

Safety Tips to Teach Children

From the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children

Below we've listed some basic summer safety tips to go over with your children. There's also an emergency contact sheet you can download at www.wbna.us => Safety => Kids Summer Safety Tips, fill in and keep on the fridge just in case of an emergency. It may seem pretty basic, but in emergency situations, children can have difficulty remembering their names and addresses, much less how to contact Mom or Dad. We want everyone to have a safe, fun summer!

For Parents:

Be sure your children know the rules about whose homes they may visit when you're not home and know their boundaries - where they may and may not go in the neighborhood.

Make sure children know their full names, address, and telephone numbers and how to use the phone. Be sure they know what to do in case of an emergency and how to reach you. (See info sheet) Children should have a neighbor or trusted adult they may call if they're scared or there's an emergency. Make sure they know who to contact and that it's okay to do so.

Rules for Kids:

- Always **CHECK FIRST** with your parents, guardians, or the trusted adult in charge before you go anywhere or do anything. Be sure to **CHECK IN** regularly so that someone knows where you are at all times.
- Always **TAKE A FRIEND** with you when playing or going anywhere. It's safer and more fun.
- **STAY AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS** when outside. Don't crank up the music and focus on texting. Know where you are at all times and more importantly, what, or who, is around you.
- Stay **SAFER** when you're home alone by keeping the door locked; not opening the door for or talking to anyone who stops by unless the person is a trusted family friend or relative, you feel comfortable being alone with that person, and the visit has been pre-approved by your parents or guardians. Never tell anyone who calls that you're home by yourself. Say that your parents can't come to the phone right now and offer to take a message.
- Don't be tricked by people who offer you treats or gifts. Never accept anything from anyone without your parents' or guardians' permission.
- Never go into a public restroom by yourself.
- Never go alone to malls, movies, parks, or video arcades.

See Kid's Safety on page 2

Silent Auction Items needed

Each year, the WBNA hosts a Silent Auction during the FourthFest celebration on July 4th. This is our BIG fundraiser for the year - how we pay for the Easter Egg Hunt, National Night Out, our participation at Halloween and Luminary Fest as well as the meetings, candidate forums and safety demonstrations we host throughout the year.



In addition to giving back to our community, donating to the WBNA Silent Auction is a GREAT way to promote your business! We are seeking donations of merchandise, gift cards/certificates, theme baskets, and services to auction. In return, you receive exposure for your business at the auction, through flyers, a special "Thank You" section in the September issue of the WBNA Neighborhood News and on our website and Facebook page with links to your site.

If you have items or services to donate or if you would like to help solicit items or volunteer to work the auction, please email us at silentauction@wbna.us. Thank you in advance for helping to make (and keep) Wells Branch GREAT!

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Memorial Day Casino Night

Saturday, May 28 • 6-9pm

The MUD presents an adults-only evening of gaming for our residents ages 21 and up; IDs will be checked at the door. Join your neighbors at 3000 Shoreline Drive as the Rec Center transforms into a casino using professional tables and dealers. Stick around following the gaming for more fun and the opportunity to "spend" your winnings on a variety of prizes.

Splash Day!

Sunday, May 29 • Noon-4pm

Wells Branch MUD is kicking off the summer with their 2nd annual Splash Day at the KF Pool. Come out from noon to 4pm for swimming, pool games, water safety education and giveaways for the children. Admission is free!



Teen Pool Parties!

June 24 | July 22 | August 12 • 9pm-Midnight

KF Pool • 2106 Klattenhoff Drive

\$3 with Rec. Tag | \$5 without Rec. Tag

WB MUD will once again be hosting late night teen pool parties with music & pool games. Pizza and Drinks will be provided. Parties are open to anyone ages 12 - 16.

Movies in the Park

June 18 • The Little Rascals Save the Day | July 16 • The Good Dinosaur | August 20 • Zootopia (subject to change)

WB MUD presents Movies in the Park at Katherine Fleischer Park. Admission is free. Ice cream and drinks will be available for purchase from local Scouts. Bring your blankets and chairs and enjoy these family events. Parking is limited so residents are encouraged to walk or ride a bike. Pre-movie activities start at 8pm with the movies beginning at dusk.



**Wells Branch MUD is HIRING—
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Coordinator!**

Please visit the District's employment page at <http://wells-branchmud.com/community-resources/employment-opportunities> for details and for information on how to apply. For questions contact the MUD office at 512-251-9814.

Kid's Safety from page 1

Take a friend with you, and always CHECK FIRST with your parents or guardians to make sure it's okay and so that an adult knows where you are at all times.

- Be careful when you play. Don't play near busy streets or deserted areas and never take shortcuts unless you have your parents' or guardians' permission.
- Don't wear clothes or carry items with your name on the outside and don't be confused just because a person you don't know calls out your name.
- Don't get into or go near a vehicle with anyone in it unless you are with your parents, guardians, or a trusted adult. Never take a ride from ANYONE without CHECKING FIRST with your parents or guardians.
- Be careful playing or riding your bike as it gets dark. Wear reflectors and light colored clothing so that drivers are able to see you.

Don't be afraid to say **NO** and **GET AWAY** from any situation that makes you feel scared, uncomfortable or confused.

TRUST YOUR FEELINGS and be sure to **TELL** a trusted adult if anything happens to make you feel this way.

Let's have a SAFE and HAPPY summer!



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Get Ready for Severe Weather - Travis County ESD #2 Cares!

Flooding: TURN AROUND, DON'T DROWN

Central Texas is known as a hotbed of flash floods, which are the #1 cause of weather-related deaths in the U.S. Most of these deaths occur when drivers try to drive through floodwaters, while others happen when pedestrians try to walk through or near flooded areas. Just six inches of rushing water can knock down an adult, and much less for a child.

It is NEVER safe to drive or walk into flood waters. Obey all barricades and warning signs. Many drivers overestimate the strength of their vehicles, and underestimate the water's strength and depth. Drivers often lose control of their vehicles – including SUVs and pick-up trucks – in just six inches of water, and it only takes 1 to 2 feet of moving water to force a vehicle off the road. Be especially careful when driving or walking at night when it's much harder to recognize flood dangers. If the forecast calls for heavy or steady rainfall, avoid parking, camping or hiking along creeks, streams, and rivers.

Tornadoes: GET IN, GET DOWN, COVER UP

A tornado WATCH means tornadoes are possible. Remain alert and watch the sky. Get ready. Stay tuned to a weather radio or TV for updates. A tornado WARNING means a tornado has actually been spotted near you or indicated by weather radar. Take shelter now. If you're driving, never try to hide from a tornado under an overpass. You are safer in a low, flat location. Don't try to outrun a tornado while driving in a city setting or heavy traffic. Try to get into a safe building. Being inside is safer than being in a car, or near a car that can fly into you.

GET IN! If you are outside, get inside. If you're already inside, get as far into the middle of the building as possible. Enclose yourself in a closet or interior hallway.

GET DOWN! Try to go underground. If you can't, get down to the lowest floor/location possible.

COVER UP! Flying/falling debris is a tornado's #1 killer! Get under a sturdy table. Use bike helmets, coats, pillows, blankets, your arms, etc. to cover your head and body. Put on sturdy shoes.

Lightning: WHEN THUNDER ROARS, GO INDOORS

If you can hear thunder, even a distant rumble, you are in danger and need to get to a safe place immediately. There is no safe place outside in a thunderstorm, fully enclosed buildings with wiring and plumbing provide the best protection. Sheds, picnic shelters, tents, dug-outs, and covered porches do not protect you from lightning. If a sturdy building is not available, get inside a hard-topped metal vehicle and close the windows. Avoid open areas, tall isolated objects, electrical equipment/wiring, baths and showers, and corded phones (except for emergencies).

Don't be fooled by blue skies! Lightning often strikes outside of heavy rain. The threat of lightning extends 6-10 miles outward from the base of a thunderstorm cloud. Many lightning deaths occur ahead of storms or after they seemed to pass.

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WB Neighbor to Sing National Anthem at RR Express Game

by Tammy DeWitt Le



Robbie Hearn lives right around the corner from me and we enjoy seeing him on his walks around the neighborhood. The minute he sees me he always breaks out into a huge smile and is so excited to say Hi. He is a kind soul and an enthusiastic WBNA volunteer who has helped at most of the WBNA Easter Egg Hunts for the last 10

years. He says he enjoys hiding all the eggs for the kids. He and his mother have lived in Wells Branch since 2001.

Robbie enjoys participating in our community events and helps whenever he can. Debby Thompson says, "Robbie's desire to participate in our community is remarkable. He reads every issue of the newsletter, cover to cover, then calls to discuss the articles and offers help. He is an asset to our community. I'm proud to call Robbie my friend."

Aside from being an outstanding neighbor and volunteer, Robbie is a very talented singer. He has sung at church since he was a child and was selected to sing the national anthem this year at the June 15 Round Rock Express baseball game. The game starts promptly at 7:05pm so get there by 6:45pm to hear him sing! His impressive singing career also includes singing the national anthem at a 2015 Round Rock Express game, a Connally High school volleyball game, Adapt of Texas (grassroots disability group), and ARCIL (provides independent services to people with disabilities). You might also have seen Robbie competing in the Wells Branch talent show.

I asked Robbie if he gets nervous when he sings and he told me his Mom says, "Just sing to the Lord" and that helps calm his nerves. He is such an enthusiastic and sweet person despite the challenges he has endured in his life. I invite you all to come out to the Dell Diamond on June 15th to support him. If you're new to Austin, it's a really fun family event and what a treat to see our very own Wells Branch neighbor singing. We are proud of you Robbie!

**Construction Updates at
WBNA.us
Events photos on Facebook**



Project Graduation

Project Graduation is an all-night, substance free graduation party held to keep high school graduates safe on a night that had historically been one of the most deadly for graduates. Parent volunteers plan and raise money for more than a year to make this a fun and safe night to remember!

PfISD's Connally HS and RRISD's McNeil HS volunteers extend a HUGE "THANK YOU" to everyone that supported their efforts this school year.



WB Photo Club

by Margaret McGhee-Sufke

First, a HUGE thanks to the WB Rec. Center staff and WB MUD! We had our April meeting in the newly renovated WB Recreation Center and the new facility is awesome. We are SO grateful for the use of this space and the equipment. We will have plenty of room in the future to host creative workshops, excellent presentations and educational programs.

For those who don't know or may not realize, we have been granted the use of these wonderful facilities because our group gives back to the community. Part of giving back is helping to document community events in WB through photography as well as making our group completely open to all ages and skill levels. Everyone is welcome and there is no charge to attend. The meetings are a "drop in format".

Our group meets the second Tuesday of each month, in the WB Rec. Center, 3000 Shoreline Drive at 6:30pm. Sessions usually last about 2 hours.

Upcoming sessions include:

June 14 - HDR Workflow presentation: How to create a high-definition photo

July 12 - Hands on workshop: Mini Macro class, learn to use small scale lighting sets to capture great images

NOTE: Sessions subject to change based on speaker availability

WB photo contest: The FOL (Friends of the Library) is sponsoring a photo contest and our group is excited to be participating in this event. The FOL photo calendar, **A Portrait of Wells Branch** should be a great neighborhood fund raiser and will hopefully start a new yearly tradition. For more info, please visit: <http://wbfriends.org>.

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From Recent MUD Board Meetings by Debby Thompson, WBNA President

Please remember, the WBNA (Wells Branch Neighborhood Association) and the Wells Branch MUD are two different entities; ours is a volunteer community group, the other, a governmental body. In the interest of our shared residents, we do our best to report on MUD events and Board meetings in an objective manner so that each of you are aware of current topics and can research those that interest you for yourselves and form your own opinions. There is a wealth of information on the MUD website: **www.wellsbranchmud.com**. 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 newly renovated Rec. Center, 3000 Shoreline Drive, unless otherwise posted. All residents are invited to attend. Meetings begin at 5:30pm with citizens communication at 6:30pm. Agendas are posted the week prior to the meeting at www.wellsbranchmud.com under the "Board" tab or follow the link from the WBNA website calendar.

MUD Board Meetings Move to Recreation Center

Regularly scheduled MUD Board Meetings will be held at the Rec. Center, 3000 Shoreline Drive, unless otherwise posted.

Recreation Center Open House

WB MUD will host an open house on Tuesday, May 17 from

4:30-6:30pm (Board Meeting begins at 5:30pm). Stop by for refreshments and take a self-guided tour of the beautiful new & improved WB Rec. Center. Visit with MUD Board members, program coordinators and representatives from some of the camps and clubs who meet there.

Wells Branch Soccer Complex

WB MUD broke ground on the WB Soccer Complex on April 27. Construction began the following week. While there have been a few setbacks due to platting issues, the Board and WBSA remain hopeful that the fields will open for play in time for the fall soccer season this coming August.

MUD Graffiti Policy

If you see graffiti inside the District, please report it by sending a photograph along with the location and any identifying numbers or other information that might be present on the structure to info@wellsbranchmud.com or call 512-251-9814. You may also use their online graffiti report form on their website: wellsbranchmud.com/graffiti. They promise to make removal a priority. Read more about the District Graffiti Policy at wellsbranchmud.com.

Willow Bend Pool Expansion & Plans for Skate Park

At the May 3 meeting, the Board voted to begin exploring expansion of the children's area at Willow Bend Pool as their next development priority. Watch for requests for citizens input in the near future. A plan to poll residents to determine interest in building a skate park next to the Rec. Center is in the works as well.

RRISD Boundary Process Update

from RRISD Board Briefs, May 9, 2016

At the May 3 Board Workshop, RRISD Trustees decided to continue with a tight discussion timeline, opting to not do surveys, forums, or focus groups, based on feedback from past attendance area changes. RRISD will begin the middle school boundary process with a single change recommendation in September 2016, followed by a minimum of two community hearings in October 2016, a review of the hearings and a final recommendation at the October 20, 2016 Regular Meeting, and an action item for the November 17, 2016 Regular Meeting. Middle School No. 11 will open in August 2017 on Pearson Ranch Road.

Please continue to monitor roundrockisd.org and wbna.us for updates on attendance areas and community input meetings coming this fall. RRISD live streams Regular Meetings; recordings are available on their website.

In addition, they now offer Board Briefs, via email and online. To subscribe, visit: <http://eepurl.com/bZqit9>

Northwest Elementary News

by Cindy Padavick

Happy summer! June 1 marks the end of the 2015-16 school year and we thank the families of Northwest Elementary for the generous contributions and hours of volunteer service you have given throughout this year. It is through your dedication and commitment to our students and school that we are able to provide the wide range of programs and support to our students, teachers, and staff. This time spent together, volunteering, allows us to continue to build the unique community that we have at Northwest Elementary. THANK YOU!

We would also like to thank each of the members of the board for their service this year. They have worked tirelessly to ensure that the programs established by the PTO continue to enrich the education of our children.

Harmony School of Science

Harmony School of Science is excited to announce their participation in the WATCH D.O.G.S (Dads of Great Students) program for the upcoming school year. WATCH D.O.G.S is a program designed to provide male opportunities for volunteerism in education. There are two goals of WATCH D.O.G.S.: demonstrate the importance of education and enhance school safety.

Mrs. Tiffany Molina, Dean of Students at Harmony School of Science (HSS), says they are looking for fathers, brother, uncles, etc. to volunteer in a variety of ways. Three current fathers have volunteered to be the "Top DOGS" for the upcoming school year and are currently recruiting for helpers in library time, reading with students in Kindergarten through 2nd grade, lunch time monitors, and drop off and dismissal attendants. WATCH D.O.G.S. believes the extra set of eyes and ears and modeling of positive relationships helps to deter school bullying. Harmony School of Science is thrilled to have the opportunity to implement such a wonderful program on their campus!

Joe Lee Johnson Elementary News

By Gabrielle Nino, Principal

The Joe Lee Johnson Elementary STEAM Academy Trailblazers are preparing to launch our inaugural year. We are thrilled to offer unique educational experiences under the umbrella of STEAM: Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics. Learning will be designed to engage students in an integrated learning process that will maximize opportunities to think critically, collaborate, communicate and create. Interdisciplinary instructional practices will provide a problem based common lens through which children master knowledge and enable them to make important and long lasting connections across content areas.

In addition to the interdisciplinary approach to learning, students will be offered a wide range of stimulating enrichment experiences that will increase their exposure and access to the STEAM fields. The structure of learning at JLJE STEAM Academy requires an environment that is flexible and collaborative, preparing our children to own their futures.

In this exciting year of all things new, we assure you that our exceptional staff will be working alongside you to ensure that each child achieves success. The partnership that we build will be paramount in their success.

The first day of the school year is August 23rd, and the JLJE Back-to-School Night is August 19th 5:30-7:00pm.

Please check our website at <https://johnson.roundrockisd.org/> during the summer for updates and current information. Also, feel free to contact me at gabi_nino@roundrockisd.org, with any questions you may have.

Thank you for sharing your child with us and have a wonderful, fun filled summer!

Message from JLJ PTA Nominating Committee

By Olivia Engstrom, Sarah Marquez, & Morgan Norris, Nominating Committee
Over the next few weeks, RRISD Council of PTAs will be helping JLJE set up its first PTA for the new school year. PTA will be a critical component to connecting families with the school and supporting our teachers and staff. We are excited about all of the enthusiasm in our community for this new school and want to see as many people as possible involved in making Joe Lee Johnson a great place for our kids to learn and grow!

To begin, we need to create our PTA Board. Additionally, we would like to begin identifying community members interested in chairing specific projects for the JLJE PTA. If you have an interest or passion to be involved at JLJE in any volunteer leadership capacity, please contact send an email to Morgan, morgan.c.norris@gmail.com.

WBE Farmer's Market

by Dianne Koehler

The students in the Farmer's Market program want to thank the Wells Branch community for their support this year. We had a very successful year and are now working on a couple of projects using the profits to "give back to the garden" for future students.



Wells Branch Elementary News

PTA Updates by Blythe Jewell Gander

Spring Fest Success!

Our 11th Annual Spring Fest, held on April 9th, raised more than \$13,000! K-EYE TV was even on the scene to record some new star reporters! All proceeds benefit our PTA and will go directly to support our students, faculty, and staff throughout the year.

We can't imagine what this event would look like without the amazing volunteers that help every year. Without you, there would be no Science Fair, International Fair, or Field Day – and we thank you all from the bottom of our hearts for the hard work you put in. Your dedication has a direct effect on our school's success, and we appreciate it so much!

2016-17 PTA Board

PTA Board elections were held April 5th and the new Board members are: President Blythe Gander, Vice President Steve Wilson, Secretary Laura Gomez-Horton, Treasurer Brad Caffey, and Historian Tim Schaffer. With WBE's new status as an Arts Integration Academy (AIA), next year is sure to bring lots of changes on campus, and we're excited about all the new opportunities that will come as a result!

If you have questions about PTA events or membership, be sure to check our web site at www.wellsbranchpta.org.

More on Yearbooks...

Time is running out to order and yearbooks sell out every year, so don't wait to get yours! The full-color book will feature class pictures and photos of our students, teachers, and staff working, learning, and enjoying fun school activities throughout the year. This year it's even easier and more convenient with online ordering available at <http://www.balfour.com/texas/austin/wells-branch-elementary-school/>

WBE, Arts Integration Academy by Belinda Cini, Principal



Wells Branch Elementary, Arts Integration Academy (AIA) is so excited about the unique innovative programming to be implemented beginning in the fall. Arts integration is an approach to teaching in which students construct and demonstrate understandings

through engagement in creative processes connecting art forms and academic content. As our school transforms to an AIA, we will also offer enhanced arts specials offerings for all students, including theater, dance, and arts enrichment opportunities in after-school programming. Such great prospects await the Explorers!

The first day of the 2016-2017 school year is August 23rd, and the WBE, AIA Back-to-School Night is August 18th 5:30-7:00pm. We can't wait to see all our Explorers!

Please check the WBE, AIA website at <https://wellsbranch.roundrockisd.org/> during the summer for updates and current information. Also, feel free to contact me at belinda_cini@roundrockisd.org if you have any questions.

Have a wonderful summer filled with fun with family and friends!



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WB Leadership Academy by Kathy Brown

Wells Branch Leadership Academy (WBLA) is selling discount cards that include BOGO at Papa John's, McDonald's, Urban Air and much more! These \$10 cards expire 5/1/17. Pick one up at the front office of WBLA, 15201 Burnet Rd. We accept cash or check. Thank you for your support of our wonderful future leaders! On Time, On Task, On A Mission To Be Exemplary!

Concordia High School by Jim Binneboese

Great student academic competition results were realized at State TAAPS (Texas Alliance of Accredited Private Schools) competition in Waco. CHS, as a whole, finished 6th in the state. Some special awards were given – 1st place in Literary Criticism, Solo Acting and Poetry Interpretation.

Several students participated in the TAAPS Music competition. At the end of the day, 18 first place medals were awarded to CHS students.

District Track and Field Championships were held in San Antonio and CHS students brought home 1st place in both girls and boys 3200, 2nd place in both girls and boys 800, 1st place in boys 300 hurdles and boys 1600 meter runs.

Seniors continue to set all-time school records for college scholarships. To date, the 31 seniors have earned \$3.5M in college academic scholarships. Graduation will be Friday, May 27th at 7:00pm at Faith Lutheran Church in Georgetown.

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



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Celebrating 20 Years of Disc Golf in Wells Branch

by Brian Litke, WB resident and Wells Branch Disc Golf Club President

This year marks the 20th year of disc golf in Wells Branch. The original nine-hole course, installed in 1996 at the south end of Katherine Fleisher Park, placed seven fairways on the north side of WB Pkwy, with two fairways on the south side of the road. The original course was one of the earliest disc golf courses installed in the Austin area, arriving at a time when disc golf as a sport was experiencing a rise in popularity. A well-loved amenity even as a nine-hole course, residents frequently inquired at MUD meetings regarding the expansion of the course to 18 holes, and in 2012, the WB MUD approved a plan to expand the course to 18 fairways and move all the fairways south of WB Pkwy.

Several local disc golf enthusiasts collaborated with the MUD board and staff to implement a fun, community-oriented course, that is shorter than many of the other courses in the area, but enjoyable for players of all ages and skill levels. The grand opening of the new design was held in March 2013 and marked by the first annual Wells Branch Disc Golf Tournament. In addition to this annual tournament which attracts around 70 players each year, the WB course has played host to fundraising events for the Austin Food Bank, St. Andrews Food Pantry, Ronald McDonald House, medical fundraisers for community members needing assistance, as well as an annual tournament focusing on military veterans, which will take place again at the WB course this September.

The greenbelt where the course is placed has changed a lot over the past 20 years. Recent years of drought, especially 2011, stressed many trees to the point of death. To support the continued health of the area, the WB MUD started a Trees for Trails campaign that replanted the area along the trail at the north end of the original course. Although these plantings didn't extend south of WB Pkwy to the 18 fairways of the new disc golf course design, local disc golfers organized to establish the Wells Branch Disc Golf Club, and 60% of each club member's \$10 annual dues are allocated towards purchasing trees to revitalize the greenbelt where the course is situated. To date, the WB disc golf club has sponsored the purchase of 44 trees and bushes, providing a visible sign of regrowth in the area and generating a pride and enthusiasm for care of the course by players and the neighborhood. I work with the MUD and Austin Parks Foundation each March and September to organize volunteer park work days to keep our park looking it's best, and this March we had our biggest participation ever, with over 90 volunteers helping out to clean the area and plant trees.

As a WB resident, I have met a lot of new friends at the WB Disc Golf Course, and each time I play, I see couples, families with children, and players of all ages enjoying the sport. I hope you and your family take the opportunity to visit the Wells Branch course soon. It's a beautiful area of our park system, and it is full of friendly people who would love to play a round of golf with you!

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FOL Garage Sale a Huge Success!

by Gus Kohn, President, FOL

The Fifth Annual Friends of the Library Garage Sale on Saturday April 2nd was yet again a resounding success, generating about \$2000 for library programs. Every vendor and customer we spoke with wholeheartedly enjoyed



the beautiful weather and crowds of people. It was a fun day with people attending from all over. The library was closed until 1pm Saturday which allowed the FOL to capitalize on more parking spaces for sale booths like last year contributing to the fundraising effort.

Boy Scout Troop and Venture Crew 1409 were again on hand to volunteer in the morning to put out tables and assist vendors in their set up as well as in the afternoon after the sale to aid in breaking down and helping vendors close up their booths.

The Constable Deputies from Travis County Precinct #2 and the Explorers from Post 711 served an essential role in traffic control and assuring safe pedestrian passage to and from the sale, for which we cannot thank them enough.

Thanks to all who donated items for sale in the FOL booth from which we raised over \$200; your contribution is greatly appreciated. I'd also like to thank the many area merchants who donated concessions for our sale: Starbucks in Pflugerville, Papa John's Pizza on WB Pkwy, Branch BBQ, Krispy Kreme donuts, HEB in Pflugerville on WB Pkwy, and Kona Ice as well as several FOL Members who donated items for the concession stand and other supplies.

A special thank you to the Wells Branch MUD Board and Staff for their support providing the 6ft. vendor tables and drop-off/pick-up of the same and to Easter Seals for coming to collect the remnants of the sale.

As President of the Friends of the Wells Branch Library, I'd like to thank the other volunteers without whom this sale would not have been possible. My sincere gratitude goes out in no particular order to volunteers: Chuck Walters, Lara Bennett, Dave Mead, Janet Maxey, Ralph Simon, Marie Streusand, Theresa Faris, Debby Thompson, Donita Ward, Hassan, Andrew



Jones, Joe Schwartz and Henry Bennett as well as FOL Board Members Madonna Johnson, Tracy Simon, Joan Mead and Doug Schwartz. Any omissions were not intentional.

How about that for a community coming together? Without this fabulous community involvement, this great success could not occur. Thank you, Wells Branch!

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Enter the 4th Annual Disc Golf Tournament, May 21

by Brian Litke

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



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

Pre-registration is only \$10 and will be taken at the WB Recreation Center, located at 3000 Shoreline Drive. You may also call to register at 512-251-9814 or email your registration request to rec@wellsbranchmud.com.

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

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Solar Energy in Wells Branch

In October of 2014 a group of Wells Branch solar advocates held a Solar Energy Fair (<http://wbna.us/community/solar-energy-fair/>) and followed that up with a Solarize project in January of 2015 (<http://wellsbranchsolar.blogspot.com/>). Solarize projects are where a group of people get solar education en-masse in exchange for state of the art solar installation at a lower price. At least 40 WB homes have "gone solar" since the solar fair.



Stephen Hochstetler, one of the WB Solarize team has documented the process. The Hochstetlers are Oncor customers with GreenMountain as the billing company. They had already made their home energy efficient before the solar install.

"After installing a 22 panel 5.6kW system we have had a bill reduction of \$85 in both Aug and Sept and have now gone 6 months with no electric bill. We currently have a credit of \$60. We are happy to save money and live greener at the same time! We are on track for our solar system investment to 'break-even' in 7 years or less."

Here are some of the factors that gave the Hochstetler's a successful solar plan and installation:

- (1) Proper goal sizing - We looked at a year's worth of usage (<https://www.smartmetertexas.com/CAP/public/>) and determined the annual electrical usage was 9100 kWh. Our goal was to generate 90% of that with solar (8190 kWh).
- (2) We needed to know the pitch of the roof (steepness) and the azimuth (angle) as these affect the efficiency of the panels. Our roof has a pitch of 30 degrees, which is perfect because the Latitude of the Austin area is 30.2 degrees. Our roof azimuth is 209 degrees (this is 29 degrees west of due south)
- (3) Finding the right system size with <http://pvwatts.nrel.gov>. - After putting in our roof numbers (from step 2) we decided on a 5.6 kW system with an estimated annual output of 8363 kWh per year. I am happy to help my neighbors with this website interface.
- (4) Choosing the efficiency of solar panel to be installed. The lower the wattage per panel, the less expensive it will be. We were fortunate to have adequate space to choose the lowest wattage panel (lowest cost).
- (5) It is helpful if the quotes they give you include a 'monitoring' system where you can look at your solar output from a web browser. Otherwise, how will you know if you've blown a fuse?
- (6) Make sure you understand the warranties and the cost of an extended warranty so you can compare those across the 3 vendors.

A solar installation company will help with the above steps. If you are ready to find out the details of a solar pv install on

See Solar on page 14



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

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

DIY Thursdays: 2nd Thursday at 6pm- Ages 16+
Limited materials, registration required.

6/9 Dremel for beginners

DIY Teens: 2nd Saturday at 2pm for ages 10+
 5/14 Bath Goods 6/11 Thai String Dolls

DIY Kids: Skill building just for ages 5+
 1st & 3rd Monday workshop 4-5pm
 3rd Monday open creativity 5-6pm

5/16 Fun with Circuits

6/6 Keva Blocks 6/20 Straw Connectors

Adult Relaxation Series

Relaxation through Coloring 2-4pm 5/15
 Mindful Meditation Workshop 5/28 at 11am

Donuts with Dads: 6/18 Enjoy open
 reading, treats and crafts together
 10-12pm

Tech Help Hour: Get one-on-one help with digital devices
 and content each Fri, Sat, and Sun from 4-5pm.

Cody Fisher Magic Show: Bring the
 family and be amazed 5/21 at 12pm.

Songwriting Workshop
 6/18 at 2pm for Adults &
 Teens. Register online.

Book Clubs
Steamy Reads: 1st Wed at 6pm
Clueless Mysteries: 3rd Sun at 3pm
Wine, Women & Words: 1st Thurs at 7pm

Learn a language at the Library

Adult Spanish Conversation Hour:
 Tues at 6:30pm. 5/24, 6/14 & 6/28

Spanish Storytime: 3rd Thurs at 11am

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

Buying a Home: Financial Seminar 6/23 at 6:30pm. Register Online.

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

Nail Art Workshop: 5/28 for ages 10+ to create designs with
 dotting tools 2-3:30pm

Resume Makeovers: Get help with your resume. 5/28 & 6/25 at 10:30. *Eventbrite registration required.*

REGULAR LIBRARY PROGRAMS

YOUTH

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

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

Storytime & Craft (all ages) Tues 6:30pm & Sat 11am

Lego Lab (ages 5+) 2nd and 4th Mondays 4-5pm

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

Toddler Storytime - Fri 10:30am

Preschool Storytime - Fri 11:15am

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

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

ADULTS

Morning Yoga - Select Thursdays at 10:30am. Free for all
 levels. 5/19, 6/2 & 6/16

Writers' Guild- 1st Wed of each month at 7:30pm. Con-
 nect with local authors and get feedback. 6/1

English Conversation Group – Select Saturdays at
 10:30am. Open to all skill levels. 5/21, 6/4 & 6/18

Knit & Crochet Group – 3rd Thurs at 6:30pm. Needles,
 yarn and instruction are provided. 5/19 & 6/16

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

Summer Reading programs and prizes start 6/4 with a show by Sandbank Shadow Puppet Theater at noon!

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Friends of the WBCL News by Gus Kohn, President

Adult Programs-

Meets in WB Library Large Mtg. Room • 15001 Wells Port

Upgrade Your Productivity – Now! (A four part series)

Part 1 • May 21 • 6-7:30pm | Part 2 • June 5 • 6-7:30pm

Part 3 • June 11 • 6-7:30pm | Part 4 • June 18 • 7-8:30pm

Learn from Chris Belfi, founder of MaxPotential Coaching LLC, the techniques for time management, the productive state, five steps of productive workflow, dealing with distractions and many other useful tools to increase your productivity and focus at work and afford yourself more personal time. Join the FOL in this exciting presentation!

Register at <http://upgradeproductivitynow.eventbrite.com>

Disney History: the Early Years • June 12 • 6:00-7:30pm

Before there was a mouse or a castle, there was a little girl, a cat and a talented man with big dreams...

The Walt Disney *Alice Comedies* was a series of short cartoons made by Walt Disney during the Silent Age of Animation. The short subject cartoons feature Alice (*Virginia Davis-McGhee*), a live girl, interacting within an animated world. Ms. Davis' eldest daughter lives right here in Wells Branch and will provide us with an evening presentation of memorabilia, videos, interviews and PowerPoints detailing the contributions made by Ms. Davis to the exciting beginnings of Walt Disney Studios. Join the FOL for this entertaining and educational presentation. After all, who doesn't like Disney? Register at <http://disneyhistory.eventbrite.com>

FOL 2017 Calendar Photo Contest 'A Portrait of Wells Branch'

Give us your best shot! We want to see Wells Branch through your eyes. Help us celebrate our community with your best photographs. The Friends of the Wells Branch Community Library (FOL) Calendar Photo Contest is underway, and we are accepting photo submissions. Everyone is invited to participate.

We will be accepting entries through June 15, 2016, after which, we will make final selections for the 2017 FOL Limited Edition Calendar. Photographs will be displayed at Wells Branch Community Library as they are received. Winning photos will be on display in the Community Center foyer during 4thFest. The calendar will be available for sale to the public with the proceeds funding the many library programs the FOL supports throughout the year.

Contest guidelines and photo requirements may be found at wbfriends.org. Please

read the guidelines carefully as we will not be able to accept pictures that do not meet the requirements. If you have questions, please contact fol.wbfriends@gmail.com



We've run out of room!

Event Photos & Volunteer Thanks

Visit the WBNA Facebook page for photos of the WBNA Easter Egg Hunt, WB MUD Dog Fair, Extreme Clean Spring, Pioneer Fest, and Youth Fishing Tournament. Each of these events are wonderful Wells Branch traditions and could not occur without all our amazing volunteers. Articles and credits are currently posted on the WBNA website.

Road Construction Updates

We've received answers to all the questions posed to Rep. Israel and TxDOT staff last fall as well as an update on Travis County road projects. Visit the Construction tab at wbna.us.

Apartment & Housing Construction News

Detailed construction updates on Affinity at Wells Branch, The Art at Bratton's Edge, The Waters at Willow Run and the new Travesia apartments and single family housing off Cadoz/Grand Avenue may be found on their individual pages under the Construction tab at wbna.us.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month!

by Brittany Hecker, Adult Program & Service Librarian, WBCL
Discover the benefits of mindfulness & relaxation this month at the library, as we shine a spotlight on the common mental health issues that many of us struggle through, but rarely discuss. **Mindfulness** - a mental state of personal awareness of the present moment, without judgement or criticism - is an increasingly popular way to manage symptoms of anxiety or depression. In May, try out mindfulness and other relaxation techniques in one of our Mental Health Awareness events! On May 15th, drop in to the library between 2 & 4pm for Calm & Colorful: Relaxation through Coloring, featuring calming coloring pages for adults, soft music, & aromatherapy. Then, on May 28th at 11am, learn Mindfulness Meditation in a workshop led by Rez Khan, facilitator of the local Austin Mindfulness Meetup group. He'll be discussing how mindfulness has helped him, and showing you simple practices to incorporate into your daily routine. In addition, the library will be offering our regular yoga classes on May 5th & 19th at 10:30am and our Knit & Crochet Group on May 19th at 6:30pm - both are great activities to help calm your mind & body! Find out more about mental health topics all month long at the library, along with local resources to help you or someone you know. Information on these programs is available on the library website at wblibrary.org, or by phone at 512-989-3188.

On your mark, get set, READ!

by Kristin Johnson, Children's Librarian, WBCL

Get ready for a summer of reading and programs including book clubs, storytimes, arts & crafts, DIY projects for kids teens and adults, Donuts with Dads, Mr. Taps Show, Joe McDermott Concert, Chemistry Roadshow and more! Track your reading through our new online summer reading program to earn prizes and raffle entries. The Summer Reading Program kicks off on Saturday, June 4th with a performance by Sandbank Shadow Factory at noon. Visit wblibrary.org for more information.

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Fitness in Wells Branch

Get FIT with Aquafit!

by Katie Hutcheson
WB MUD offers Aquafit classes year-round each Monday, Wednesday from 3-4pm and Friday from 1-2pm at Willow Bend Pool.

Purchase your Multiclass card through Wells Branch MUD, 512-251-9814. Please wear swim attire, bring a water bottle and towel. For more info, contact Katie at khutcheson@wellsbranchmud.com.

WB Walking Club

WB Walking Club meets in front of KF Pool on Tuesdays & Thursdays and utilizes the Wells Branch MUD trails. Temps are mild in the morning and the trails are beautiful; it's a perfect time to start walking! Current meet-up time is 9am, but will change to 7am on Tuesday, May 24. For more info, contact Katie Hutcheson at khutcheson@wellsbranchmud.com.

WB Running Club

by Russell Jones
The Wells Branch Running Club is a completely free and fun group of over community members who meet every Tuesday and Thursday from 5:45-6:45am at the Gazebo in Katherine Fleischer Park. Workouts are tailored to meet the needs of every individual with members running at all different paces.

For more information go to www.wbrunclub.com or contact Russell at Russell@wbrunclub.com or (512) 825-2369.

Couch to 5K Running!

by Jill Douglass
The WB Running Club is sponsoring a Couch to 5K running program this summer. The program aims to help non-runners (couch potatoes!) achieve running a 5K in 9 weeks. Aspiring runners will meet at the gazebo at Katherine Fleischer Park at 6am Mondays and Wednesdays beginning June 6th. The program is free. We will be using the "C25K" phone app. Questions? Contact Jill Douglass (jdzurenko@gmail.com).

Clip 'n Save Pool Hours

Katherine Fleischer (KF) Pool

2106 Klattenhoff • 512-251-9932

May 2 - June 3*

Open Swim	M-F	3-9pm
	S-S	1-9pm
Lap Swim	M-F	3-4pm
	M-F	7:30-9:30pm

*KF Pool will be open from 1-9pm on Monday, May 30

June 4 - August 24*

Open Swim	M-Th, Sa	10am-9pm
	F	4-9pm
	Su	1-9pm

*No Lap Lanes will be available at KF Pool, please use the Willow Bend Pool

*KF Pool will close at 8:30pm on 6/24, 7/22, and 8/12

Willow Bend Pool

2801 Sauls • 512-310-1833

May 2 - June 3*

Open/Lap	S-S	1-9pm
Lap Swim	M-F	5:30-7:00am
	M-F	12-2pm*

*Closed after 2pm due to Armada swim team practice

*WB Pool will be open for open/lap swim from 2-9pm on Monday, May 30

June 4 - July 10*

Open/Lap	M-F	2-9pm
	S-S	2-9pm
Lap Swim	M-F	5:30-7:00am
	M-F, Su	12-2pm

*WB Pool will be close at 5pm on Tuesday, June 14 (Rain Date: June 21)

*WB Pool may open late on these dates due to Armada home swim meets: 5/21, 5/28, 6/11, 6/18, 7/2, 7/9

July 11 - August 24

Open/Lap	M-F	2-9pm
	S-S	2-9pm
Lap Swim	M-F	5:30-7:30am
	Everyday	12-2pm

Please note: These are general guidelines. Hours are subject to change. Visit: wellsbranchmud.com/pools for current information and specific exceptions.

If you have any questions about pool operations, please feel free to contact the Aquatics Supervisor Katie Hutcheson at 512-251-9814 x111 or khutcheson@wellsbranchmud.com.

Vacation Safety Tips

If you plan to be away:

- Let a neighbor and/or block captain know you'll be out of town and when you'll return. They should have the following: your emergency contact information; contact information for anyone with access to your house (pet sitter, etc.); when they should be expected; what they look like and a description of their vehicle(s).
- Let only those who NEED to know, know when you are going out of town.
- **Don't share vacation plans OR photos on social media.**
- Arrange to have your lawn cared for if you are going to be away.
- Don't hide keys under doormats, flowerpots or in similar places.
- Put your lights, stereo and/or TV on timers.
- Leave a car in the driveway or ask a neighbor to park in it.
- Don't cancel your paper or mail deliveries; ask that your neighbor pick them up every day.
- Leave a key with a friend or neighbor; ask that the house be checked at regular intervals.
- Keep your house well lit at night (backyard included). A motion sensor or photocell activated light is an inexpensive deterrent.
- Store all your valuables.
- Consider asking friends or relatives to live in your home while you are away.
- Ask your neighbor to put trash in your trashcan and to put it out for collection and away when they put theirs away.

File a Close Patrol Request. The filing of this form alerts patrolling officers so that they may pay close attention to one's residence. To do so: Contact the Travis County Sheriff's Office at 512-854-9721. Ask to make a Close Patrol Request. You will be asked for information on those caring for your home while you're away: make and model of their vehicles, name, description and times they should be at your home.

Solar, from page 10

your own house, be sure and get several estimates from reputable vendors.

"For anyone getting quotes who wants to sit around a table to have them 'peer' reviewed by a neighbor who has solar, I am willing to help you look at them. There are many factors in each house that can affect quotes such as installing on a 2nd story roof can be more expensive than installing on a 1 story roof. Another common issue is the need to replace/upgrade the breaker box on an older home. All of that should be written in the quote. - Steve"

Questions? Email Steve directly at srh2pjh@gmail.com or WB Solar Advocates at solarizeWB@gmail.com.



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Celebrate Cultural Diversity!

Last Call, Wells Branch - We can't do this without YOU. If this fair is going to happen, we need volunteers and we need to hear from you by May 31 so that we can start organizing and planning for the event. Please see below for details.



Wells Branch is one of, if not the most, diverse populations in Travis County, and we want to celebrate this with a Diversity Fair this Fall. This type of event would be a great opportunity to learn about and explore cultural nuances with our neighbors. Each of us is invited to share our proud heritages and unique backgrounds. We need neighbors from the various cultures here to volunteer and plan the Festival.

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

WB Garden Guild by Dianne Koehler & Susie Gillespie



Annual Garden Tour - Join us May 21, 9am to sneak a peek behind the fences and see some of the best and most interesting gardens in Wells Branch. Take a look at how neighbors are planting to create an oasis in the shade or a sunny paradise. We'll visit both vegetable and

flower gardens and take away lots of great ideas. We'll also have access to the Wells Branch Elementary Garden and the WB Community Gardens. Meet at the Rec. Center, 3000 Shoreline Drive, at 9am to carpool. Garden Tour addresses, map and information will be posted to the WB Google Group, WBNA website, and the WB Garden Guild and WBNA Facebook pages prior to May 21.

Tomato Tasting - Celebrate summer with us at our annual Tomato Tasting on June 18. Members will be bringing tomatoes and tomato dishes to share so we can sample the wonderful varieties that are growing in Wells Branch. The meeting will be at the Rec. Center. Plates, napkins and your choice of beverage would be helpful to bring.

The Wells Branch Garden Guild meets the 3rd Saturday of each month at 11am at the WB Rec. Center, 3000 Shoreline Drive. Come early to share seeds, plants, food and conversation. All those interested in gardening are invited!

DIY Club by Daniel White

The Wells Branch DIY (Do-It-Yourself) Club meets on the first Sunday of each month from 6:00 to 8:00pm in room 102 of the WB MUD Rec. Center, 3000 Shoreline Drive. Membership is free and everyone is welcome. Come meet your neighbors, learn some new skills and share your knowledge.

We will be covering the following subjects this summer:

- June - Part 2 of DIY plumbing - Fix the Drip!
- July - Part 1 - Electrical Basics
- Aug. - Part 2 - Electrical - Let there be Light

Come learn how to do some of the basic handyman things around your house. If you have subjects you would like to see covered, let me know.

Daniel White
danielwhite@sbcglobal.net, 512-413-0097

KUDOS!

Thank you ALL for taking time out of your weekend to volunteer! Because of you, we had a great turnout at the Easter Egg Hunt and our Quarterly Extreme Clean. Your efforts make a huge difference for our community!

Dan Barnekow · Janel Bates · Anne, Colton, Brady & Winston Bennett · Emily Berver* · Shannon & Durbin Black · Joy Bryant* · Karen Buerkle · Phil & Dana Carter · Kim Clark · Grayson Dzialo · Theresa & Alex Faris · Katie Foster · Michelle Gadush · Miriam, Melissa & Briana Garate* · Dave Gezana · Carla & Alexander Gordon · Christopher & Matthew Grimsley · Cynthia Hannon · Travers Hough · Bruce Jones* · Jennifer Jones · Kim & Dan Lanicek · Sherrie Lindig · Brian Litke · Nancy & Rebecca Loomis · Angel Lugo · Donna Lyons · Siv & Arjuna Manda · D'Arlyn Marks* · Joan & Dave Mead · Gary Mueller · Don Myer · Ben Overby · Chris Plekenpol · Barbara Romero · Kim Sands · Julie Schwartz · Ralph Simon* · Jim & Kaleigh Simpson · Virgil Smith* · DeLane Spriggs · Sharon Sproat · Debby Thompson · Mike Weis · Wally Wingfield · Pamela & Bre Woodward **Delivered more than one section*

A BIG THANK YOU to all of you who take the time to send in articles about our schools and community groups. Your contributions strengthen our neighborhood! Keep 'em coming!

Silver Branchers by Darlene Bauhs

In April, the Branchers watched over Elmo the buffalo during Pioneer Fest at the Homestead. Children were able to come inside his enclosure, visit Elmo and hear about life on the range in the 1800's.



A trip to the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center is planned for May 26. We'll meet at the WB Rec. Center at 9am for departure. Call the MUD at 512-251-9814 to reserve your spot on the van or come and car-pool.

The Silver Branchers meet from 1-3pm every Thursday at the WB Rec. Center, 3000 Shoreline Drive. We are an active group of seniors who gather for fun and laughter each week. We play many games and enjoy each other's company. All residents 55 years and older are welcome. Check the Calendar at WBNA.us for updates on events.

Spanish Conversation Hour

2nd & 4th Tuesday of Each Month from 6:30-7:30pm
WB Community Library • 15001 Wells Port

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

WB Armada - Swim Season is HERE!

by Marcynda Verdicchio, President

The Wells Branch Armada (WBA) swim team kicked off its 27th season with afternoon practices starting May 2. We will switch to morning practices when the MUD switches to its summer pool schedule on June 3, once school is out.



Our home meets this year are on, May 28, June 4, June 11, June 18, July 2 and July 9. Many of you with kids on the team will already be there, but if you're not, feel free to come by in the mornings and cheer them on. While you're there stop by and have some of the wonderful food provided by our concessions team. WBA's concessions team are all volunteers, and have gained a reputation over the past 20 years as providing the best value - quality food at a low price - in the league. All concessions proceeds benefit the WBA swim team.

Finally, whether or not you have kids or your kids swim, the WBA is a great way to get the word out about your business. This year we have over 200 swimmers registered from 130 families from Wells Branch and surrounding neighborhoods. If you're interested in sponsoring the team for this or next year, or in donating in some other way, please access our website, <https://wellsbranch.swimtopia.com/>, and talk to Blake Scott (links to email addresses provided on the website) about a sponsorship. WBA is a 501(c)(3) organization.

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Not sure what to do with the kids this summer?

Wells Branch MUD offers a wide variety of Summer Camps. Visit their website at wellsbranchmud.com to learn more about: **Stuff-2-Do Summer Day Camp, Volleyball Clinics, Basketball Clinics, Art Mini-Camps and Swim Lessons.** Don't wait! Registration fills fast!

Summer Art Enrichment Mini-camps

by Dianne Koehler

Want to bring out the creative side of your child this summer right here in Wells Branch? Join us for the art mini-camp program sponsored by the Wells Branch MUD (a portion of the tuition supports programs in WB). We pack lots of projects into each week of three half-day sessions: painting, drawing, 3-D art, fabric painting, mosaics, clay sculpture, murals, and art discussions. Each week has its own theme. Enroll for one or several. Camp is \$45 per 3-day session and will be held at the newly renovated WB Rec. Center, 3000 Shoreline Drive. Register in person at the Rec. Center, by phone at 512-251-9814 or online at <http://www.wellsbranchmud.com/parks-a-recreation/youth-programs>.

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

June 14-16 • Way Out in Space - We'll create a galaxy mural, work with glow in the dark paint, create space ships, try our hand at moon rocks and lots more.

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

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

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

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

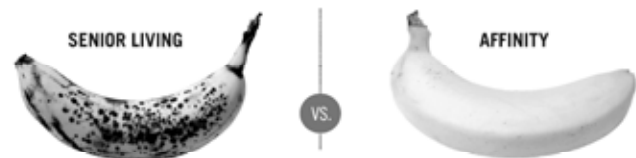
August 9-11 • Design It & Make It - Bags & mosaics & jewelry & more!

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

June 21-23 • Painting and Drawing - A Sampler - We will spend the week drawing and painting using all kinds of tools and different media from pastels to texture paints while we learn about how colors and textures work.

July 19-21 • Artistic Fun with Foods - Would it be more fun to eat a salad if it were a train or a skeleton? We will eat some of our art at the end of each day—fruit pizza, train salad, make a recipe book, and decorate plates for lunch.

August 2-4 • Wild-n-Wacky Arty Science - We will make our own fossils, investigate colorful chemical interactions, create crystals, make our own clays, and explore color.



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FPI MANAGEMENT



BSA Troop 1409 by Diane Michelson



Boy Scout Troop 1409 has had a fun spring. The troop teamed up with Venture Crew 1409 on a 22 mile canoe trip on the Village Creek Paddling Trail near Woodville, TX. One scout said he particularly enjoyed camping on the beach!

We have also participated in local service projects. We recently helped set up and take down tables during the Wells Branch Library garage sale. The boys also helped out at the Pioneer Fest, running demonstrations on stripping corn kernels from cobs, grinding corn into meal, and washing clothes the pioneer way. They also helped man the games tent.

Upcoming activities this summer include helping out with the MUD youth fishing tournament and attending summer camp at Camp Kerr in Oklahoma. We always welcome new youth between the ages of 11 to 18, contact scoutmaster@troop1409.com for more information.



Venturing Crew 1409 by Jill Douglass

Crew 1409 completed the Grand Canyon hike and loved it. The trek was over 40 miles. We encountered iced over trails, freezing canyon creeks, foot bridges, ravens, and beauty for miles.

The crew was well prepared and met every challenge head on. For example, the crew woke up at 4:30 am to hike out of the canyon by the light of our headlamps so as not to be on the trail in full sunlight all day. Hiking 1 mile uphill on a steep grade is no joke!

Right on the heels of the Grand Canyon, the crew canoed the Village Creek Paddling Trail in east Texas. The perfect April



weather made this paddling trip a breeze. This trip is part of our preparation for the summer Atchafalaya Swamp trek. The crew is learning how to work in pairs, pack for aquatic conditions, and have fun, of course.

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

KWBB Volunteer Day by Katie Hutcheson

June 5 • 2-4pm • WB Butterfly Garden

Please join the Keep Wells Branch Beautiful crew at the butterfly garden on Sunday, June 5, from 2pm-4pm. We will meet at the parking lot at the main office, 14611 Wells Port Dr., and take a short walk to the gardens. We have weeds to pull and new soil to place in the beds! Please wear closed-toed shoes and don't forget your water and work gloves!



**Keep Texas
Beautiful**
AFFILIATE

Cub Scout Pack 140 by Roger DeLeon, Den 3 Leader

Celebrating our 29th year in Scouting, Pack 140 is the original Wells Branch BSA Pack. Chartered by the Wells Branch Homestead in 1985, we welcome all parents and Cub Scouts and believe in a first class scouting experience.

Our main activities each year include fall and spring family campouts, the Pinewood Derby, the Blue and Gold Banquet and our graduation ceremony. We also participate in the Report to State parade, the Wells Branch Fourth Fest and the Holiday Luminaries as well as the National Summertime Pack activities to ensure our cubs stay active year round.

If you or your son are interested in serving the Wells Branch Community through Scouting, please contact us at info@pack140.org or visit us at www.Pack140.org.



BSA Pack 728 Update by Shannon Best

Wells Branch Pack 728 is about to wrap up their Scout year. We've had a lot of fun and we've definitely all learned quite a few things together. The Scouts got to camp at Camp Mabry recently. The weather was beautiful and the grounds were perfect. We fished, hiked, cooked, saw tanks and had a small carnival. All of the scouts are excited to earn their next rank. If you're interested in Cub Scouts, please email us at pack728@gmail.com.

WB Breaks Ground on New Soccer Complex! by Leisha Richardson, Secretary, WBSA

The WB MUD Board, District Staff and Wells Branch Soccer Association (WBSA) recently celebrated the official ground breaking of the long awaited new WB Soccer Complex. The event took place on April 27 at the new complex location on Shoreline Drive across from Shoreline Church. The WBSA Board and many of the coaches, players and parents all came out to commemorate the occasion. The ceremony was followed by a reception hosted by the WB MUD at the newly renovated Wells Branch Recreation Center.

The complex and fields will include adjustable soccer fields, a pavilion, bathrooms and maintenance storage areas. Construction is hoped to be completed this summer and the fields ready in time for the 2016 fall season.

A tremendous thanks to the Wells Branch MUD Board and MUD Staff for their generosity and continued support to get the new complex built as well as the ongoing maintenance of current fields throughout every season!

Registration for the WBSA fall season will open mid-May at wellsbranchsoccer.com. We look forward to seeing everyone out on the new fields this fall!



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Summer Birding in WB by Wanda Holcombe

Hummingbirds are back!

Follow these tips to help care for and attract them:

(Summary from <http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/bwdsite/learn/hummingbirds/attract.php>)

- **Tie an orange ribbon round the old oak tree.** Use foot-long pieces of surveyor's tape (bright red or orange plastic ribbon sold in hardware stores) to catch the eyes of passing hummingbirds. Tie these pieces to bushes, trees, deck railings—anyplace near flowers or feeders. Or, tie a red bandana nearby your feeder.
- **Don't remove those spider webs.** Hummingbirds use spider web as a main ingredient in their nests.
- **Deadhead your flowers to enhance blooming all summer.**
- **Rehabilitate your old feeders.** If the red parts on your hummingbird feeders are getting a bit dull, repaint using bright magenta nail polish. Or, replace old feeders.
- **Add more feeders;** two or three feeders in the vicinity of the first feeder will attract multiple hummingbirds.
- **Add a more native plant species to your garden.**
- **Plan a continuous blooming schedule for the summer.**
- **Make your own sugar liquid:** 1 part sugar to 4 parts water. Remember to change weekly!
- **Add a mister to your yard....all the birds will love this too!**

Monthly Bird Walks

Come join us to identify birds living in Wells Branch during the summer. Meet at Mills Pond Kiosk (off Wells Port Drive) unless otherwise noted on the WBNA Calendar (wbna.us) the 2nd Monday and 3rd Saturday of each month at 8:00 am.

Scheduled Bird Walks:

Saturday, May 21 • Hosted by Heather Johnson
Monday, June 13 • Hosted by Sharon Richardson

Saturday, June 18, 9am • A Special Bird walk for Young Folks, age 14 and under led by Sebastian Casarez. Parent or adult to accompany child.

We share our findings on ebird and the WBNA website for up-to-date reports, events and photos under the category, COMMUNITY/BIRDING: <http://wbna.us>

If you have any questions regarding the Bird Walks contact Heather: frioswimmer@gmail.com or Sharon: srich816@austin.rr.com

June 16 at 6pm "The REAL Angry Birds" Saving Bird Habitats by Sebastian Casarez will be presented at the WB Library.

The Nature Viewing Station by Mills Pond is ready for the spring and summer. Stop by for a visit!

Purple Martins are active in the North Meadow

A team checks on the Purple Martin houses each day. For more information or to join the team, email Karen at khallhagemann@hotmail.com

For ongoing information on Bird Walks this summer in the Austin area, bird plant recommendations, educational classes, birding trips, children and youth summer programs....and more, more, more check out the Travis Audubon Society website: travisaudubon.org

Happy Birding! We'll see you on the trails!

Wanda, Sharon, Heather & Karen



Community Calendar

May 15: Travis County Tax Appraisal Deadline to file ONLINE
 May 19, 6:30pm: Deputy Voter Registrar Training, WBRC
 May 21, 8am: Birding in WB, Mills Pond Gazebo
 May 21, 9am: Garden Guild Tour, see pg. 15 for details
 May 21, 9am-4pm: WB Disc Golf Tournament, see page 9
 May 21, 6-7:30pm: Upgrade Your Productivity Pt. 1, pg. 12
 May 28, 6-9pm: WB MUD Casino Night - Age 21+, WBRC
 May 29, 12-4pm: Splash Day!, KF Pool
 May 30: Memorial Day, No School for PfISD/RRISD
 May 31: Travis County Tax Appraisal Deadline to file BY MAIL
 June 1: Last Day of School PfISD
 June 2: Last Day of School RRISD
 June 4: Summer Reading Program Begins, WBCL
 June 5, 2-4pm: KWBB - WB Butterfly Garden
 June 5, 6-7:30pm: Upgrade Your Productivity Pt. 2, pg. 12
 June 5, 6-8pm: DIY Club - Plumbing - WBRC
 June 11, 8am-5pm: WB MUD BULK TRASH, In-District ONLY, 13905 Thermal
 June 11, 6-7:30pm: Upgrade Your Productivity Pt. 3, pg. 12
 June 12, 6-7:30pm: Disney History: the Early Years, pg. 12
 June 13, 8am: Birding in WB, Mills Pond Gazebo
 June 14, 6:30pm: WB Photography Club, WBRC
 June 15: FOL Photo Calendar Contest Deadline, see pg. 12
 June 16, 6pm: *Saving Bird Habitats*, see pg. 19, WBCL
 June 18, 9am: Bird Walk for Youth, Mills Pond, see page 19
 June 18, 11am: WB Garden Guild Tomato Tasting, WBRC
 June 18, 7-8:30pm: Upgrade Your Productivity Pt. 4, pg. 12
 June 18, Dusk: WB MUD Movies in the Park - The Little Rascals Save the Day, KF Park
 June 24, 9pm-Midnight: WB MUD Teen Pool Party, KF Pool
Save the Dates!
 July 4: FourthFest - Details in June Issue!
 July 9: Extreme Clean Summer - Quarterly Clean Up Day

Calendar Legend :

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

See WBNA.US for details of all calendar events

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by joining the WBNA and continue to make Wells Branch great!

Here is my check (made out to WBNA) for \$20 annual dues for 2016

May 2016

I am: _____ renewing my membership _____ a new member

Name(s): _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

I/we want to help with: _____ Newsletter Delivery _____ Crime Watch _____ July 4th

_____ Easter Egg Hunt _____ Nat'l Night Out _____ Luminary Fest

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

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PROPERTY TAX PROTEST TIPS

- Mail your form late; a late hearing date means more available data
- Write "mail me sales comp grid" on your form (under step 5) to see what homes are being used to determine your value
- Print and bring dated pictures of items in disrepair
- Don't efile, a face to face meeting is more effective

For more tips, watch my YouTube video "Tips to Successfully Protest your Texas Property Taxes" (video description lists companies you can hire to protest for you)

MY WELLS BRANCH LISTINGS:

- **Warfield Way** : Upgraded 1-story with spectacular enclosed backyard porch—COMING THIS SUMMER
- **14920 Bescott**: Gorgeous renovation and prime cul-de-sac location near main park—\$274,900—PENDING
- **15716 Opal Fire**: Move-in ready Willow Run Beauty with laminate floors & huge open kitchen \$239,900—SOLD!



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Volunteer Deputy Voter

Registrar Training THIS

Thursday, May 19!

by Debby Thompson, WBNA President

It's an election year and we need to get **ALL of our Wells Branch neighbors registered!** In order to accomplish this, we need volunteers. It only takes an hour of your time to get certified and you can be as involved (or uninvolved) as you'd like. Training enables you to be a resource to new neighbors, at community events, school, church, and social groups.

If you'd like to be a part of this effort (however big or small), we have a training session set for Thursday, May 19, at 6:30pm at the Rec. Center, 3000 Shoreline Drive. We need an approximate head count so that Travis County can bring adequate supplies. Please reserve your spot at vote@wbna.us. Questions? Call 512-656-0654.

