schools in Texas to be awarded the grant, and one of fifty schools nation wide. The \$10,000 award aims to improve health and wellness in the school through the garden program.

In addition, the WBE Green Team received a \$2,000 grant from the Whole Foods management for their very special work in teaching the children how to grow vegetables. They have also been chosen by the RRISD to be used as a model for the rest of the district. Pretty impressive!

Interested in learning more? Please contact Dianna at dlalsup@yahoo.com.

Farmer's Market is Back!

by Melissa Palma

The Wells Branch Farmer's Market Team is a group of 5th graders who have the opportunity to take part in a variety of gardening activities that develop their educational awareness around food, sustainable farming, and entrepreneurship. It is also an opportunity for these students to develop new skills such as money handling, marketing and recognizing local produce and seasonal vegetables. We are an excited group that works hard to provide good quality, fresh, local, and organic produce to our fellow students and neighbors. We will be selling our organic produce on Wednesdays from 2:40-3:10 p.m. Look for the bright blue Farmer's Market stand near the bike racks at Merriltown/Town Hill. We hope to see you there!

Green Team

by Tara Fisher-Muñoz

The Green Team PTA at WBE continues its mission to make our school healthy and eco-friendly. We continue to lead weekly gardening classes with the students, teaching them about sustainability, organic gardening, IPM (Integrated Pest Management), composting, growing edibles, harvesting and nutrition lessons, which included trying broccoli, cauliflower, peas, radishes, carrots and cilantro. The students continue to amaze us with their inquisitiveness and motivation to learn in the garden! Very soon, we will be adding 5 rainwater tanks to the garden, which will be able to capture 5235 gallons of rainwater! And, thanks to our most recent grant from Whole Foods, we will be able to buy more rain barrels and install a vertical garden. Additionally, we continue to work with RRISD to implement nutrition curriculum, healthier food choices in the cafeteria and fruit/veggie taste tests for our students. We will have a work day coming soon (TBD) to clean up the garden area, walker dismissal area and plant more trees/plants. If you are interested in helping us, please contact me at: gogreen@wellsbranchpta.org. Thanks!



WBE Green Team receives award from Whole Foods (r-l) Dianna Gielstra, Kimberly Maeder, Belinda Cini (Principal), Erika Fruehling, Tara Fisher-Muñoz and gardening kids!

Piano Lessons

- Professional Teacher: BM, MM, DMA
- Students include local and state winners
- Beginning to Advanced
- Ages 4 & up
- Private piano and theory lessons

Sukyee Woo 512-252-9819
sukyeewoo@yahoo.com



Wells Branch
 COMMUNITY CHURCH
WellsBranchChurch.com

**LIVE
 FOR
 MORE**

Sunday mornings
8:45 & 10:30

3000 SHORELINE DR.



Valentine's Day Dance

February 14 • 6:30-8:30pm

Rec. Center • 3000 Shoreline

Wells Branch MUD hosts its annual Valentine's Day dance on Friday, February 14, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Recreation Center. This is a free event open to all ages and everyone is invited to come dance to the sounds of a live band. The MUD will provide snack foods and drinks for everyone as well as roses for the ladies.

St. Patrick's Day Bagpipe Concert

March 17 • 7pm

KF Park • 2106 Klattenhoff

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



Volleyball in Wells Branch!

Wells Branch resident and certified volleyball coach Nika Borge has partnered with the Wells Branch Rec. Center to offer indoor and sand volleyball training to youth and adults. From private lessons personalized to specific needs, to group camps, there is something offered for everyone no matter what level or age. Coach Nika has dedicated her life to this wonderful sport and strives to share her knowledge, experience and passion with others.

A personal message from Coach Nika, "Volleyball is becoming one of the most popular sports out there. It offers endless benefits from keeping us active and healthy, to teaching us very important life lessons and social skills. As a team sport, it educates players about sportsmanship, teamwork, communication, hard work, and also builds mental toughness by accepting defeats and gracing wins."

To find out more, contact Coach Nika at nika@austinsv.com. To sign up for classes offered at the Rec. Center, please contact the MUD at 512-251-9814 or visit their website at www.wellsbranchmud.com.

Youth Fowl Shot Winners!

On November 26, 2013, the WB MUD hosted their annual Youth Fowl Shot at the Rec. Center on Shoreline. 22 kids competed in various basketball themed games for the chance to win a Thanksgiving turkey. The winners, (left to right) Jeffrey Padavick, Kaleb Bekala, Myles Hutcheson, and Natalie Curtis, are pictured below with their turkeys and WB Rec. Manager Matt Fuller and WB MUD Board Director Joe Petronis. We'd like to give special recognition to Kaleb and Natalie who generously donated their turkeys to a Wells Branch family in need. Way to go guys! Thank you!



Reminder: Water Wisely




Winter Wastewater Averaging continues thru February 13, 2014. For details on winter averaging, pipe protection during freezing weather, and links to other sites for more water conservation tips, please see our website at www.wbna.us

February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month



Visit our website to learn some of the warning signs and dynamics of abusive relationships and also how to get help if you're in a bad situation. The WBNA sponsors Teen Dating Violence Seminars. If you would be interested in attending an educational seminar on this subject or having one tailored to your teen's peer group, please contact me and we can set something up with the Travis County Sheriff's Office. This is a great seminar for athletic clubs, choir, and band – anywhere you have a group of teens. Debby Thompson at deborah_thompson@earthlink.net or 512-656-0654.



Creola Shaw Burns
6844024

3909 Cadoz Court
Austin, TX 78728
(512) 576-7764

Amway-affiliated Independent Business Owner creolashawburns@hotmail.com

www.Amway.com/CreolaBurns



Austin Vet Care at Metric
It's about the relationship

\$20 off your first visit

Please present coupon at time of visit. Not valid with any other discount. Valid for veterinary services only. Code: WBNA

full service animal hospital
12419 Metric Blvd. | Austin, TX 78758 | (512) 377-1199

www.austinvetcaremetric.com

Hazardous Waste - January 2014

We had a great turnout for our January Clean-Up Day! 129 residents participated in the Hazardous Waste, Bulk Trash, Habitat for Humanity and Easter Seals collections. Thanks WBNA volunteers: Ed & Kay Peterson, Chuck Walters, Gus Kohn, Donna Malone, and Debby Thompson and as always, a big thank you to the WB MUD for supporting our efforts and to MUD employees Manny & Braxton and board member Janet Maxey.

Hazardous Waste collected: Paint = 117 cu ft; Oil & Petroleum Products = 36 cu ft; Household Cleaners = 6 cu ft; 562 batteries. We filled two large trucks for Habitat and Easter Seals, and a trailer with scrap metal and appliances for recycling. This cut down on the waste in the roll-offs (what goes to the landfill) drastically - we only filled 2 1/2! Ed & Kay Peterson recycled ALL the cardboard boxes that came in and Kim Lanicek took two carloads of Styrofoam to Ecology Action for us. Joy Smith repurposed two huge containers of foam peanuts. Dianne Koehler collected 30 lbs of fertilizer and 15 gallons of yard chemicals at her house which she rehomed through Freecycle.com and the WB Google Group. Three large bags of stuffed toys were donated to Austin Smiles. All in all, it was a pretty good day!

Mark your calendars for our next Clean-Up Day - April 12. We'll have Hazardous Waste and Bulk Trash collection from 8am-5pm, Habitat for Humanity and Easter Seals collection from 8am-2pm, and the MUD's Drug Take-Back Program and FREE Shredding from 8am-noon. Come on out!

*Our Hazardous Waste team:
Braxton, Manny, Donna, Debby, Chuck, & Gus
(not pictured Ed & Kay Peterson)*



Recycling Update!

Recycling participation numbers dropped to 59% during the month of November but bounced back to 60% in December where they've stayed consistently for the last several months. This number is the percentage of households who put their blue recycling bins out for collection every other week. "Participation" differs from actual "collection". In November, Progressive picked up 20 tons and December, 25.1 tons, bringing in \$400 and \$502 respectively for trees for our park system.

Let's make 2014 even more productive! Please encourage your neighbors to participate. Every pound counts! For each ton of recycling, the MUD receives \$20. If we increase our participation rate, it stands to reason that our rebates will increase as well. Think green (literally) • Recycle!

Recycling pickup occurs every other week on regular trash pickup days. Clip and save this calendar or download the new calendar for 2014 from our website: wbna.us. Visit our Recycling page under "Community" for the calendar and list of materials accepted.

Recycling Calendar February 2014

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	

March 2014

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					

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.wells-branchmud.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 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 begin at 6:30pm. Agendas are posted the week prior to the meeting at www.wellsbranchmud.com.

Demolition of Office on Shoreline

Complete (FINALLY) and ready to move forward!

Rec. Center Expansion

On schedule. Architects and engineers are currently working on plans and permitting.

Park Master Plan

Public Input Work Sessions are scheduled for the following MUD Board meetings:

Monday, March 3, 6:30pm *moved due to election

Tuesday, April 1, 6:30pm

Please make time to attend and make your wishes known.

QR Codes coming to our Water Bills!

At the January 21 meeting, Margret Wingrove of Crossroads announced the addition of QR Codes to Wells Branch MUD Water Bills to enable residents to pay with their Smart Phones. Look for this new edition to appear first on your February or March statement.

Kudos to the MUD on Website Management

If you haven't visited the Wells Branch MUD website recently, check it out! MUD staff have revamped the site and now have easily accessible areas for news and updates.

Homestead Brush Arbor Gets New

Lease on Life

by Virginia Almon, Homestead Curator

Saturday, November 16, 2013 was a day of success! The Homestead Arbor has been leaning a little more each year. Many THANKS to Michael Almon, Brian Almon, Bill Glass, and Christopher Flores who got together and decided to do something about it; all their hard work brought about a straight brush arbor. **Come and see.** It's beautiful and ready to last us a few more years!



KUDOS!

Thanks to all who delivered the Holiday Issue of the WBNA Neighborhood News. The weather was hit or miss at best (mostly miss on the weekends) and it took a tremendous amount of determination to get the newsletter distributed this time around. I'm grateful for each and every one of you who volunteered! Thank you!

June Aprill, Daniel Barnekow, Emily Berver, The Bennett Family, Joyce & Mike Best, Christine Bloemsma, Kathleen Clark, Dan Ernst, Miriam, Melissa & Briana Garate, Dave Gezana, Cynthia Hannon, Brent Halling, Betsey, Tessi & Cole Harper, Suzanne Hoffman, Travers Hough, Gus Kohn, Brian & Rachel LeBansky, Erik Macdanz, Siv, Jyoti & Arjuna Manda, Dave & Joan Mead, Arlie Pfeifer, Ron Robinder, Kim Sands, Marisa, Mischa, & Tasha Sawatphadunkij, Cristina Silingardi, Scott Smith, Virgil Smith, Scott Swain, Debby Thompson, J.R. Traffanstedt, Lisa, Sarah, Faith, Grace & Liam Ward, Steve Wilson, Wally Wingfield

Last, but not least, thank you to all who contribute articles and share information. Your investment of time and energy in our community is well spent! Keep them coming!

If you would like to deliver the newsletter, please contact our distribution team at 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.

Summer Camp Fair!

Looking for alternatives for the summer?


Over 20 summer camps will be at the
Wells Branch Elementary **SUMMER CAMP FAIR**

on Feb 11, from 6:00-7:30pm!

Bring the kids!



ANDY ALLEN WELLS BRANCH #1 REALTOR SINCE 1991

 **KELLER WILLIAMS** REALTY (512) 775-6789

Unparalleled Experience—Highest Level Marketing

Andy and his team have been ranked as high as
#15 in the nation by the **Wall Street Journal**

5 1/2 years as host of 1370AM Real Estate Talk
As seen on HGTV

Last Month's STATISTICS

4 Active Listing

Average List Price = \$210,750

6 Pending Sales

Average List Price = 196,300

13 Homes Sold

Average List Price of Solds = \$200,353

Average Sales Price of Solds = \$193,069

December Sales Price was 96.4% of List Price



Call **512.775.6789** for a
Free Market Analysis or email,
Tom@AndyAllenTeam.com today!

News from Northwest Elementary By Betsey Harper



Please accept my heartfelt wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year! It's amazing how fast time passes; 2013 ended in a wave of activities for all of us, and I hope you were all able to take a step back, enjoy your beautiful families and enjoy some downtime amongst the holidays.

And here we are now, right smack in the middle of the school year. All of our grades are polishing their skills and figuring out what makes them tick -- science, language arts, social studies, reading, math, music, sports, choir, arts....it's all available at Northwest and our amazing faculty are there to help every student find his or her niche.

Our PTO works hard to provide support for Northwest students, teachers, and administrators. Did you know the PTO staff is made up of full-time employed parents? We, like you, want the most for our kids, so come join us and volunteer at an event! In the first half of this school year, we raised enough money to help purchase five specialized Kindergarten rugs, a movie-license for the entire school, a new music system, we helped with supplies and materials for classrooms and events and much more!

Please help us keep up the momentum...we have lots planned over the next half of the school year, so join us on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 for our PTO Meetings (free childcare provided) and check out the school calendar at <http://cms.pflugervilleisd.net/Domain/24> and sign up for the listserv to receive emails with details about the many events planned for the spring!

WB Leadership Academy Update



by Traci Synatschk, PTO President

We are halfway through our first year at Wells Branch Leadership Academy (WBLA), and for a charter year we have seen amazing growth, parental involvement and wonderful ideas!

Interested in finding out more about our wonderful school? Visit us at one of the great events listed below, stop by the front office for a tour, or join our website or Facebook page for a look at the WBLA life.

SPRING EVENTS: WBLA will be holding a Crawfish Boil Fundraiser in early spring that is open to the entire community. This is a great way to meet families from WBLA, visit with staff and find out more about what makes this school special while enjoying delicious food for an all you can eat price, listening to music and checking out some neat silent auction offerings! There will be more kid friendly options offered as well so plan to bring the whole family! Tickets will be sold on the WBLA PTO website: www.wbla.my-ptto.org so keep an eye out on there, Facebook or watch for notices in the neighborhood Google Group for an announcement soon on the final date, time and location!

Later in the year we also have a Talent Show/Dinner Theater, Field Day and graduation activities planned! Interested in joining the WBLA family? There is still room for this year and open enrollment for 2014-2015 will start around March.

"Like" us on our Facebook page "WBLA PTO" to stay in the loop!



Community Calendar

Community Calendar

- Feb. 1-28: Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month*
- Feb. 8, 8am: Birding in WB, St. Andrew's parking lot*
- Feb. 11, 6:00-7:30pm: WBE Summer Camp Fair, WB Elem.*
- Feb. 13, 6pm: Bird Watching Series, WBCL*
- Feb. 13: Winter Wastewater Averaging Ends
- Feb. 14, 6:30-8:30pm: Valentine's Dance, WBRC*
- Feb. 15, 11am: Garden Guild - Easy Plants to Grow in Spring & Summer, WBRC*
- Feb. 24, 8am: Birding in WB, Location TBD*
- Feb. 27, 6pm: Bird Watching Series, WBCL*
- Feb. 27, 7pm: WBNA Election & TCSO Meeting, WBCC*
- Mar. 1: Disc Golf - It's My Park Day*
- Mar. 1, 6pm: Open Ears Concert - **Gurf Morlix** - St. Andrews on Wells Port
- Mar. 3, 6:30pm: Public Input Work Session for Park Master Plan, WBCC**
- Mar. 4, 7am-7pm: Primary Elections • VOTE • WB Rec. Ctr., WBCL, WBCC*
- Mar. 17, 7pm: St. Patrick's Day Parade & Concert, KF Park*
- Mar. 22 & 23: Community Conservation Days, see website for schedule*
- Mar. 24, 8am: Birding in WB, Location TBD*
- Mar. 27, 6pm: Bird Watching Series, WBCL*
- Mar. 29, 7am-noon: FOL Garage Sale, WBCL*

RECURRING

- Farmers Market, Wednesday, 2:40-3:10pm WBE
- Silver Branchers, Thursday, 1-3pm, WBRC



Meets from 7-8pm on Tuesdays at the Library.

*MP=Mills Pond; WBCC=Community Center on Klattenhoff; WBCL=WB Comm. Library; WBRC=Rec. Center on Shoreline
KF=Katherine Fleischer Park on Klattenhoff

Have a free event to share? If so, send the details - date, place & time via email to: info@wbna.us.

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

Your Wells Branch Neighbor & Specialist!



EXCELLENT TIME TO SELL

HOME VALUES WAY UP

STRONG WELLS BRANCH HOME SALES CONTINUE*

1100-1999 sq ft	2000-2900 sq ft
71 homes sold	28 homes sold
Avg days on market: 18	Avg days on market: 39
Avg sq ft: 1557	Avg sq ft: 2264
Avg sold price/sq ft: \$115.09	Avg sold price/sq ft: \$94.11
Avg sold price: \$177,064	Avg sold price: \$212,381

*MLS data for WB homes sold 7/1/13-12/31/13, deemed reliable not guaranteed

Tammy DeWitt Le, Realtor®

14-year Wells Branch Resident

(512) 773-3214

Judy DeWitt, Realtor®

GRI, ABR

(512) 917-5037



www.familypair.com

Covenant Corner – Home Repairs

Winter is an excellent time to take a close look at your home and evaluate the exterior for necessary repairs. Foliage has died back and it's easy to see just what needs to be done.

Keeping up the outside of your house is important not only because it's a condition of the covenants in most sections, but because it helps us all maintain our property values and keeps Wells Branch beautiful. Now that the weather has cooled down, take a moment to assess the work needed and make a plan. It's worth the investment.

Keep WB Great!

Join or renew your WBNA membership!

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 2014

January 2014

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