



Neighborhood News

News and information for the residents of Wells Branch.
Vol. 22, Issue 6, Holiday 2014

HO, HO, HO! Jingle, Jingle, Jingle! Holiday Traditions Abound in Wells Branch

As holiday traditions in Wells Branch continue to grow, we hope you'll take this opportunity to re-connect with family, friends and neighbors and reach out to new folks who've recently joined our community. To all the regulars, we look forward to seeing you and if you've never attended a community event here, please make time to come and join your neighbors in the festivities.

Luminary Festival • December 12 & 13

Experience the glow of the holidays as our trails light up with luminaries around Katherine Fleischer Park on December 12 & 13. Once again, the WBNA will be hosting Friday night's events and the Wells Branch MUD will host Saturday evening. Santa will be visiting the Homestead Cabin both nights from 6-9pm with FREE photos provided by WB Community Church.

WBNA sponsored craft tables and face painting will be set up both nights inside the Community Center and children will have the opportunity to make jewelry boxes for gifts, decorate ornaments, and color. Dianne Koehler and numerous volunteers will be on hand to assist the children with crafts and MUD staff will keep refreshments flowing.

Join us outdoors for a caroling hayride or a trip around the trails on the holiday express train to see the luminaries up close. We'll be starting the hayride and train at 5:30pm so bring the little ones and come early.

Saturday night, the MUD will have live entertainment and children's karaoke with Jessica Shepherd inside the Community Center. There will also be live entertainment outside both nights and indoor refreshments for all to enjoy in the newly renovated Community Center.

Holiday Home Decorating Contest

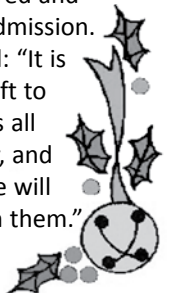
Break out the tinsel and holly! Deck the halls, yard, trees, cars, dogs, cats... Let's show some good ole WB spirit! The WBNA is sponsoring the Holiday Home Decorating Contest! Judging will begin on Sunday, December 14. For more details, please visit our website at wbna.us. If you'd like to help judge or nominate a home, email lights@wbna.us. Be sure and watch for the "Winners" as we post signs in their yards and feature the homes on Facebook and wbna.us! Categories include: Most Original, Most Traditional, Most Elaborate, Best Use of Lights, Most Energy Efficient and new this year: Visible from Space & Most Patriotic. Winners in each category receive a gift card from Lowes.

Polar Express Pajamarama • December 19

All aboard, for WBCL's yearly Polar Express Pajamarama! Enjoy holiday crafts, hot cocoa and cookies, a bedtime reading of The Polar Express and a special visit from Santa Friday, December 19 at 6:00pm & 7:30pm! Advance online registration required. Volunteers are needed to assist the FOL with decorations on Dec. 18 and to serve hot chocolate and supervise the snack table on Dec. 19 (two shifts). Sign up at <http://www1.mysignup.com/cgi-bin/view.cgi?datafile=wb-fol>

St. Andrews Presents An Evening of Music

Everyone is invited to a festive evening of Christmas music on Sunday, December 21, beginning at 6:00pm at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church at the corner of Wells Port and WB Parkway. The program will include a wide variety of both sacred and secular seasonal music and is open to all without admission. Tom Mitchell, Director of Music at St. Andrew's said: "It is our intention to offer this delightful program as a gift to every-one in the St. Andrew's community to help us all join more fully in the celebration of love, peace, joy, and hope in this special season. We hope that everyone will attend and bring friends, family, and neighbors with them."



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Great participation WB at Fall Extreme Clean!

In spite of the torrential rains, we had a phenomenal attendance at our quarterly hazardous waste clean up day on October 11.

The WBNA would like to thank the WB MUD Board and District Manager for supporting our quarterly recycling efforts. This is such a huge benefit for our community and our volunteers could not do it without your assistance and the use of your facilities, trucks and staff to transport the hazardous waste. It takes a team attitude and team effort to serve Wells Branch. Thank you!

A special THANK YOU to MUD Maintenance Supervisor Andy Rankine and his staff: Manny, Abraham, and Jacob, for your extraordinary efforts to make it work in less than ideal conditions and limited space.

Thank you to MUD Board President Donna Howe for organizing the Drug Take Back and the UT Pharmacy students for donating their time to this event. Thanks go out to Progressive Waste Solutions for arranging free shredding for WB residents and Global Environmental Systems (www.gesrecycles.com) for



providing re-purposing and recycling for electronics. We'd also like to recognize Easter Seals who've never let us down and take just about everything we throw at them. Unfortunately, we were unable to repurpose chemicals this time around due to weather, but plan to on January 10, weather permitting.

Most of all, we thank our volunteers! These folks gave up their Saturday to keep toxins out of the landfill and help their community out. Ed & Kay Peterson have a tremendous commitment to the environment and are always looking at how they can do MORE for Wells Branch. WBNA Board Members Debby Thompson, Chuck Walters, and Donna Malone put their collective heart and soul into making this event a success. Marie Streusand was a tremendous help with hazardous waste and the Wards: Kevin, Lisa, Sarah, Faith, Grace & Liam, were wonderful at sorting out the Easter Seals stuff and electronics recycling. Thanks to MUD Board Director Janet Maxey for supporting our efforts throughout the day and Director Joe Petronis for volunteering at sign-in that morning.

Haz. Waste continued on page 20



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WB Voter Turnout 2014 by Michele Samuelson

It is the duty of every citizen to exercise the privilege of voting, and it is never more important than it is in local elections. With another election season in the books, we're able now to go back and determine just how our community did in terms of turning out to choose the leaders in our most immediate governing board, the Wells Branch MUD board of directors.

Our total number of registered voters in Wells Branch is down to 9414 (it was 10,572 in 2012). The percentage of those voters participating in the election is likewise down to 37% from 57%. This is about what we'd expect in a non-presidential election year. There are a certain number of individuals who only vote every four years, regardless of what is on the local ballot. But with the high profile nature of this year's MUD director elections, we do find it somewhat disheartening.

The highest number of ballots cast in each of the four Travis County precincts occurred in the race for governor. In hard numbers, Precinct 225 took the lead with 1183 votes cast in that race, and percentage-wise, Precinct 216 took the crown with nearly 50% of registered voters participating. Precincts 215 and 229 came in at 820 and 890, respectively, or 37% and 44%. The gubernatorial race drew a total of 3485 ballots cast in Wells Branch's four precincts, and the Place 5 race for MUD director drew a total of 2047 ballots cast. To put this in perspective for the MUD races: in 2012, in the Place 4 election, one precinct saw 1008 ballots cast. This year, in that same precinct, 732 ballots were cast in the race for Place 5, which saw the highest amount of interest this year from Wells Branch voters.

Overall, Wells Branch is on par with the county and the state in voter turnout, but we believe we can do better. The WBNA provides voter registration and candidate forums to help educate voters in our community. As we look to 2016, and we seek to match or exceed the turnout from 2012, we hope to see all of you participate in various ways, including helping getting our neighbors to the polls.



Silver Branchers Holiday Update

By Darlene Bauhs

The Silver Branchers will celebrate their final meeting of 2014 with a Christmas luncheon at Polvos in Bratton Square on Thursday, December 11, at 1:00pm. All

seniors are welcome! Contact Darlene Bauhs at 512-252-8126 for more information on the luncheon.

Each Thursday, the Silver Branchers meet from 1:00 to 3:00pm at the WB Recreation Center on Shoreline Drive. Residents 55 years and older, are welcome. For additional information call the Wells Branch MUD at 512-251-9814. Regular meetings will resume on Thursday, January 15, at 1:00pm in the Rec. Center. We hope you'll join us.

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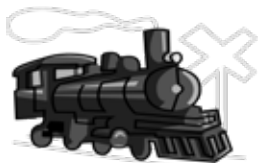
15001 Wells Port Drive
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www.wblibrary.org

Mon - Thurs 10am-8pm
Fri - Sat 10am-6pm
Sun 1pm-6pm

The library will close for the following holidays:

December 24, 25 and 26- closed
December 31- early closure at 4pm
January 1, 2015- closed

Food for Fines- The library will be collecting for the Capital Area Food Bank throughout December. For each eligible item you donate, we will reduce your late fees by \$1. You can reduce your debt by half while helping those in need.



Polar Express Pajamarama:

Fri, Dec. 19th at 6 & 7:30pm
Enjoy holiday crafts, hot cocoa and cookies, a bedtime reading of *The Polar Express* and a special visit from Santa! Online registration required.

Nightmare Before Christmas: Fri, Dec. 19th at 6pm.
Join us for nightmarish cheer, crafts and snacks while watching Tim Burton's film. (ages 10+)



Winter Reading Program: All ages
Rate the books you read and turn in reviews for prizes. Join us on Jan. 3rd at 4pm for the *Frozen* Sing-Along Finale Party!

The Mutt-Cracker (sweet): Fri, Dec. 5th at 6:30pm
A family-oriented Circus Dog Fairy 'Tail' for all ages.
Online registration required.



Ornament Workshop: Sun, Dec. 7th at 1:30pm & 3pm: Create ornaments for the holidays. Tickets available starting Dec. 1st.

Holiday Gift Wrapping Party: Sun., Dec. 21st from 2 – 3:30pm: Bring your own wrapping paper or use the library's (while supplies last) and have some cocoa & sweets while you prepare your gifts!



Open House: Sun, Dec. 14th at 6:30pm: Celebrate another wonderful year with live music, finger foods, neighbors and friends.

Career Workshops – Registration Required
Saturday, December 13th
Résumé Workshop: 10:30am – 12:00pm
Interview Workshop: 12:30pm – 2:00pm

Interested in helping the library? We need regular volunteers to make everything run smoothly.
Contact brittany@wblibrary.org

Knitting Group

Third Thursday of each month at 6:30pm
Whether you're learning the basics or refining your skills, our instructor can help you. We'll even provide the needles and yarn!

Money \$mart Workshops: No registration necessary.
Paying for College: Dec. 4th 6:30 – 7:30pm
New Year's \$\$\$ Goals: Dec. 18th 6:00 – 7:00pm

Morning Yoga: Thursdays 10:30 to 11:45am.

Free; donations accepted by instructor.
Continues through Dec. 18th. Stay tuned for details on 2015 classes!

Regular Programs and Storytimes

Baby Bookworms (0-18 mos.)- Mon at 10:30am
Baby Bookworms (12-24 mos.)- Mon at 11:15am
Make-It (ages 5-12) ~ Mon at 3:30pm
Storytime & Craft** ~Tues at 6 & 7pm
Arts & Crafts** ~Wed at 6pm
Toddler Storytime - Fri at 10:30am
Preschool Storytime - Fri at 11:15am
Saturday Storytime (all ages) - Sat at 11am
BowWow Reading Dogs - Sat by appointment
**free tickets available 30 minutes before program



Computer Classes: Registration required.

- Sat, Dec. 6th at 10:30am: Excel Intermediate
- Sun, Dec. 7th at 3pm: Internet Basics
- Sun, Dec. 14th at 3pm: Word Basics

English Conversation Group: 1st & 3rd Saturdays of the month at 10:30am. No registration necessary.
For all skill levels from beginner to advanced.

Writers' Guild: 1st Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm.
For aspiring & published local authors. Connect with the Guild online at <http://goo.gl/P5CjF3>

Book Clubs

Steamy Reads: 1st Wednesday of each month at 6pm.
Dec. 3rd at 6:30pm ~ **MEET THE AUTHOR!**
Steamy Reads presents Sherry Thomas – 2x RITA Award winning author of *The Luckiest Lady in London*.
Clueless Mysteries: 3rd Sunday of the month at 3pm.
Dec. 21st: Holiday party
Wine, Women, & Words: 1st Thursday of the month at 7pm. Dec. 4th: Holiday Party

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Branch BBQ & Catering Celebrates 20 Years in WB! by Gus Kohn

After managing a Texas Tumbleweed Steak House and later working as a salesman for Sysco Foods, Chris Carby wanted to be his own boss. On December 1, 1994, Chris and Catherine bought and began running Branch BBQ which for two years had been operating in Wells Branch but not having great success. With hard work and persistent dedication, they resurrected the business. Offering good food at reasonable prices, the Carbys began what has become a successful restaurant and catering business. With 12 employees now and 20 years behind them, I asked Chris what made Branch BBQ such a sensation.

They got their first catering job in their first week of business; cooking for 700 people each day for two days for the Grand Opening of Ropers nightclub. Imagine, catering 1,400 meals the first week in the restaurant business! Chris says the kitchen was inadequately equipped to store the prepared food for the big event and he called everyone he knew with refrigerator space to handle it, but handle it he did and thus began the catering champion that Branch BBQ & Catering is today.



Chris and Dot

As tribute to Dot of Dot's Place ("his other mother"), Chris offers his Friday specials; Chicken & Dumplings, Turnip Greens and Candied Yams with rolls. Chris' many specialty recipes have evolved over time to become what they are today. Recipes like Collard Greens, Green Bean Casserole, Smoked Catfish

& Peach Cobbler have become local favorites. Get there by 1pm on Fridays or don't expect there to be any Green Bean Casserole left; he makes a limited amount.

The secret to Branch BBQ & Catering's success is hard work, quality offerings, doing the right thing by people and very importantly, being a member of the community. They are present at every FourthFest, they cook the turkey, ham, potatoes and stuffing we all enjoy at the Thanksgiving Pot Luck dinner hosted by the WB MUD, they support a number of community service groups like Northwest Elementary, WB Disc Golf Club, Friends of the Library and WBNA among others. Chris is the voice of Connally Cougar Football, and you will see him behind an apron doing what he loves best at National Night Out.

Long time WB resident, Mary Hale, put it this way, "If you've ever wondered what a **TRUE** neighborhood restaurant looks like, this is it! Chris **IS** community." If you haven't sampled Branch BBQ, stop in and see what all the buzz is about, you will not regret it, and wave at Chris in the back as he follows his heart.



Branch BBQ then and now



Wayne Moore, Owner



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Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Tips

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a gas that you cannot see, taste or smell. Each year, 184 children in the United States die due to carbon monoxide poisoning and more than 20,000 children visit the emergency room.

Young children are especially vulnerable to the effects of carbon monoxide because of their smaller bodies. Children process carbon monoxide differently than adults, may be more severely affected by it, and may show signs of poisoning sooner. Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include headache, nausea and drowsiness.

Fuel-powered devices can provide wonderful benefits to families when used properly. But they also underscore an important necessity in the home: the need for a carbon monoxide alarm. Carbon monoxide poisoning can result from faulty furnaces or other heating appliances, portable generators, water heaters, clothes dryers, or cars left running in garages. At its worst, carbon monoxide can cause severe side effects or even death.

Top Tips

- **Make sure your home has a carbon monoxide alarm.** As with smoke alarms, install a carbon monoxide alarm on every level of your home, especially near sleeping areas, and keep them at least 15 feet away from fuel-burning appliances.
- Carbon monoxide alarms are not substitutes for smoke alarms, and vice versa. Combination smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are available.
- Don't use a grill, generator or camping stove inside your home, garage or near a window.
- If you need to warm a vehicle, remove it from the garage immediately after starting it. Don't leave a car, SUV or motorcycle engine running inside a garage.
- If using gasoline-powered devices, store gasoline in a locked location where children cannot access it. Keep only small quantities in an approved container that has child safety features.
- Keep gasoline away from any source of heat, spark or flame. Even common household appliances such as water heaters and clothes dryers can start a gasoline fire. Be sure to store your gasoline away from anything that could ignite it.

Information provided by: <http://www.safekids.org>

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

KWBB Arbor Day a Success! by Katie Hutcheson

Thank you to those that made the first Keep Wells Branch Beautiful Arbor Day Event successful! TreeFolks and Rebecca Johnson contributed saplings and spoke on tree planting.

Dianne Koehler hosted children's art activities. Robert Bauhs spoke on the 'Trees for Trails' efforts in Wells Branch and our wonderful volunteers: Manju Chakrabarty, Cindy Howell, and Amy and Michael Lancaster helped out wherever needed.



Here's to Arbor Day 2015!

What YOU should KNOW about YOUR Water Bill by Margret Wingrove, Crossroads Utility Services

Utility Manager, Wells Branch MUD

Billing: Our meter reading team reads every meter in the District every month. Each month your water bill shows a billing period from the 21st to the 20th with the meters being read between the 11th and the 15th, depending on the calendar for that month. The water usage is billed in 1,000 gallons and is calculated by subtracting the previous meter read from the current meter read. The monthly bill details the read dates, the previous meter read, the current read, and the usage as well as the current charges. Also shown is a 12 month history of water usage making it easy to compare the current usage to the usage for the same month the previous year. This is the first thing you should check when you receive your bill. If your usage is much higher with no change in your watering habits, it may indicate a leak.

Water bills are mailed around the 1st of each month. The past due date is always the 20th of the month. If the 20th is a weekend or holiday, the due date is the next business day. A 10% late fee is added if the payment is not received by 5:00pm on the past due date.

All payments are posted to customer's account the date the payment is received. This applies to all payment options.

Winter Wastewater Averaging - The monthly sewer charge is based on the winter average or the actual amount of water used, whichever is less. The winter averaging period this year began November 11th and ends February 11th. The average water usage of these three months will determine the maximum amount of sewer usage that will be charged for the next 12 months. ***This is the time to conserve water!!*** The irrigation system should be turned off and used only when necessary. Toilets need to be checked to make sure they are not leaking. An easy check is to take the lid off of the water tank and add food coloring to the water. Don't flush and check after 20 minutes. If the water in the bowl has the colored water in it, the toilet is leaking and the flap valve needs to be replaced. A leaky toilet can greatly affect the water usage.

Customer Service: If you have any questions about your bill or service, please feel free to call me, 512.246.5908 (office direct) or 512.809.6202 (cell) and I will be happy to help you.



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Wells Branch Community Church Celebrates 5yrs of Community Service! by Chris Plekenpol

Wells Branch Community Church has been "in the community, for the community" for five years now! We turned five in September and have been so honored to play a role in the community life of Wells Branch. You may have seen us at the Flag Football tournament we host every year the day before the Super Bowl, serving at the St. Patrick's Day at KF Park, taking pictures of your family with the Longhorn at Pioneer Day, or serving Northwest and Wells Branch Elementary in their Spring Festivals. One of our favorite events is "Hallowieners".

Every Halloween, we join in on the Halloween fun by providing hot dogs for trick-or-treaters and their famished parents as they patrol the streets of Wells Branch looking for goodies. This year our youth group served the community at the Wells Branch MUD trunk or treat site serving "Hallowieners" to people to replenish lost calories. We had several sites within Wells Branch and we had a great chance to mingle with the neighbors.

This December 12-13 come out to KF Park for the WB MUD Luminary Fest. WBCC will be there for this year's family picture with Santa. We have professional photographers who volunteer their time so that your family can have a keepsake that will last for years and will probably end up in your son or daughter's slide show at their wedding.

As always, Wells Branch Community Church is committed to being "in the community, for the community" and are here to serve you whether it is mending a fence or helping out when financial times get tough. We have set aside \$30,000 to help people meet needs during tough times. If you or someone you know is in need of a little help this holiday season, please visit us at WellsBranchChurch.com.

Solar Energy Fair Wrap Up by Margaret Sufke

The Solar Energy Fair was a great success. More than 150 folks attended the event. Four speakers provided an in-depth presentation of the key components of a basic solar project. Both energy providers, Austin Energy and Oncor, had knowledgeable representatives on site to field questions. A total of eight qualified solar equipment installers lead informative one-on-one sessions at the vendor booths.

In addition to the local trade show environment, WB residents hosted an educational booth. The group included several WB Solar Pioneers (early solar adopters) who addressed "start-up" queries. Chuck Walters from the Architectural Control Committee (ACC) fielded questions on covenant concerns and approval process. Additional educational materials were provided by the Wells Branch Community Solar group.

Continuing with the educational spirit of the event, all of the event materials, web links, related videos and vendor contact information is now available online and may be downloaded on the WBNA site. <http://wbna.us/community/solar-energy-fair/>

A final thank you to all the participants and supporters of this WB community event:

Carmina Eaton, State Farm Insurance and WB Resident

Dan McAfee, Mueller Community Resident

Cathy Redson, Sol Power People

Chuck Walters, Chairman, WB Architectural Control Committee

Kaiba White, SolarizeAustin, Board of Directors, President (non-profit)

WB MUD Board & Staff

WB Neighborhood Association

Julie Goebel, WB Soccer Association

WB Solar Pioneers

WB Solar Energy Fair Committee Members: Bob and Darlene Bauhs, Elaine Betterton, George Holcombe, Vicky Linsalata, Shelley Palmer, Margaret Sufke, Debby Thompson and Joe Wieck



Solarize Wells Branch is continuing the efforts that began with the WB Solar Energy Fair in October. An RFP was sent to qualified solar installers on 12/1/14 in an effort to get a group discount on solar installations. The chosen company would set up assessments with homeowners that have signed up for that. Any resulting solar PV solutions and contracts will be specific to the given home and customer.

In return for the discount, Solarize Wells Branch brings the chosen vendor a group of *educated* possible customers in a small geographical area. SWB has a process for residents to get education on solar and to understand their roof and the different sizes of solar installations and the likely costs. Visit <http://wellsbranchsolar.blogspot.com/> for the "next steps".

Questions? Contact us at solarizewb@gmail.com

St. Andrew's News

Giving Tree

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church (14311 Wells Port Dr., at the corner of Wells Branch Pkwy & Wells Port Dr.) is partnering with Worker's Defense Project (WDP) for a community Christmas Giving Tree. WDP members work for fair and safe employment practices through education, direct services, community organization, and strategic partnerships. Many members have suffered unpaid wages, on the job injuries, unsafe working conditions, and other abuses. St. Andrew's is an ally in those efforts, and we recognize that when low-income workers are abused, their families suffer as well. WDP has identified families in need of support during the holiday season and collected Christmas wishes from the children. We hope to provide each family gifts for their children and a grocery card to help buy food for the holidays. Please join us in helping to make the holidays bright for these workers who help build our community and our future.



There are many ways that you can get involved in supporting the St. Andrew's Christmas Giving Tree and WDP.:

- 1-Choose an ornament from the Giving Tree with a child's wish to fulfill by December 21.
- 2-Volunteer to help make deliveries to families on December 23 or 24. E-mail givingtree@runward.com for more details.
- 3-Drop off a grocery card or monetary donation at St. Andrews during M-F, 9am-1pm to help provide food for the holidays. You can also mail your donation directly to the church at 14311 Wells Port Dr., Austin, TX 78728. Write 'Giving Tree' in the memo line of your check.

St. Andrew's Food Pantry

We would like to sincerely thank the Wells Branch Neighborhood Association for your continued support of our programs. Your donations and volunteer time have been of tremendous value and we're deeply grateful.

In June of this year, we partnered with the Capital Area Food Bank and this partnership has brought new life to our program by cutting our expenses and providing more food to each family we serve. Since January the number of individuals served has grown from 300 to more than 400 individuals monthly and we expect to have served more than 4,000 individuals total in 2014.

Our goals to improve the program in 2015 include growing our volunteer base and providing more fresh food to our clients. With your help, we can help these neighbors in need.

The Food Pantry operates the 2nd & 4th Saturday in January through October from 10am – noon. If you would like to learn more about our pantry, visit our website at <http://www.staopen.org/our-ministries/come/>.

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Thank You Candidates!

by Debby Thompson, WBNA President

Election season was busy in Wells Branch! The WBNA hosted three candidate forums during the month of October. We greatly appreciate each of the candidates taking time out of their busy schedules to come visit with the residents of Wells Branch.

State House Representative Dist. 50

Rep. Celia Israel | Dr. Mike VandeWalle

Travis County Justice of the Peace, Pct. 2

Judge Glenn Bass | Randall Slagle

Travis County Judge

Sarah Eckhardt | Mike McNamara | Richard Perkins

Wells Branch MUD Board Candidate Forum

Daniel Barnekow, Moderator

Place 1: Tom Cheshire | Howard Hagemann

Place 3: Betsey Harper

Place 5: | Shaun Harris | Brian Litke | Shelley Palmer

RRISD Trustee Candidate Forum

Gus Kohn, Moderator

Bryan Black | Claudio Cruz | Paul Emerson

Allen McKee | Tony Pitts

We'd also like to thank each of you who came out to represent our community and meet the candidates. We had a great turnout at each of the events.

Attendance at these functions, meeting with candidates and elected officials, and getting the vote out all help establish our neighborhood as an informed, involved community. We want our elected officials to know Wells Branch.



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 Community Center on Klattenhoff unless otherwise posted. All residents are invited to attend. Meetings now begin at 5:30pm with citizens communication at 6:30pm. Agendas are posted the week prior to the meeting at www.wellsbranchmud.com under the "Board" tab.

New MUD Board Directors

Congratulations to the newly elected MUD Board Directors. The WBNA looks forward to partnering with each of you as we work together to continue to make Wells Branch a great place to live and raise our families. The WBNA works to serve our community, but so many events would not be possible without

the assistance of the MUD staff and use of MUD facilities. For this, we are extremely grateful, for we can accomplish so much more for our neighborhood by continuing to work together.

We'd like to extend our thanks to Donna Howe, Tom Cheshire, and Bob Bauhs for their years of service and welcome the new Board Members.

Slate of Officers and Committee Assignments:

Joe Petronis, President; Administrative and Facilities
Janet Maxey, Vice President; Parks & Rec., Public Safety and Administrative
Howard Hagemann, Treasurer; Finance and IT
Shelley Palmer, Secretary; Facilities, Parks & Rec. and Safety
Betsey Harper, Asst. Secretary-Treasurer; Finance and IT

Community Center Renovation & Reception

Wells Branch MUD will host an Open House at the Community Center on Klattenhoff from 5:30-6:30pm on January 6, prior to the Board Meeting. All residents are invited to come tour the newly renovated Community Center and join the Board for refreshments.

Rec. Center Expansion

On schedule. Architects and engineers are currently working on plans and permitting. Construction will not begin before June of 2015.

Wells Branch Soccer Complex

TBG Partners and the District's engineers are currently involved in the permitting process.

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Athlos Leadership Academy by Traci Synatschk

Athlos Leadership Academy is excited to announce our first annual Book Fair Dec 9-12th, which is open to the entire community: homeschooling families, families who attend Shoreline Learning Center, and any others who would like to come in and purchase an amazing book and support the school! Find out more details, including hours, at athlosaustintpto.com.

The PTO would like to thank everyone who came out to support Athlos at our second annual fall festival at our new school. We had an amazing time and raised some much needed funds to support activities and teacher needs. It wouldn't have been possible without our incredible sponsors, many who are local to our Wells Branch community. We are very thankful for your support and welcome sponsorships all year long; find out more on the PTO website.

Athlos recently held their first open mic night where students showcased their talent to help support the art and music programs. We had a great turnout and are so excited that so much of our Athlos family is enthusiastic about the enrichment programs at our school. If you are interested in learning more about the school, please visit athlosaustin.org.



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Backyard Habitat for Birds by Sharon Richardson

The Wells Branch birders will take a pause in bird walks for the month of December, and are planning a car-pooling event on the 3rd Monday in January to Pedernales Falls State park, to enjoy two world-class bird blinds and get ideas on continued improvements to our own Nature Viewing Station. For inspiration and more detailed information on creating a wild-life habitat, come to the January Garden Guild meeting (Jan 17th), which will feature an Austin Habitat Steward, Meredith Gray. To get on the Wells Branch birders email list contact Wanda Holcombe, at wandah70@gmail.com. In the meantime, enjoy the variety of wintering ducks at Mills Pond. See you on the trail!



*Male and Female
Northern Shoveler
- photo courtesy of Jeff
Richardson*

KUDOS!

Thanks to all of you who delivered our Fall Newsletter. It was huge! You ALL were GREAT! Once again, my apologies to those who were late to receive newsletters. Sometimes, in spite of how well things are planned, it just doesn't happen that way. Many, many thanks to each of you for your patience. If we somehow left your name off the list below, please let us know and we'll be sure to include it in the January newsletter.

June Apprill · Dan Barnekow · Anne & Winston Bennett* · Emily Berver* · Porter & Abigail Best · Shannon & Durbin Black · Kathy Brown · Ashley Burns · Creola Burns · Phil & Dana Carter · Dan Ernst · Erika Fruehling · Michelle & Jenny Gadush · Miriam, Melissa & Briana Garate · Dave Gezana · Carla Gordon · Susie Gillespie · Cynthia Hannon · Don Harrell · George & Wanda Holcombe · Travers Hough · Jennifer Jones · Gus Kohn · Dan, Kim, Brendan & Sarah Lanicek · Rachel & Brian LeBansky · Sherrie Lindig · Brian Litke · Angel Lugo · Siv, Jyoti & Arjuna Manda · Joan & Dave Mead · Arlie Pfeifer · Sharon Richardson · Kim Sands · Marisa Sawatphadungkij · Julie Schwartz · Sonya Shaffer · Alice Sears · Cristina Silingardi · Virgil Smith · Debby Thompson · Jill & J.R. Traffanstedt · Kevin, Lisa, Sarah, Faith, Grace & Liam Ward · Mike Weis* · Daniel White · Steve Wilson

**Delivered more than one section!*

Bereavement/Grief & Loss Support Group

by Julia Regan, LSW

Neighbors, I am a Licensed Social Worker with past experience in facilitating Bereavement Groups and would be open to starting a group in Wells Branch. Please contact me via email at reganfamily4@att.net if you or any of your neighbors might be interested. I'd be happy to arrange for such a group if there is a need. Thanks, Happy Holidays and a joyous New Year to you all!

Travis County Brown Santa

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

Brown Santa started in 1982 with a few deputies helping about 25 families in the unincorporated areas of Travis County. Brown Santa helped 1576 families in 2013 and hopes to do the same for the 2014 season.

Help celebrate the joy of Christmas by donating or volunteering; browse their website for more information and donation suggestions at www.brownsanta.org. You can also call 512-24-SANTA (512-247-2682), or email the volunteer coordinator at volunteer@brownsanta.org.

Donation barrels are available at the Wells Branch Recreation Center on Shoreline through December 12 when they move to the Community Center for Luminary Fest. Pick up will be December 14 at the Rec. Center. Please share if you can to help make a special Christmas morning for a child. The new location for the 2014 Brown Santa Warehouse is 401-C Parker Drive, Austin, Texas 78728. Directional Brown Santa signs are out on the I-35 feeder and on Bratton Lane.

American Heritage Girls: Serving Our Community

by Betsey Harper and 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.



Our neighborhood AHG Troop TX0240, will be very busy over the next couple of months, not only preparing for the holidays but helping out in the community too.

AHG continued their annual tradition of filling shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child, in November. The older AHG's have been volunteering at Northwest Elementary School (NWE), assisting with staff and teacher requests, and volunteering at Westview Middle School events.

December is another busy month for the American Heritage Girls. The girls helped decorate NWE for the Dinner with Santa festivities on December 6th. The troop will again be visiting Heatherwilde Assisted Living Center where they help residents, bring holiday cheer, and sing Christmas Carols. Then, AHG will finish up the year by collecting non-perishable canned goods for the Pflugerville Food Bank. Demand for the Food Bank's services is very high this year so the goal is to double the collections from last year. AHG will once again build a float to participate in the annual Pflugerville Christmas Parade. The girls always enjoy passing out candy to the kids along the parade route.

AHG Troop TX0240 is looking forward to 2015 and are currently planning the spring camp out. If you are interested in joining American Heritage Girls or want to visit during a meeting, contact Beth Gintella at 512-285-3042 or bethdvg@austin.rr.com. AHG accepts girls ages 5 -18 and encourage parent participation; and we're always seeking parent adult leaders to help teach our girls.

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BSA Venture Crew 1409

This fall the Wells Branch Homestead Corporation chartered Venturing Crew 1409!

Venturing is a youth development program of the Boy Scouts of America for young men and women, 14 – 20 years of age. Venturing's purpose is to provide positive experiences to help young people mature and to prepare them to become responsible and caring adults.

The crew participated in a backpacking trip at Colorado Bend State Park in September and a canoe trip on the Colorado River in November. They are planning winter caving adventures, a Spring Break hiking event at Palo Duro Canyon State Park and they hope to compete in the "Amazing Adventurous Race" at Lost Pines Scout Ranch in February. Social events include bowling and movie night lock-ins!

In January the crew will receive "Personal Safety Awareness" training. This event is open to the public and will take place Saturday, January 9, from 9:00-10:30am at the Wells Branch MUD Annex, 14611 Wells Port Drive. The content of the training is mature and covers suicide prevention, internet safety and pornography, sexual harassment, and date rape. All youth age 14-20 are encouraged to attend.

Contact Jill Douglass (512-293-9022 / jdzurenko@gmail.com) for questions about the Crew or the training event. Visit <http://www.crew1409.com/> to learn more!

WB Pack 728 Fall Update

Wells Branch Pack 728 is fortunate to have so many great families. Recruitment was a success as we had 11 new families join us this fall. In addition to working hard on our achievements, we've had the pleasure of visiting Pflugerville Fire Station #2, playing disc golf, participating in the Rain Gutter Regatta, camping out at Camp Mabry, and volunteering for Brown Santa. Coming up, the Pack will assist with lighting the luminaries at KF Park. Looking for a Cub Scout Pack? You're invited to join us any Wednesday night at the Live for More Center. Meetings start at 6:30pm. Join us! Follow us on Facebook: Wells Branch Pack 728 or contact us via email: wbpac728@gmail.com.



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NWE Fall Festival Thanks You!

Betsey Harper & Lisa Ward, Northwest PTO Presidents

Thank you very much for your recent volunteered contribution to our school's Fall Festival; we are so blessed to have so many as part of our Northwest Elementary Family. You all truly made a difference in the lives of our staff, teachers, and students. This event would not have been a success without your involvement! Because of your support this year, we were able to raise more money than ever before on a single fundraising event. The phenomenal success of the Fall Festival was a reflection of the ever-increasing dedication and enthusiasm that our volunteers display on a continual basis. And remember, we simply couldn't have done it without you! We would like to take this opportunity to say a heartfelt "Thank You!" to all our PTO members, NW staff, parents and families, Westview Honor Society, Travis County Constable's Explorers; and especially Steve Harper, Kevin Ward, Greg Thielke, Debby Thompson, Chuck Walters, Janet Maxey, and Tom Cheshire, who we continually count on for help.



Northwest Elementary News By Betsey Harper



As the fall colors around our neighborhood start to disappear and the winter holiday decorations start to appear, school children lose their education focus and start to daydream. How can we blame them? I know I have a hard time too. Here are

some ways to help your child stay focused until winter break:

- **Get the wiggles out first.** Moving the body motivates the brain. Make sure your child has had a chance to run, walk, or jump around *before* sitting down to homework.
- **Turn off screens and electronics.** Before your kid tackles homework or does anything that takes concentration, turn off the television, and remove the cell phones and electronics.
- **Make a to-do list.** Having a lot of chores and homework assignments can be overwhelming for kids. Help your child focus on getting things done by making a list — together — of everything she/he needs to do for the day or week. Then let her/him cross off each task as they finishes it for small successes.
- **Use signals.** Try to avoid conversations when your child is working. To cut out distracting talk altogether, you and your child can even come up with a few basic signals. For example, when you point to his work, which means she/he needs to go back to what he was doing.
- **Take breathers.** During homework time, make sure your child takes a few breaks. After working for 10 or 20 minutes (depending on their age), have them get up and move around, get a drink, and then go back to work. But don't let them get involved in something else during the break. Just make that time a relaxing few minutes.

Here's a look at what will be taking place at Northwest this winter:

- 12/8 – 12/12: Holiday Store open for business
- 12/8 – December PTO meeting
- 12/22 – 1/6: Holiday Break; no school.
- Work on Science Fair Projects over Winter Break
- 1/12 – January PTO meeting

Please check the school website and facebook page for up-to-date school information. Do you have a couple of hours to spare? Join the NW PTO! Together we will continue to improve our service to our community and achieve our educational goals for all our little Northwest Stars!

WB Disc Golfers: Putting for Charity

by Brian Litke

Results from the 37th Waterloo Disc Golf Classic

In September, WB Disc Golf Club members raised funds for the 37th Waterloo Disc Golf Classic, an annual charity disc golf tournament benefiting the Ronald McDonald House (RMH). The event is run by Waterloo Disc Golf Club, Austin's largest disc golf club, whose membership includes many Wells Branch residents. The WB disc golf club donated \$250 to the event, and overall the event raised \$12,750 for RMH. This brings the grand total donated to RMH by this event since 1998, to just over \$98,500. WB residents placed well at the event, which had 180 total participants: Jerry Perez took 3rd place in the Grandmasters division; Kyle Goens took 5th in the Advanced division; and Brian Litke was in 3rd in the Advanced Masters division before dropping out on the final day to speak at the WB MUD Board candidate forum.

Fundraiser for Cactus Patch Disc Golf Course

WB Disc Golf Club members will hold a fundraiser December 6 at 10 a.m. to help pay for new baskets at the Cactus Patch disc golf course. The Cactus Patch course, aptly named for its cactus-filled terrain, is a disc golf course sponsored by and positioned behind CrossPointe Church across from McNeil High School. Church member and course designer Jud Cherry has labored several years to build the course, which offers many trees for shade while playing in the summer. The course starts on the West side of the church building next to the entrance to the YMCA.

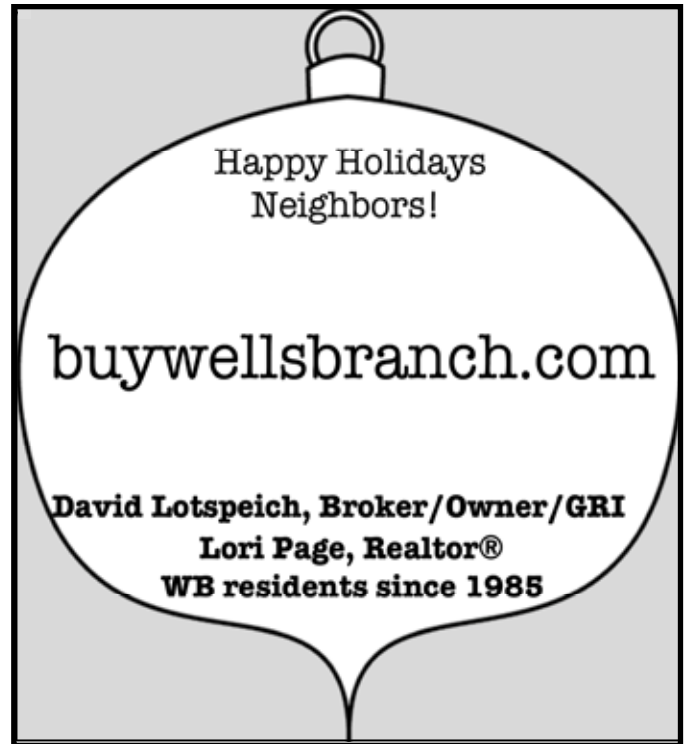
Upcoming Charity Event: Ice Bowl 2015

The Ice Bowl is a collection of disc golf events across America held each year in January/February with an overall mission of raising funds to fight hunger. The annual Ice Bowl in the Austin area was held at the Wells Branch disc golf course on February 2, 2014, raising \$1,375 in monetary donations and 437 pounds of donated food. This winter, the event heads back to its regular location at Zilker Park, which was being renovated during 2014. Date to be announced.

Pumpkin Patch & Painting in the Park

Special Thanks to The Andy Allen Team for bringing hundreds of free pumpkins to Wells Branch on October 25! Thank you to Dianne Koehler for sharing her art camp supplies and providing inspiration. It wouldn't be Halloween in Wells Branch without pumpkin painting! Our kids had an amazing time!

The WBNA would like to recognize all our volunteers who made this event possible: Debby Thompson, Chuck Walters, Janet Maxey, Gus Kohn, Lara Bennett, Pam Wachholz, Donna Malone, Debbie Brown, Joy Bryant, Shelley Palmer, Howard & Karen Hagemann, and Andy Allen's Team of volunteers. Visit the WBNA Facebook page for pictures of the event. Feel free to tag photos and share our link on your page. As always, if you'd prefer we take a photo down, we'll be happy to do so. Just use the "message" link to contact us.



Tree Pruning: A Practical Workshop for Homeowners

Saturday, January 31 • 2-5pm • WB Community Center

Many of the structural problems of mature trees can be prevented with proper pruning of young trees. Join us for a hands-on workshop to learn how to correct minor defects. Participants will learn how to make proper pruning cuts with the proper tool and properly sterilize tools to prevent the spread of diseases. The free workshop will be held Saturday, January 31 at the Wells Branch MUD Community Center/ Katherine Fleischer Park from 2-5 pm.

Maximum attendees: 20. Register by calling 512-251-9814 or come by the WB Recreation Center, 3000 Shoreline Dr.

What to Bring:

- Drinking water
- Pruning equipment, if you have it (we will have a small number of tools available)
- Closed toe shoes, long pants, sunscreen

Wells Branch's Got Talent

January 24 • 6pm • WB Rec. Center



Got Talent? Whether you're six, sixteen, or sixty, we want to see it! Start putting your acts together now! Wells Branch MUD invites talented groups and individuals of all ages with any type of talent to participate in our annual talent show beginning at 6pm inside the Recreation Center located at 3000 Shoreline Drive. Prizes (up to \$50 value) and trophies will be awarded in both adult and youth categories for Best Individual Performance, Best Group Collaboration, Judge's Pick, and Audience's Pick. Admission is free for spectators; all performances require a \$5 entry fee. Registration begins in December. Space is limited. For further questions, please contact us at 251-9814.

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Edward Jones
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Resolve to Recycle in 2015!

Monthly recycling numbers are posted each month on our web-site. WB continues to hover at around 60-62% participation.

Please do your part. **Recycle and remind your neighbors!**

Recycling pickup only occurs every other week on regular trash pickup days. For a complete list of recyclable items and a printable calendar, please visit http://www.wellsbranchmud.com/general_information/single-stream-recycling.html

Recycling Calendar

December 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			

January 2015

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



WBE News

by Blythe Jewell, WBE PTA Vice President

It's been a great fall for the Wells Branch Elementary PTA! We've had tons of events and accomplishments to celebrate, and there's even more to look forward to as the holidays approach.

December 8-12: Winter Book Fair. Students can buy the latest, most popular books and other fun items. A great way to get and keep our kids excited about reading!

December 15-17: Holiday Shoppe. A safe and affordable way for students to do a little holiday shopping of their own! With a ton of holiday gifts to peruse, plus a craft table to make their own gifts if they prefer, students can enjoy the experience of giving to the people they love the most.

December 19-January 5: Holiday Break. Enjoy your holidays and come back ready to start a terrific New Year!

If you'd like to learn more about the Wells Branch PTA – or volunteer for any of our upcoming events, be sure to check out our web site at www.wellsbranchpta.org.

WBE PTA has numerous VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES coming up! Visit <http://tinyurl.com/wbegive3> for details and to sign-up!

WBE School Garden News

by Tara Fisher-Muñoz

We are off to an excellent Fall gardening season! Our students have been learning about soil science, compost, vermiculture, the water cycle, water conservation, sowing seeds, planting transplants, weeding, plant needs, making herb packets, the weather and of course, trying some of their edibles (the radishes, carrots and beets were a big hit). The students and volunteers greatly enjoy being out in the garden and learning as much as possible about how nature works. A huge thanks to all of the volunteers who are Garden Leaders and Assistants in the garden classes -- this wonderful program wouldn't be as robust without your help! We are always looking for more volunteers to help in the garden and/or donate their time with working on gardening projects, such as irrigation, building bird houses, a butterfly display, cold frames and benches. If you would like to assist with any of these projects, please contact Tara at: gogreen@wellsbranchpta.org. Thanks!

WBE Farmers' Market

by Dianne Koehler

The WBE 5th grade Farmers' Market has gotten off to a fantastic start! The beds are full of lush plants and the kids are learning how to run every facet of it. Watch for weekly posts to the Google Group and Facebook pages for Market updates due to weather conditions and testing schedules but most weeks the market is open on Wednesday afternoons (2:30pm until produce is GONE!) at the corner of Merriltown and Town Hill. Bags/bundles are generally \$1 each. We do take orders for late pick-up too. Bring your bags and come enjoy fresh organic produce grown by our very own kids! See WBNA.us for updates as well.





Holiday Safety Tips by Debby Thompson, WBNA President and Wells Branch Neighborhood Watch Coordinator

With the bustle of the holidays just around the corner, now is the time to make sure we're taking every precaution to keep our homes and ourselves as safe as possible. We usually see an

increase in opportunistic crime this time of year; we need to be especially vigilant.

- Keep your blinds and drapes closed when away, even if only for a short period of time.
- Keep your house well lit at night (backyard included). A motion sensor activated light is an inexpensive deterrent.
- If your Christmas tree is displayed in front of a window, don't pile the presents around it. Store the gifts in another area away from view when the blinds or drapes are open.
- Do NOT put the empty boxes for the new computer, TV, stereo system, etc. on the curb for the trash. Take the time to break down every box and put it inside your trashcan/recycling bin so that it is concealed, even if you have to hold it over to the next week. People start cruising our neighborhood on Sunday afternoons to see what has been put out. The less they know, the better.

Door-to-door solicitations increase tremendously this time of year:

- Always look out the window or peephole before opening the door or answering a knock.
- Never open the door all the way, especially if you have a Christmas tree and/or presents in plain view.

While shopping this holiday season, remain aware of your surroundings at all times. If unsure of your safety, ask a store attendant to have security walk you to your car. You can't be too safe. This goes for trips to the grocery store as well.

- When unloading your car at home after a day of shopping, lock it between trips to and from the car.
- Always lock your car.
- Never leave your car running unattended or leave your keys in the car or ignition.
- Never leave the garage door remote control in your car (when your car is not parked in the closed garage). Thieves check car visors and this gives them instant protected access to your home.
- Don't leave valuables in plain view, even if your car is locked. Take them in the house or put them in the trunk out of sight BEFORE arriving at your destination.

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.
- Leave the following info: 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 on social media
- Do NOT post vacation pictures while you're still on vacation-the posting can wait until you're back home!
- Arrange to have your lawn cared for if you are going to be away.
- Don't hide keys under doormats or flowerpots or in similar places.
- Put your lights, stereo 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 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 i.e. make and model of their vehicles, name, description and times they should be at your home.

A comprehensive list of Safety Tips as well as numerous articles by the Travis County Sheriff Deputies are available on our website, wbna.us under Safety.

If you are not already, become a Wells Branch Neighborhood Association member. "Like" us on Facebook for community updates. The more community involvement and connectedness there is, the safer we all will be.

Most of all, be aware of your surroundings and look out for your neighbors. If you see or hear something suspicious, call 911. The Sheriff's Department would much rather answer a false alarm than deal with a tragedy later.

We live in a GREAT community AND a SECURE neighborhood. Let's all do our part to keep it that way. Here's to a safe and happy holiday season!

*For information about starting your own Neighborhood Watch Group, please call Debby Thompson at 512-656-0654.

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sukyeewoo@yahoo.com



WB Photo Club Kick-Off

by Margaret Sufke

Just in case you were thinking there isn't enough to do in WB, along comes a new group. On October 22, the WB Photo Club held its first meeting and the group is off

to a flying start. We have an initial list of 25 folks who want to be part of the group, experience ranging from professionals to hobbyists to several beginners. Everyone is welcome.

We've already outlined future meeting topics including a photo essay project, a critique session, tips on portrait photography and photo field trips and events—one possible event is a trip to the Harry Ransom Photographic Center on the UT campus.

The group meets monthly on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, from 6:30-8:30pm at WB Rec. Center on Shoreline. We are ramping up to host an electronic resource to share the knowledge and focus on group events. Beyond the monthly meetings there will be activities for both the group and individuals to help hone skills and pursue the hobby. The photo group is also going to help document local area events.

Coming Soon! Look for more information on the WBNA site. We'll send out a Google group and Facebook message once we have a functional site with contact information and event details to post. In the meantime, please feel free to reach out to Margaret Sufke, mmsufke@gmail.com or 512-341-0428.

Next meetings - December 9 and January 13. We hope to see you there!

2014 Trunk or Treat

The WBNA would like to thank the Wells Branch MUD for hosting another fantastic Halloween Trunk or Treat. Thank you to all the community service groups who participated and a special THANK YOU to our WBNA Board members for donating their time and energy to build and tear down the grave yard: Debby Thompson, Chuck Walters, Linda Baird, Lara Bennett, and Tom Cheshire, and volunteers, Gus Kohn and Madonna Johnson. As always, we're grateful for the opportunity to participate in community events.

Thanks go out to Madonna Johnson for the amazing photos of all the little ghouls and goblins. Pictures of the evening can be found on page 19 and on the WBNA Facebook page. We hope you'll download and share these photos with your friends and family. As always, if you'd like any removed or a hi-res copy of a photo, please message us through Facebook.



FOL Restaurant Night

On Tuesday October 21st from 5-8pm the Friends of the Wells Branch Community Library held our first Restaurant Night at Branch BBQ and Catering. The goal was a combination of fundraising and increased community awareness, with Branch BBQ donating a percentage of sales for customers who mentioned the library. We had a great turnout, and Chris Carby, the Pitmaster of Branch BBQ, went one better and donated more than expected to the Friends of the Library, making our fundraiser that much more profitable.

The FOL is grateful to all who came out to support us and especially to Chris and his exceptional staff.

Save the Date! - FOL 4th Annual Garage Sale

The Friends of the Wells Branch Library would like to announce our Fourth Annual FOL Garage Sale to be held on April 18, 2015. We sold out quickly last year with over 70 vendors so you'll want to sign up early once reservations open. Watch for future newsletters, calendars and e-mail announcements to reserve your space.

FOL Annual Membership Drive

Membership in the Friends of the Wells Branch Community Library has benefits like member only e-blasts announcing coming events and other member specials that may be available like early entry to FOL programs or exclusive admission to members' only programs. Memberships paid now will be effective until the end of December 2015. Join now and renew or become a Friend of the Wells Branch Library. We plan many exciting adult programs for our members in the coming year as well as the many children's programs at the library. Please go to www.wbfriends.org to renew or begin a membership today.

Advertising and Article Submission

Do you have a business or service you would like to advertise?

Have an article of interest to other WB residents?

If so, please message ads@wbna.us for ad rates and submission information. Publication is not guaranteed, and **all article submissions are subject to editing**. All ads must be pre-paid. Please note that it is the policy of the WBNA not to publish political ads of any kind.

The deadline to receive ad payments, ad materials and article submissions for the next issue is January 3.



The Andy Allen Team

Wells Branch #1 Realtor



As the holiday season approaches, we'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your business and support.

*We looking forward to working with you in the coming year.
Season's Greeting from The Andy Allen Team*

*If you or anyone you know looking to buy or sell real estate
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Happy Holidays

The Andy Allen Team

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Community Calendar

Now through Dec. 15: Brown Santa Donations, WBRC*
 Dec. 9, 6:30pm: WB Photo Club, WBRC*
 Dec. 11, 1pm: Silver Branchers Holiday Luncheon, Polvos at Bratton Sq.*
 Dec. 12 & 13, 6-9pm: Luminary Fest, WBCC & KF Park*
 Dec. 13, 3:30pm: Dedication Grove, Pavilion at KF Park*
 Dec. 14, 4:30pm: Help light the luminaries, KF Park*
 Dec. 14, 6:30pm: Library Open House, WBCL
 Dec. 14: Holiday Decorating Contest*
 Dec. 19, 6pm & 7:30pm: Polar Express Pajamarama, WBCL*
 Dec. 19, 6pm: Nightmare Before Christmas, age 10+, WBCL*
 Dec. 21, 6pm: St. Andrew's Concert, SA*
 Jan. 3, 4pm: Winter Reading Program *Frozen* Sing-Along Party, WBCL
 Jan. 6, 5:30-6:30pm: WB Community Center Open House
 Jan. 10, Extreme Hazardous Waste Collections:
 8am-1pm: Habitat for Humanity Collection*
 8am-4pm: Easter Seals Collection*
 8am-5pm: Hazardous Waste & Bulk Trash Collection*
 *13905 Thermal
 8am-5pm: Garden Chemical Repurposing
 14909 Alpha Collier
 Jan. 12, 8:00am: Birding Field trip, Meet at Mills Pond*
 Jan. 13, 6:30pm: WB Photo Club, WBRC*
 Jan. 15, 1-3pm: Silver Branchers meetings resume, WBRC*
 Jan. 17, 11am: Garden Guild - Creating Wildlife Habitat, WBRC*
 Jan. 24, 6pm: Wells Branch's Got Talent, WBRC**
 Jan. 31, 2-5pm: Tree Pruning Workshop, WBCC/KF Park**
 Feb. 11: Wastewater Averaging Ends
 *See WBNA.us **See wellsbranchMUD.com

RECURRING

Silver Branchers, Thursday, 1-3pm, WBRC



Meets 6pm Tuesdays at
 St. Andrews Presbyterian
 14311 Wells Port Dr.

Calendar Legend:

MP=Mills Pond; WBCC=Community Center on Klattenhoff;
 WBCL=WB Comm. Library; WBRC=Rec. Center on Shoreline
 KF=Katherine Fleischer Park on Klattenhoff; SA=St. Andrews Pres.
 Church 14311 Wells Port Dr.

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**HAPPY HOLIDAYS & BEST
 WISHES FOR 2015!**



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Haz. Waste from page 2

The WB MUD will host a BULK TRASH ONLY collection day on
 December 13, from 8am-5pm at the maintenance yard,
 13905 Thermal.

Our next quarterly hazardous
 waste collection is Saturday,
 January 10 and will include
 Bulk Trash, Batteries, Oil,
 Paint, Anti-freeze, Metal,
 Electronics, Styrofoam, Easter
 Seals, and Habitat for Humanity.



The next Drug Take Back and Shredding
 will be Saturday, April 11.



Top: MUD staffers Manny, Abraham,
 and WBNA VP Chuck Walters

Bottom: The Ward family sorted
 all of the Easter Seals donations

OFFICE USE ONLY

Dt. Rec'd: _____

Check#: _____

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 2015

Holiday 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