



Neighborhood News

News and information for the residents of Wells Branch.
Vol. 23, Issue 1, January 2015

It's that time, again!

by Debby Thompson, WBNA President

Time to renew your Wells Branch Neighborhood Association membership. Your WBNA membership helps to protect the value of your home by keeping you informed about neighborhood crime, proposed developments that might affect the value of your home (i.e. housing, toll road construction, school boundary changes) and community events.

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

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

In addition, The WBNA sponsors many events each year that improve the neighborhood and help foster an even greater sense of community. Your dues, in addition to funds raised at the Fourth Fest Silent Auction, pay for the annual Easter Egg Hunt, National Night Out, our participation at Trunk or Treat and Luminary Fest (Friday night), Candidate Forums and Safety Seminars throughout the year. In addition to these events, our Board along with community members coordinate and volunteer their time for our neighborhood at our quarterly hazardous waste events - an event that continues to grow! Together with the WB MUD, we now offer hazardous waste collection, repurposing of household items through Easter Seals and Habitat for Humanity, recycling of metal, Styrofoam, and electronic waste, and re-homing of yard chemicals four times a year with free shredding and drug take-back twice a year.

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

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

Elected Officials Reception

Thursday, February 26, 7pm

WB Community Center

The WBNA will be hosting a reception for our newly elected local officials on Thursday, February 26, 2015 at the Wells Branch Community Center from 7:00-8:30pm.

This is your chance to meet the people who represent you in our local government. We have invited State Representative Celia Israel; our new County Judge, Sarah Eckhardt; and our new Pct. 2 Travis County Commissioner, Brigid Shea; but you never know who else might pop by.

Both longtime public servants, Judge Eckhardt and Commissioner Shea are serving in new positions and although Representative Israel was re-elected to the House, this is her first legislative session. All have new and exciting plans and goals that could potentially affect Wells Branch.

We hope you'll bring your friends and neighbors as this is an excellent opportunity to meet our local officials and get to know each of them a little better. Refreshments will be served.



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Tree Pruning 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 correct 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

RRISD Strategic Plan Seeks Community Input For RRISD Parents/Taxpayers by Jeaneane McNulty

I attended the first RRISD Strategic Plan community input meeting January 22 and I wanted to share my experience and urge each of you to participate in this important process.

First I'd like to say I was impressed with how the meeting was run. It was well organized, informative and thought provoking. And I wasn't the only person there - it was packed! I left feeling energized and like it was time well spent. It is clear that the district is serious about listening to our community's vision for the future of our public schools. They want input from not only parents of school kids, but teachers, business owners, and community members. We are all stakeholders in this process because how well our public schools prepare our kids to be happy, healthy, productive members of society impacts each of us. To get you thinking, here is a link to the short (4 minutes) video on the history and purpose of public education that was shown at the meeting:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W1GtFRDRQeA>

It can be difficult to feel like you have a real voice in politics at the federal, state, and even county levels sometimes. At this very local level, however, your ideas and opinions really make an impact. So I'd encourage you to get involved. At the very least take some time to give the issues consideration and complete the community input survey. All the details are on the RRISD Strategic planning page:

<https://www.roundrockisd.org/strategicplanning/>

Valentine's Day Dance

February 14 • 6:30-8:30pm • Rec. Center, 3000 Shoreline



Wells Branch MUD hosts its annual Valentine's Day dance on Saturday, February 14, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Recreation Center. This is a free event open to all ages and everyone is invited

to come dance to a live band. The MUD will provide snack foods and drinks for everyone as well as roses for the ladies. So bring the family and come dance!

St. Patrick's Day Bagpipe Concert in the Park

March 17 • 7pm • KF Park • 2106 Klattenhoff

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



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Luminary Fest - Best Ever!

By Debby Thompson

Special thanks to WB MUD for hosting Luminary Fest once again! As always, management and staff did an outstanding job. The new lights were spectacular and from all reports, this was "the best Luminary Fest ever".

Matt, thank you for organizing and coordinating all the many volunteer groups who participate in Luminary Fest and thank you to all of the folks who came out on Saturday to set out the luminary bags and light them. WB Community Church, thank you so much for providing the photos with Santa! And Santa (aka Chuck), you were wonderful as always. BSA Troop 1409, you guys rock! Thank you for the toasty campfire; it was beautiful even with the balmy weather.

Jennie, Evan, Christine, and Cande, thank you for keeping the hot cocoa flowing and cookie trays full both nights. Brandon, thank you for the smooth ride (except for that bump on Klattenhoff). Robert and Jacob, thanks for keeping us safe on the hayride. Gus Kohn and Donna Malone, thank you for helping with the hayride lines; it was neat and orderly and everyone was HAPPY! Special thanks to our guest song leader Brendan Berver; you were wonderful!

Extra, Extra, Special Thanks to Dianne for managing the Kids' Craft Night for the WBNA on Friday and then coming back by special request and doing it all over again on Saturday. Many thanks to our adult volunteers and our amazing kids from Connally High School and WBCC. Thanks go out to those who did the prep work for Craft Night as well: Janet for donating her vast collection of Altoid tins, George who painted all of those treasure boxes and Dianne who glued the snowflakes. The kiddos LOVED the crafts!

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

Photo credits: We have a photo collage on page 19 and don't forget, we've got six albums from Luminary Fest posted to the WBNA Facebook page including the Santa photos WB Community Church took at the Homestead. Click on 'Photos', then 'Albums' and scroll down. Events are in reverse chronological order. Thank you to our photographers: Madonna Johnson, Debby Thompson, Pam Wachholz, Gus Kohn and Margaret Sufke. Between the church and all of you, we ended up with over 1500 photos of Luminary Fest to share with our neighbors!

WBCC Spring Craft Fair—Save the Date!

by Mona Speranza

**March 28, 2015 • 9am-3pm • Live For More Center
14735 Bratton Lane #125 • Free Admission • Concessions**

After a tremendous response last fall, our neighbors requested the Live for More Center host a second craft fair this spring. Local craft shows benefit the community by offering a place for residents to sell their crafts and a convenient, neighborhood-oriented place to shop.

Money raised from vendor booth rentals, the silent auction and concessions benefits WBCC Youth Ministry "The Branch" for events like Backyard Bible Club.



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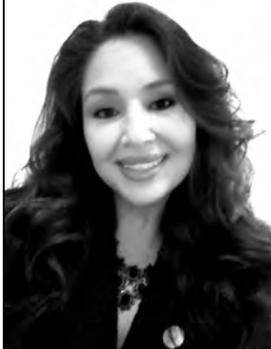
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- ♥ Valentines storytimes, crafts and programs 2/9-2/14



Celebrate the Chinese New Year with a performance by the Texas Dragon/Lion Dance Team! February 21 at 11am. *The event will be in the parking lot, so plan on walking, carpooling, or parking along the street.*

Special Teen Programs

Valentine's Day Movie and Craft: February 6 at 5:30pm.



Watch 'If I Stay' (PG13) and decorate a heart-shaped box. Registration recommended.

Clash of the Gods- Murder-mystery programs March 16-20; watch the website for more information.

Spring Break under the Stars



Join Austin Planetarium and Austin Astronomical Society for an evening of stargazing on Friday, March 20th
 7pm- Planetarium Shows (register online)
 7:30-9pm- Star Party in the parking lot

Regular Youth Programs and Storytimes

- Baby Bookworms** (0-18 mos.)- Mon at 10:30am
 - Baby Bookworms** (12-24 mos.)- Mon at 11:15am
 - 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
 (Vietnamese on the 2nd & 4th Sat of each month)
- **free tickets available 30 minutes before program

New Afterschool Programs



Mondays at 3:30pm for ages 5+
 American Girl Book Club (1st & 3rd Monday) Read any book about the week's girl.

Lego Lab (2nd & 4th Monday) Challenges, games and free play.

SPARK Homeschool Group

This open group for supporting ages 2-10 meets on the first Tuesday of each month in the large meeting room.

Get Started in Bird Watching

Learn to identify local birds and help conserve bird populations with the Great Backyard Bird Count. Workshop 2/12 at 6pm

Money Smart Workshops *Registration required*

Financial Strategies after the Great Recession 2/26 at 6:30pm
 Organize your Financial Records 2/28 at noon
 Medicare and your Retirement 3/12 at 6:30pm
 Preparing for Baby; First Year Expenses 3/21 at 11am



Resume Makeover

Tailor your resume to catch an employer's eye.
 February 28 at 10:30am *Registration required*

Regular Programs for Adults

Morning Yoga - Select Thursdays at 10:30am, relax and unwind with our free classes for all experience levels.
 2/5, 2/19, 3/5 & 4/19

Writer's Guild- 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm
 Connect with local authors and get feedback on your work.
 2/4 & 3/4

English Conversation Group – Select Saturdays 10:30am-12:30pm, all skill levels are welcome!
 2/7, 2/21, 3/14 & 3/21

Knit & Crochet Group – 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:30pm, needles, yarn and instruction are provided.
 2/19 & 3/19

Adult Book Clubs

Steamy Reads: 1st Wednesday of each month at 6pm:



Discuss a steamy romance over a steamy coffee/tea/cocoa and sweets.

February 4 – *Fifty Shades Trilogy* by E.L.James
 March 4 – *Beast* by Judith Ivory

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

Feb 15: *Rooms* by James Rubart

Mar 16: *The Dark Monk* by Oliver Potzsch



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

Feb 5- *The Flamenco Academy* by Sarah Bird

Mar 5- *King Peggy* by Peggielene Bartels



Adult Computer Classes

Take charge of the digital domain! *Registration required*

Excel Basics: 2/7 @ 10:30am & 3/8 @ 3pm

Excel Intermediate: 3/14 @ 10:30am

Email Basics: 2/8 @ 3pm

Word Basics: 2/15 @ 3pm

Word Intermediate: 3/28 @ 10:30am



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WBNA Holiday Home Decorating Contest Winners by Debby Thompson

Wells Branch is WONDERFUL! Judging the Home Decorating Contest this year was even more difficult than last year. EVERYONE decorated! It was especially exciting to see that most have converted to energy efficient alternatives. Special thanks to our neighbors: Donna Malone, Madonna Johnson, and Margaret Sufke, who took the time to drive the neighborhood with me on three consecutive nights! Yes, we actually looked at every single house (3,366) in WB multiple times! All the homes were beautiful! We appreciate everyone's hard work!

As per your suggestions last year, we added some categories: Visible from Space & Most Patriotic. Randy, we tried to add Best Block but ran into issues with our sign company moving the week before Christmas and were unable to get the signs in time. Next year, I promise!

Congratulations to all the Winners!

Most Original • Bob Bridges • 3400 Sauls Drive

All LED display with brilliant blue LED Fire & Ice lights under the roof that made the house twinkle and glow. Meticulously wrapped trees and white raindrop lights suspended throughout the yard.

Best Use of Lights • Jesse & Daisy Valdez • 2209 Taylor-Simonetti

All LED display with beautifully wrapped trees and shrubs, an outlined roof and candy cane 'fence'.



Most Elaborate • Mathew & Heather Guice • 1832 Camas Drive

Dazzling LED lights in vibrant colors danced to music synced to an outdoor sound system.

Most Traditional • Domingo & Sandra Zepeda • 14504 Donald Drive

In the owner's words, "A Gingerbread House". Perfect!

Most Energy Efficient • Ben & Andreia Simon • 1815 Michael Wayne

Giant agaves festively adorned with ornaments on each of their tips.

Visible from Space • Maria Paredes • 3620 Texas Topaz Dr.

I can't say enough about this neighbor's community spirit. She decorates for EVERY season; Christmas is just the most elaborate. Her entire corner lot was decorated with lights covering the yard and projected onto the house. Clearly, Visible from Space.

Most Patriotic • Clifford & Maribel Valls • 15609 Cadoz Dr.

Red, white and blue lights line the two-story roof top with Santa in camouflage waving at passersby from the front yard.

WBNA Appreciation Award • Dan & Kim Lanicek • 2207 Klattenhoff Drive

Magnificent synchronized light show AND they host a food drive each holiday season!

See Holiday Lights on page 7



Project Graduation for WB

Seniors By Pam Wachholz, WBNA Editor

Project Graduation is a nationally recognized alcohol and drug free party designed to give high school graduates a safe alternative for celebrating their special night. Statistics have

shown that students celebrating on the evening of graduation can experience one of the most dangerous nights of their young lives. We hope you will support these nonprofit, parent-led groups who are working so hard for our Wells Branch seniors. All donations are tax-deductible!

Cedar Ridge High School • Project Graduation

We have several big FUNdraisers coming up so mark your calendars and plan on a good time while you support a safe night of celebration for our graduating seniors!

Tuesday, February 10: Keep your kitchen clean and eat out at Chipotle in La Frontera.

TX Roadhouse Dinner Roll Dough Sale: Just in time for Easter, order the famous TX Roadhouse dinner roll dough & cinnamon honey butter March 2-24. Orders will be picked up March 31, 4-7pm at TX Roadhouse. Freeze the dough to thaw and bake to serve these hot and fresh!

March 28-Raider Fest includes the **2nd annual Raider Paint Run** and **Smoke on the Ridge BBQ Cookout and Festival**. RaiderFest will be held at Old Settler's Park (Lakeview Pavilion). Sign up for the run at active.com ALL levels are invited to participate. Then join us for a day of good BBQ, Music (2 bands will play), fishing at the lake and children's activities (including bounce house and face-painting). It will be a fantastic day of family fun!

April 18-Golf Tournament and \$5,000 Putting Contest- Forest Creek Country Club

April 18-3rd annual Raider Fashion Show-See students as they model the latest in prom attire and bid on some great silent auction items!

Order your Legacy Brick today! Honor your Senior with a brick that will be installed on the Legacy Walk on campus or even keep the brick for a keepsake.

For information on Legacy Bricks and all of our fundraisers, please see our website: CRHSProjectGraduation.org.

Monetary donations may be mailed to CRHS Project Grad Class of 2015, PO Box 5622, Round Rock, TX 78683-5622 or may be made online (ABOVE). "LIKE" us and follow us on Facebook & Twitter. Thanks for supporting the Cedar Ridge Class of 2015!!

McNeil High School • Project Graduation 2015

McNeil High School Project Graduation is offering flocking as a fundraiser. You can pay to place these pink darlings in your friend's yard. The flocking is done in good spirits and is not meant to be mean. The Flamingos will roost in the lawn of your choosing for no more than 24 hours when they will mysteriously migrate to another friend's (victim's) lawn.

To order a flocking, visit <http://mcneilprojectgrad.ch2v.com/>

This website also features a store and a link to AmazonSmile where 0.5% of eligible purchases are donated to McNeil Project Graduation.

WB Construction Updates

The following is a series of brief updates on various construction projects currently underway in or around Wells Branch.

Art at Bratton's Edge (corner of Bratton/Long Vista)

Currently in the permitting process with the City of Austin. Ground breaking forecast for late June/early July.

RRISD Elementary (corner of Bratton/Sauls)

RRISD went out for bids on ES34 the third week in January. They expect to award the contract at the February 19 Board Meeting. If all goes as planned, construction could begin as early as 30 days from that date.

Waters at Willow Run (1325, north of Shoreline)

Finish out continues on this 274 unit affordable housing complex; they expect to start leasing in March.

See Construction on pg. 7

Project Grad, continued...

Connally High School • Cougar Celebration 2015

Reverse Raffle Dinner and Silent Auction

Sun., February 22, 6pm-10pm at Pflugerville Lion's Club

Connally HS Project Grad will be hosting their biggest fundraiser of the year: a Mardi Gras themed evening with CHS parents and community friends offering the opportunity to support Cougar Project Graduation 2015 while having a great time. The event features a reverse raffle with \$1000 prize, entertainment by the CHS Jazz Band, a fantastic catered Cajun meal, 2 drink tickets including beer from NXNW, door prizes and games, and best of all, a fun evening with your neighbors working together to keep our WB kids safe! Tickets are \$40 or 2 for \$75. Questions or Tickets contact Mary Hale @ 512-789-3903 or mjhale@austin.rr.com.

Flock a Friend!

What could possibly bring more JOY than opening your door to a yard full of pink flamingos?!

Flocking is perfect for birthdays, anniversaries, game days or just for fun! They're happy to personalize your message and even have two Longhorn colored Flamingos, two A & M colored Flamingos, two patriotic Flamingos, Santa & Reindeer, etc. and if you'd like them next to the "You've Been Flocked" sign, just let them know. Cost is only \$25 and checks can be made out to CC2015! Flamingos will roost in their yards for 24-48 hours. Reserve your date before it's booked!

Share this joy with your friends! If you're interested in "Flocking a Friend", contact Mary Hale at mjhale@austin.rr.com or 512-789-3903.

1200 Thread Count Sheet Sets

The 1200 Thread Count Sheets Sets that WB loves are for sale for \$45 for any size! To order, please send your name, address, cell number, with quantity, size and color to Debbie Brown at marketingimpress@austin.rr.com or call 512-422-2372

Thank you for supporting all Wells Branch seniors!

Holiday Lights, Continued from page 5

Scott Ballenger on Crystal Shore was last year's winner of the WBNA Appreciation Award. The hayride wouldn't be the same without you, Scott! It takes a tremendous amount of time energy and investment to create these shows and we, as neighbors, greatly appreciate the effort, Scott & Dan. Another group of neighbors we'd like to recognize are the folks on **Oceanna Court**. Each year, for as far back as I can remember, they've created a winter wonderland for Wells Branch to visit whether by trail, vehicle or hayride. **Special thanks to: Randy & Jackie Gabbart (14400), Dan & Joan Schupp (14401), David Schnautz (14405), Scott & Linda Casper (14406), Jude & Lauren Pryor (14407), and Richard Edwin & Christine Thompson (14409).**

Please let us know if you have any suggestions for this coming season or would like to volunteer as a judge at lights@wbna.us.



Lanicek home, 2207 Klattenhoff

Construction from pg. 6

Trinsic (corner of WB Pkwy/1325)

Construction is moving right along on this 348 unit upper end apartment complex. The first apartment units are expected to be ready for leasing March 9. After that they expect to complete a building every 2 weeks with a goal of completion by August 17.

Affinity Apartments (corner of WB Pkwy/Owen Tech)

Heavy construction is underway as this site is cleared and placement of the building materials begins on the site of the 150 unit senior affordable housing complex.

St. Elias Orthodox Church has purchased the parcel north of the Waters at Willow Run and south of the storage units on 1325. This area extends to the cul-de-sac on Mocha Trail. They do not expect to start construction before January 2016.

McNeil Drive Construction - Martin Hill Transmission Main

The contractor continues preparation of the 72-inch diameter steel casing within the recently completed tunnel. The installation of the 54-inch diameter water line into the tunnel should start in early February.

Traffic control along McNeil Drive allowing eastbound McNeil Drive traffic to turn left into the east High School entrance reopened on January 26.

McNeil Drive is scheduled to reopen to two westbound lanes this coming March. Project information is available at <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/martin-hill-transmission-main-project>



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Parent's Night Out Babysitter Fundraiser!

Venture Crew 1409 is raising money for summer camp and offering a babysitting service for parents on Valentine's Day, Saturday, February 14, from 5:30-8:30pm at the Wells Branch MUD Annex, 14611 Wells Port Drive (where the scouts meet). Activities and a hot dog dinner will be provided. Children must be 5 years or older. Crew members are certified and adult supervisors will be present (child to caregiver ratio 4:1).

Cost & other items to note:

Pay@Door: \$10 per hour + \$2 per hour each additional child

Pre-Pay a minimum of 2 hours and get 25% off (drop check off at Annex mailbox or mail in)

Cash or checks made payable to "Crew 1409" accepted

No Refunds/Limited Space

Phone: 512-990-3752 • www.Crew1409.com

Our American Heritage Girls

by Kevin Ward, Charter Representative

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

As we look forward to 2015, we've already begun planning our annual awards ceremony and girls leadership retreat. AHG welcomes girls 5-18 and we always appreciate parent participation, encouraging parents to become adult leaders. If you are considering joining our American Heritage Girls, please coordinate with Beth Gintella to attend a meeting at Hill Country Bible Church Pflugerville (Our Charter Church). Great fun is had by everyone!

Beth can be reached at 512-285-3042 or bethdvg@austin.rr.com.

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Finding creative ways to utilize reclaimed items

March 17,18,19, 11:30am-3:30pm

Want something a little different for your kids to do during spring break? Art mini-camps are just like summer art camp: your kids will draw, paint and create a number of projects over the 3 days with art teacher Dianne Koehler. Camp is \$45. Visit the MUD Rec. Center, 3000 Shoreline Drive or call 512-251-9814 to register. Campers need to bring a snack each day. All materials included. Only 16 spots are available for kids 7-12. Sign up SOON!

Summer Art Camp

Beginning Artist (age 4.5-7 or going into Kindergarten/1st grade) 9-11:30am T/W/Th. Projects based on stories and demonstrations. Limit 16

6/9-11 – Painting and Drawing - Wild Animals

6/23-25 – Cat in the Hat is at Camp

7/7-9 – Wild & Wacky Art of Science

7/21-23 – Back in Time - Pioneering at Camp

8/4-6 – Fantasy: Castles, Knights, Princesses, Dragons, Fairies & Elves, Wands & Magic

Junior artists (age 7.5-12) 12-3:30 pm T/W/Th. Learn a bit of art info and history and do the projects in depth. Limit 26

6/9-11 – Painting and Drawing I - Wild Animals

6/16-18 – Not Your Momma's Art Camp - Clay & Mache, Hats & Masks, Bags

6/23-25 – Enviro Stuff - Construct from The Lorax and more...

6/30-7/2 – Stars 'n Stripes - Make a Parade Float, Confetti Poppers, 3D Flag, Patriotic Pinwheels...ALL AGES

7/7-9 – Wild & Wacky Science Art

7/14-16 – Painting and Drawing II - Cartoons & Super Heroes

7/21-23 – Back in Time - Pioneering at Camp

7/28-7/30 – Food Art from Color to Style - Fruit Pizza, South Seas Salad, Recipe Books, Decorated Lunches, Food Sculptures. Special Time: 10 am-1:30 pm - NOT for KIDS with ALLERGIES as we will eat some of our art!

8/4-6 – Painting and Drawing III - Fantasy: Fairies, Princesses, Dragons

Reminder: Water Wisely

Winter Wastewater Averaging ends February 11, 2015.

See www.wbna.us for details.

Friends of the Library News

Save the Date!-FOL Garage Sale

Planning a garage sale to de-clutter this spring? Let the Friends of the Wells Branch Community Library help you! The Friends of the Library would like to announce our Fourth Annual FOL Garage Sale to be held on Saturday, 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

Ever wonder what our library would be like without all of the wonderful books, family and community events, children and teen activities?



EMPTY- IGNORED- FRIENDLESS?

Membership with the Friends of the Library has a direct impact on the future of your library.

Membership also 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 January 2016. **Renew now or join and 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.

Chocolate Appreciation Class

For those who love chocolate, the Chocolate Appreciation Class will take that love to the next level on February 8th at 3pm in the large meeting room of the library. We'll discuss

how chocolate is made from bean to bar, learn a little about how a Chocolatier works with chocolate, and make a simple treat that you can eat right on the spot!

Erin Caffey is our own Wells Branch Chocolatier; the owner of Erincredible Chocolates and MORE! She's been creating award winning chocolate treats and creations since 2009. She also teaches a one-of-a-kind Chocolate Tasting Experience Class, which is like a wine tasting but with chocolate. You can find her latest creations for Valentine's Day and every occasion on her website www.erincrediblechocolates.com, or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ChocolatierErinC.

Reserve your tickets at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fol-presents-chocolate-appreciation-class-tickets-8889949077>, seating is limited.

A general membership meeting will be held immediately following the Chocolate Appreciation Class with election of FOL board members. Any FOL member may run for any office on the board. All FOL members are eligible to vote in the election. If you are not already a member of the FOL or your membership has lapsed, ***please join***. Applications are available on the circulation desk at the library, or at www.wbfriends.org and will also be available at the election.

Winter Reading Program Winners!

The FOL provided two large gift baskets full of goodies as prizes for the WB Community Library's Winter Reading Program. Congratulations to our winners! 1st prize went to Rhonda Hill and the 2nd Prize was awarded to Meng Wei Kee (Everlyn). All contestants were assigned a random number and numbers were drawn raffle style for the winners. We'd like to thank everyone who participated in the Winter Reading Program.

BSA Troop 1409 by Greg Jewett, ASM

Wells Branch Troop 1409 celebrated its achievements with families and friends on December 21, 2014. All of the scouts earned rank advancements, and many earned numerous merit badges. Three scouts (Andrew Michelson, Evan Jewett, and Sean Johnston) achieved their Life rank (the last advancement before Eagle Scout). Scouts who have earned the Life rank have demonstrated the Scout spirit by living the Scout Oath and Scout Law in their everyday life, and teach other scouts using the EDGE (Explain, Demonstrate, Guide, and Enable) method. Life scouts have learned and demonstrated proficiency in first aid, outdoor skills, cooking and camping, as well as served in their community performing service projects.

Many of the younger scouts earned well-deserved recognition for their achievements obtaining their Second and First Class ranks.



February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

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

Dog Fair Saturday, March 28 • 10am-1pm • KF Park

Calling all dogs! You are invited to the annual WB Dog Fair on March 28! Come and visit the many booths occupied by local veterinarians and other pet-oriented companies. Enroll your pooch to win prizes in one of the many free and fun competitions including Best Trick, Fastest Dog, Best Dressed, Dog & Owner Look-A-Like and our prestigious Wells Branch King and Queen contest. All dogs must be on a leash and under owner's control at all times and must be current on their vaccinations. No aggressive dogs please.

Annual WBNA Officer Elections

Thursday, February 12, 7pm • WB Community Center

All residents (both in-district and out-of-district) are invited and encouraged to attend the annual WBNA meeting on Thursday, February 12, 7pm at the Community Center on Klattenhoff.

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

We'll begin the evening with WBNA officer elections. Below is a list of current board members who are willing to continue serving the neighborhood with their time and talent in 2015 and will be seeking re-election.

They are:

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

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

Hazardous Waste - January 2015

After having to postpone collection a week due to freezing rain, we would up with absolutely gorgeous weather! While our volunteers were all appreciative, apparently everyone else in the neighborhood was as well. We had a good turnout (not great, but good) for our January Clean-Up Day. While we had 129 residents participate last January, we only had 102 this year. Thanks WBNA volunteers: Ed & Kay Peterson, Chuck Walters, Gus Kohn, Donna Malone, and Debby Thompson and as always, a big thank you to the WB MUD for supporting our efforts and to MUD employees Abraham, Margarito, Jacob and MUD board member Janet Maxey.

Thanks to Steve Hochstetler and his wife who repurposed a bunch of the cardboard that came in and Joy Smith for taking ALL of the foam peanuts collected. A big thank you to Dianne & George Koehler who collected yard and pool chemicals at their house which she re-homed through Freecycle.com and the WB Google Group. All in all, it was a pretty good day!



Mark your calendars for Spring Extreme Clean - April 11
Bulk Trash, E-cycling, and Metal & Styrofoam collection from 8am-5pm, Habitat for Humanity from 8am-1pm, Goodwill collections benefitting Connally HS Project Graduation from 8am-4pm, and the MUD's Drug Take-Back Program and FREE Shredding from 8am-noon. Come on out!

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Invasive Species on the Wells Branch Greenbelt? We have a plan for that!

Submitted by Wells Branch MUD



Invasive plants are non-natives that grow and reproduce rapidly. They quickly establish themselves over large areas and decrease biodiversity by threatening the survival of native plants. This has taken place in some areas in Wells Branch like it

has in just about every greenbelt or park in Texas. The fight against invasive species costs the US \$137 billion annually.

The major offenders in Wells Branch are:

Glossy Privet - *Ligustrum lucidum*

Chinaberry tree - *Melia azedarach*

Heavenly Bamboo - *Nandina domestica*

The Wells Branch MUD is working on a comprehensive management plan for removal of the invasives on our greenbelts and will concentrate on the worst "infestation areas". First, we will have a team pulling the smaller specimens out of the ground, root and all. Secondly, this team will cut down some of the larger invasive trees and plants and replant a Texas native species in the close vicinity where irrigation is available. The plants will be identified or marked for removal by landscape experts. Thirdly, to make this project successful in the long run, we will start implementing invasive management as a maintenance function into the future, as a routine task like mowing grass.

Restoring areas where invasive plants are over taking the natives will:

- Restore the local "food web" supporting everything from the pollinators to the little fox that lives by the pond
- Help to protect the watershed
- Maintain the unique natural heritage of the area
- Increase biodiversity
- Restore populations of plants that evolved here, Texas tough and drought hardy
- Expand the plantings of some of our Texas natives that have been pushed to the "edges"

The initial projects to remove smaller invasive plants and cut down the larger invasive trees and shrubs will begin the first week in February. The areas where this work will take place include the Greenbelt from the Wildlife Viewing Area to the Bridge before the North Meadow, The Greenbelt North of WB Parkway Bridge to the Trail Bridge near Wells Port and the Disc Golf Course Area.

You will see more education in the coming weeks on this subject as the MUD goes forward with this effort to make our great greenbelt a healthier environment. Please call 512-251-9814 if you have questions about invasive species management or this project and we will have someone contact you.

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KUDOS!

Thanks to all who delivered the Holiday Issue of the WBNA Neighborhood News. The weather was hit or miss at best (mostly miss on the weekends) and it took a tremendous amount of determination to get the newsletter distributed

this time around. I'm grateful for each and every one of you who volunteered! Thank you!

June Apprill, Daniel Barnekow, Janel Bates, Shannon Black, Abigail & Porter Best, Linda Bilstein, Karen Buerkle, Phil & Dana Carter, Kathleen Clark, Kim Clark, Delian Filip, Miriam, Melissa & Briana Garate, Dave Gezana, Susie Gillespie, Carla Gordon, Cynthia Hannon, Travers Hough, Bruce Jones, Jennifer Jones, Malita Jones, Gus Kohn, Kim Lanicek, Brian Litke, Nancy Loomis, Erik Macdanz, Siv, Jyoti & Arjuna Manda, Ed & Kay Peterson, Julie Schwartz, Alice Sears, Virgil Smith, Marie Streusand, Traci Synatschk, Debby Thompson, J.R. & Jill Traffanstedt, Jonathan Wachholz, Daniel White, Erica Wilson, Lauren Wollaston, Pamela & Bre Woodward, Cindy Zraik

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

If you would like to deliver the newsletter, please contact our distribution team at info@wbna.us or 656-0654. We'll bring the newsletters over to you along with a map of the delivery area. If you've never done this before, it takes about 45 minutes to an hour. We always try to match up everyone with the area they live in. Sometimes there's a lot of response for one area and none for other areas. If so, we try to "get you close". Or, if you'd like to see other parts of Wells Branch, let us know and we'll gladly find a section for you.

It's GS Cookie Time!!!

by Emily Berver & Kim Lanicek



Neighborhood Girl Scouts will be selling cookies from January 21 to February 27. Be sure to take this opportunity to stock up on all your favorites; they freeze well!

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

Cookies are still \$4 per box except for the new gluten-free Toffee-tastic, which is \$5 per box. We have something for everyone; Thin Mints are Vegan! Proceeds from the sales go towards both the individual Troops and Central Texas Girls Scouts. The cookie sale also helps the individual Girl Scouts learn about goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills and business ethics.



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

Thank you for supporting Scouting!

Northwest Elementary News

by Betsey Harper, PTO Co-President

As 2015 arrives, please accept my heartfelt wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year! It's amazing how fast time passes; and as usual 2014 has ended in a wave of activities for all of us, and I hope you were all able to take a step back, enjoy your families and enjoy some downtime amongst the holidays.

And here we are, right smack in the middle of the school year - a good time to take a deep breath and a look ahead. We have Science Fair in the final swing with projects displayed, students practicing for state assessment testing, choir try-outs, yearbook creation, spring field day, grade level fun-runs, Valentine's dance, movie nights, field trips, and the list goes on and on.

Please help us keep up the momentum... we have loads planned over the next half of the school year. Check your student's folder, the school calendar, Facebook, NW listserv emails for notices, times and information on all events.

PTO Meetings – Second Monday of the month, 6:30 pm

SNO (Student Night Out) – 1/16, 2/27, 4/17, 5/15 6:30 - 8:30pm

Valentine's Dance, 2/13 - 6:30 - 8:30pm

Wells Branch Elementary Events

Blythe E. Jewell, PTA Vice President

Join us at Wells Branch Elementary for some fun upcoming events this February!

February 6 - Movie Night at WBE

Enjoy the hit movie Rise of the Guardians with us! Doors open at 6:30pm, movie starts at 7:00pm, and pizza, snacks and drinks will all be available for purchase.

February 10 - PTA's Monthly General Meeting

This month's general meeting comes with a fun performance from our second graders, led by the amazing Mr. Castillo! Join us from 6:00pm to 7:00pm and prepare to be wowed!

February 27 - WBE Spirit Night at Chaparral Ice

We will have a blast together as families skate and raise some money for the Wells Branch PTA. Come join us from 6:30pm to 9:30pm for discounted ice skating and lots of fun!

WBE Farmers' Market

by Dianne Koehler

The 5th grade farmers' market has gotten off to a fantastic start this year. 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 neighborhood Facebook pages if the market is on or not due to weather conditions and testing schedules; most weeks we'll offer fresh ORGANIC produce Wednesday afternoons (2:40pm until gone) at the corner of Merriltown and Town Hill. Bags are generally \$1 each. We will have plants for sale this spring as well. All items are grown and harvested by the students. We do take orders for late pick-up too - see posts for details.



Thinking about Refinancing?

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Solarize Wells Branch by June Oliver



Our project that started with the Wells Branch Solar Energy Fair in October 2014 continues. The current objective is to find one vendor that will deliver quality Solar PV installations with a discount. In return, the Solarize project gives the vendor a number of qualified and educated

potential customers in a small geographic area. The 2014/2015 Solarize Wells Branch Project enrollment is OPEN for Wells Branch residents and neighboring communities.

The purpose of "solarize" group purchase type projects is to accelerate the adoption of rooftop solar photovoltaic (PV) systems among a connected group of individuals or geographic area. The advantages of this program includes that it is an excellent starting point to learn more regarding residential installation as the process is simplified, education is provided, a sense of community is established, the bulk-purchase price discounts are applied during a finite period of time. Communities in San Antonio and Plano that have successfully utilized these group purchase projects have found that the best results are generally achieved within the first two iterations. Investigate further on their sites <http://www.solarizeplano.org/> and www.solarsanantonio.org/bringsolarhome.

Companies benefit from purchasing volume equipment for installation, not having to transport that equipment across the city, single project permitting fees, higher ratio of consumer purchases (as interested parties have been educated and vetted.)

Interested? Great! There is a three part process.

1. Enrollment and education. **NO COMMITMENT REQUIRED.** Go to <http://wellsbranchsolar.blogspot.com/p/timeline.html> and sign up. Annual electricity usage in kWh and the level of energy efficiency are 'homework' questions to be answered.

2. Site Survey by company selected by solarize group. **STILL NO FINANCIAL COMMITMENT.** Armed with information gained from #1, make an appointment so the residence can be evaluated as to the pitch and directionality of roof for panel placement.

3. Installation. Homeowners sign contract and financial commitment begins.

Project Status - We have received proposals from 7 solar installation vendors and picked the final company at the end of January.

We have been at this solar "exploration" for a while and we are ready to be **Power Plants!**

Please visit <http://wellsbranchsolar.blogspot.com/> for additional information or email solarizewb@gmail.com.

Support the WBNA
See page 20 and join today!

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WB Armada News by Anne Bennett, President, WBA



WBA Families and Friends - We hope that everyone had a wonderful winter holiday season and that everyone's 2015 gets off to a fun and safe start. Hard to believe 2014 is already over and we have a brand new swim season ahead of us!

2015 Season: The Northwest Swim Circuit (NWSC) is still ironing out the details on the schedule for the 2015 season. However, a few things are currently known, and are listed here to help with vacation schedule planning.

Registration dates: 3/28 and 4/9, times & places TBA

First day of practice (subject to change): Monday, May 4

Divisional Championship Meet: Saturday, July 11

Invitational Meet: Sunday, July 12, Texas A&M University

Please continue to check our website: <https://wellsbranch.swimtopia.com/> for updates as they become available.

WB Running Club by Russell Jones



Does your New Year's Resolution include getting in top physical shape? Well, add the Wells Branch Running Club to your list of FREE physical fitness ideas to help reach your

2015/2016 goals. The Wells Branch Running Club is a completely free and fun group of community members who meet every Tuesday and Thursday from 5:45 a.m. to 6:45 a.m. at the Gazebo in Katherine Fleischer Park. The running club has members running at all different paces and the workouts are tailored to meet the needs of every individual. Whether you are running at a 12 minute mile or a 6 minute mile, you will find the club is a great way to reach your fitness goals and have fun doing it.

Come join us on a Run!

Call, Text, or E-mail: www.wbrunclub.com, (512) 825-2369, Russell@wbrunclub.com

Spring Break Sports Camps



WB MUD will be hosting basketball and volleyball clinics during Spring Break week in March! Please visit the District website for details at wellsbranchmud.com/camps_and_programs.

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Garden Guild News

by Dianne Koehler



The WB Garden Guild kicked off the new year with a wonderful presentation on wildlife habitat basics by Meredith Gray and discussed the process for a garden to become a Certified Wildlife Habitat with the National Wildlife Federation.

Heather Johnson will lead our February 21st meeting discussing seed sharing and seed saving. This will let you pick varieties

of plants to do seed saving with before you plant or share/trade some of your stash of seeds with others.

March 21st we will have Julie Gaydos, a student of herbal medicine talk to us about medicinal herbs and uses including teas, infusions and more.

Garden Guild meetings are held on the 3rd Saturday of each month at the WB MUD Recreation Center, 3000 Shoreline at 11am. Come early to chat, exchange items and samples. Join our Facebook group for updates, questions, answers and sharing our love of gardening. Whether your passion is vegetables or posies, all are welcome!

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March Lifeguard Course

by Katie Hutcheson



Wells Branch MUD is offering a 3-day American Red Cross Lifeguard Training course on Monday, March 16, Wednesday, March 18 and Friday, March 20 from 10am - 6pm at Katherine Fleischer Pool. Through videos,

classroom activities, group discussion and hands-on exercises, you will learn the skills you need to possess to work as a lifeguard.

Our comprehensive course includes accident prevention, life-guarding techniques, emergency systems, and rescue skills; CPR for the Professional Rescuer with AED and First Aid are also included. Upon successful completion participants will be certified for 2 years! Class fee: \$200

For more information or to register, please call the Recreation Center at 512-251-9814. Information is also available at wellsbranchmud.com/lifeguard.

In the Butterfly Garden

by Shelley Palmer

In my work as a Master Naturalist, I have found myself defending hackberry trees more than once, although I was not happy with the one that took out my deck four years ago. I have even heard naturalists call Hackberries "trash trees". Because they aren't as elegantly formed as some trees, tend to shed bark and limbs, and aren't long lived, they get a bad rap from humans, but not from butterflies.

We're very fortunate in Wells Branch to have an abundance of Hackberry trees throughout our trail system which provide many butterfly species with caterpillar food. Although the activity is usually high above easy viewing levels, some guidelines for caterpillar identification are:

- Tawny Emperor caterpillars eggs are laid in large groups of 200 to 500 on Hackberry bark or leaves. The young caterpillars feed in large groups.
- Hackberry Emperor caterpillar eggs are laid in small groups ranging from one to twenty.
- American Snout caterpillar eggs are laid in small groups.
- Caterpillars of the Question Mark butterfly live alone on hackberry leaves.
- Mourning Cloak caterpillars live together in a web while eating Hackberry leaves.

At a time when we are seeing the populations of many butterflies decline, think like a butterfly when it comes to hackberry trees. For more information on butterflies and backyard habitats, visit the North American Butterfly Association at <http://www.naba.org/>



Hackberry Emperor caterpillar and butterfly



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Birding in Wells Branch by Wanda Holcombe

The WB Birding Group looks forward to a productive year in 2015 as our park, streams and pond attract even more birds with the continuing care, and backyards become healthy natural habitats. If you are interested in finding out more about how your backyard can become a Certified Wildlife Habitat, visit the National Wildlife Federation website at nwf.org. There are several special Birding Events to look forward to in the coming months:

Thursday, February 12, from 6:00-7:30pm, we will be collaborating with the Wells Branch Library to Launch the Great Backyard Bird Count in Wells Branch. We hope you'll join us!

Friday-Monday, February 13-16, is the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of bird populations. Participants are asked to count birds for as little as 15 minutes (or as long as they wish) on one or more days of the event and report their sightings online at birdcount.org. Anyone can take part in the GBBC, from beginning bird watchers to experts, and you can now participate from anywhere in the world! It's free, fun, and easy. Each checklist submitted during the GBBC helps researchers at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology (birds.cornell.edu) and the National Audubon Society (audubon.org) learn more about how birds are doing, and how to protect them and the environment we share. Last year, participants turned in more than 144,000 online checklists, creating the world's largest instantaneous snapshot of bird populations ever recorded.

"This count is so fun because anyone can take part -- we all learn and watch birds together -- whether you are an expert, novice, or feeder watcher. I like to invite new birders to join me and share the experience. Get involved, invite your friends, and see how your favorite spot stacks up."

-Gary Langham, Chief Scientist

Monday, February 16, 9:00am-4:00 pm, we will be joining the Silver Branchers for a collaborative day trip to Pedernales Falls State Park and Historic Johnson City:

We will be visiting two very good sources of bird blinds at Pedernales Falls State Park which has more than 150 species of birds; about one-third

of these are permanent residents. Birds seen throughout the year include ravens, vultures, herons, quail, doves, owls, roadrunners and wild turkeys, as well as the endemic rufous-crowned sparrow and western scrub jay.

Website: tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/pedernales-falls

Johnson City was the hometown of President Lyndon Johnson and was founded by James Polk Johnson, nephew of Samuel Ealy Johnson, Sr. and uncle to President Johnson. Johnson City is located in central Blanco County, south of the Pedernales River. We will be visiting the historic areas of the town and enjoying lunch together at one of the local restaurants. Visit their website for more information: johnsoncity-texas.com

WB Hosted Bird Walks are planned for the 2nd Monday & 3rd Saturday of each month at 8:00 am. Meet at the Mills Pond Gazebo.

Saturday, February 21

Monday, March 9

Saturday, March 21

Join us for the bird walks and special events. If you would like to be added to our WB Birding Group Email, contact Wanda Holcombe at wandah70@gmail.com

For further information on Birding in WB, contact:

Wanda Holcombe: wandah70@gmail.com

Sharon Richardson: srich816@austin.rr.com

Heather Johnson: frioswimmer@gmail.com



Photo courtesy of Rob White

Open Ears at St. Andrews Open Ears Concerts, hosted by St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, is a monthly series that presents established and emerging artists, mainly in acoustic genres such as folk, bluegrass, world, and jazz. Bring your family and friends, and a snack to share and enjoy free fair trade coffee in a family-friendly, peaceful, listener-oriented environment. Doors open and Potluck begins at 6pm, show starts at 7pm. *While there is a suggested donation, no one will be turned away.

February 28: John Batdorf's Soundtrax2Recovery

<http://www.2recovery.org/>

March 22: Ellis (tentative)

<http://www.ellis-music.com/news/>



Nicole A Viator
 Financial Advisor
 11211 Taylor Draper
 Suite 103
 Austin, TX 78759
 512-345-4989



Resolve to Recycle in 2015!

Progressive, our recycling contractor, pays the WB MUD \$20 in rebates for each ton of recycling collected. Those funds, in turn, are dedicated to our park system. The more we pitch in and recycle, the healthier our park system. Taking the time to separate your waste is a simple way to give back to your community while keeping useful materials out of the landfill.



WB continues to hover at around 60-62% participation; actual quantities collected vary by month. We can do better! Please do your part.

Recycle and remind your neighbors!

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

Clip & Save Recycling Calendar

February 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

March 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				

Coming Up at the WB Disc Golf Course

by Brian Litke

Jan. 31 (10am - 2pm): 15th Annual Waterloo Ice Bowl

This charity tournament benefits the Capital Area Food Bank, a partner of our local St. Andrews Presbyterian Church food pantry. Ice Bowl events are held at disc golf courses across the country in winter to support the fight against hunger. The Austin area Ice Bowl, normally held at Zilker Park, is back in Wells Branch for a second year while the Zilker disc golf course is being remodeled. In 2014, the event raised an event record \$1,375 in monetary donations and 437 pounds of food. The event is a collaboration between Austin's Waterloo Disc Golf Club and the WB Disc Golf Club.

Mar. 7 (9am-noon): Keep WB Beautiful on 'It's My Park Day'

Austin Parks Foundation provides free mulch for this annual park improvement project. Volunteers will spread mulch around trees in the greenbelt to fight the effects of drought and soil compaction, and they will plant several new trees purchased by the Wells Branch Disc Golf Club. The volunteer sign-up form will be available on the Austin Parks Foundation website after February 8. Volunteers receive a free 'It's My Park Day' t-shirt, and snacks will be provided.

<http://www.austinparks.org/its-my-park-day.html>

SAVE THE DATE (details at www.wbna.us):

May 16: 3rd Annual Wells Branch Disc Golf Tournament

July 18: 2nd Annual Day of Disc Golf for Veterans

Progressive Adds New Items to Recycling Program

Beginning in the first week of February 2015, Progressive Waste Solutions will be expanding the Wells Branch MUD single-stream recycling program to include additional items! The "new" recyclables are in addition to those currently collected.

The program is expanding to include:

- Aluminum foil and aluminum pans
- Pizza boxes (free from pizza and paper liner)
- Rigid Plastics (free from all metals; items must fit in the cart)
 - Plastic buckets and pails (metal handles must be removed)
 - Plastic flower pots
 - Plastic trash cans
 - Plastic laundry baskets
 - Small plastic playground equipment (metal screws and joints must be removed and items must fit in the cart)
 - Small plastic lawn furniture (free from all metals and items must fit in the cart)

All recyclables must be broken down and placed in the cart and all rigid plastics must be metal free before they are collected.

The recycling program still **does not** include Styrofoam cups, coolers, plates, etc. or film plastics, such as plastic bags, however these items are recyclable at the hazardous waste collection days held quarterly (Jan/Apr/Jul/Oct) at the MUD maintenance yard on Thermal.

WB Soccer Association Celebrates Record Season and Championship Team

By: Nick Marquez, President, Wells Branch Soccer Association

The Wells Branch Soccer Association (WBSA) has cause for celebration thanks to the growing support from WB neighbors and the WB MUD Board. WBSA had another record breaking season with 240 soccer players from ages U4 to U14 register and play in the Fall 2014 season and grew our neighborhood youth referee pool from 5 to 9. It was a fun season for the WBSA players with a number of returning players, teams and coaches as well as many new players and volunteers this past year.



It was also an exceptional season for the WBSA U11 Girls Tigers soccer team coached by Frank Richardson. The Tigers played hard to end the regular season undefeated and

went on to win the CAYSA Fall 2014 Championship Tournament for Girls U11 Division III, winning the final game in a penalty kick shootout match against the previously undefeated Centex Hurricanes. Congratulations to the Tigers for their great teamwork and their families and coaches for their commitment to soccer.

2015 Spring Soccer Registration Now Open

We are pleased to announce that registration for the spring

season is now open. Parents are encouraged to enroll their children as soon as possible as rosters fill up quickly. Spring games and practices kick off in February. Preseason indoor options are also available for families seeking early practices. Register today at wellsbranchsoccer.com. Anyone wishing to volunteer as a coach, assistant coach, or team manager is encouraged to register on the site as well during open registration. I look forward to seeing many returning players and new players this spring! Go WBSA soccer!

I'd like to take the opportunity to introduce our board as well and thank them for their commitment and dedication to the development of soccer and our youth in Wells Branch.

WBSA Board:

Nick Marquez, President
Chris Connell, Registrar
Liz Grimsley, Uniforms and Equipment Coordinator
Paul Trimble, Commissioner and Referee Coordinator
Julie Goebel, Events & Volunteer Coordinator
Siv Manda, Secretary
John Higgins, Treasurer
Leisha Richardson, Communications Coordinator

We also want to extend our sincere thanks and gratitude to Philip Bledsoe for his 12 years of service both as a coach and board member for WBSA. Philip will be greatly missed as our Field Coordinator.

For more information visit wellsbranchsoccer.com.

AustinTexasHealth.com

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- ✓ See website for more info



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Baby G & the Goose Clan

by Betsey Harper

(an update on our relocated Mills Pond geese)

What do you do with the WB geese in the winter when the water is frozen? Buy them ice skates, of course!

Surprisingly, the answer is the same as the summer. The geese are fine outdoors all year long eating grasses, leftover seeds and grains in the fields, and supplemental grain from feeding bins. They refuse to step foot in any of the heated chicken coops and seem to enjoy the brisk weather more than any other season. I have built many three-sided huts, with hay and bedding materials, food and water inside, all protected from the elements for the bigger fowl. But as I found out early on, they do not care for my shelters, and they built their own hidden nests along the high grasses at the edges of the ponds.

I hear from kids "I feel so bad for them walking around in their little bare cold feet!" It's ok, geese do not seem to feel the cold, their feet are actually warm to the touch, and more than once I have seen their feet frozen to the pond ice. Maybe I do need to buy them all ice skates...



Silver Branchers

By Darlene Bauhs

The WB Seniors group, the Silver Branchers, closed out 2014 with a holiday luncheon at Polvos and are looking forward to an exciting new year!

Each Thursday, the Silver Branchers meet from 1- 3pm at the WB Recreation Center on Shoreline Drive with occasional day trips and guest speakers. Residents 55 years and older are welcome. For additional information call the WB Rec. Center at 512-251-9814 or check the calendar at WBNA.us.

February 16, a very special day trip to Pedernales Falls State Park and Johnson City is planned with the WB birding group. Please see "Birding in Wells Branch" for more information or call the WB Rec. Center to reserve your spot.

There's No Place Like Home!

by Julia Regan

Our family is overjoyed to be back in Wells Branch! Residing in WB for twenty plus years, I have been involved in the Wells Branch Community in various ways. Working at the WB Recreation Center during college (when the Rec Center was located on Klattenhoff before the Shoreline Rec Center was built), I coordinated recreational activities and helped pick out and plan the playground equipment located in Katherine Fleischer Park - some of which is still there. It is a wonderful feeling and warms my heart to now see my own two young children play on that same playground. Ten years after purchasing my first home in WB, I got married and had two beautiful children. In order to accommodate our growing family, we moved and lived in West Round Rock for six years.

During those six years, we were homesick for WB. Our new neighborhood was nice and our home was newer and larger, but we deeply missed the park, trails, pond, library, restaurants and wonderful family-oriented community events. So, we continued to come back to walk/jog the trails, play on the playground, frequent the library and events.

After six long years, we decided that home is where the heart is, and moved back to Wells Branch about 9 months ago. We are absolutely delighted to be back permanently to enjoy the Wells Branch lifestyle and we can attest to the fact that nowhere else can you reap the benefits of such a close knit community and way of life.

We would like to express our appreciation for the many lovely additions and positive growth/beautification initiatives that have taken place over the years. WB has only gotten better, with many dedicated people ensuring it continues old traditions as well as implementing new ones all the time. Many thanks to all of our old and new neighbors for welcoming us back with such warmth and hospitality. We cannot describe the happiness and excitement we've felt volunteering and attending all the fun activities this year, our first year to truly be proud, active and official Wells Branchers again. To quote Dorothy from *The Wizard of Oz*, there is truly "no place like home!"



Photo courtesy of Rob White

Wells Branch Photo Club

by Margaret Sufke



The WB Photo Club is up and running! Our December meeting featured a class on lighting taught by Steve Hilchey and in January, Donny Ward taught a wonderful class on Photoshop.

The WB Photo Club meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month, from 6:30-8:30pm at WB Rec. Center on Shoreline. Our next two classes will focus on composition and tools. EVERYONE is WELCOME! We have a wide range of photographers from beginner to hobbyist to professional.

Come meet your neighbors at the next meetings on February 10 & March 10. We hope to see you there.

Questions? Contact Margaret Sufke, mmsufke@gmail.com or 512-341-0428.

Community Calendar

- Now through Feb. 27: Girl Scout Cookie Sales!
 Jan. 31, 9am-3pm: WBCC Flag Football, KF Park
 Jan. 31, 10am-2pm: Waterloo Ice Bowl, WB Disc Golf Course
 Jan. 31, 2-5pm: Tree Pruning Workshop, WBCC/KF Park**
 Feb. 1-28: Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month* See
 wbnau.us under "Safety"
 Feb. 8, 3pm: FOL Chocolate Appreciation Class, WBCL
 Feb. 10, 6:30-8:30pm: Photo Club, WBRC*
 Feb. 11: Winter Wastewater Averaging Ends
 Feb. 12, 6:00-7:30pm: Backyard Bird Count Meeting, WBCL*
 Feb. 12, 7pm: WBNA Election & TCSO Meeting, WBCC*
 Feb. 13-16: Backyard Bird Count, see page 15 for details
 Feb. 14, 6:30-8:30pm: Valentine's Dance, WBRC*
 Feb. 16, 9am-4pm: Silver Branchers Day Trip
 Feb. 21, 8am: Birding in WB, Gazebo at Mills Pond
 Feb. 21, 11am: Garden Guild - Seed Sharing & Saving, WBRC*
 Feb. 26, 7pm: WBNA Town Hall with State Rep, Travis County
 Judge & Commissioner Pct. 2
 Feb. 28, 6pm: Open Ears Concert - John Batdorf's
 Soundtrax2Recovery - SA
 Mar. 7, 9am-noon: It's My Park Day - Disc Golf Course
 Mar. 9, 8am: Birding in WB, Gazebo at Mills Pond
 Mar. 10, 6:30-8:30pm: Photo Club, WBRC*
 Mar. 17, 7pm: St. Patrick's Day Parade & Concert, KF Park*
 March 17, 18, 19, 11:30am-3:30pm: Spring Break Art Camp**
 Mar. 21, 8am: Birding in WB, Gazebo at Mills Pond
 Mar. 21, 11am: Garden Guild - Medicinal Herbs, WBRC*
 Mar. 22, 6pm: Open Ears Concert - SA
 Mar. 28, 9am-3pm: WBCC Spring Craft Fair, LFMC
 Center (Bratton/Merrilltown)
 Mar. 28, 10am-1pm: WB MUD Dog Fair, KF Park
 Mar. 28: Armada Swim Team Registration, Time & Place TBA
 *See wbnau.us **See wellsbranchmud.com



Meets 6pm Tuesdays at
 St. Andrew's 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. Andrew's
 Pres. Church 14311 Wells Port Dr.; **LFMC**=Live for More Ctr,
 Bratton/Merrilltown

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Help *shape* YOUR Community— Get involved!

2014 saw another year of continued growth in our neighborhood association. Our community needs your participation and involvement. We need your membership! Please consider joining the neighborhood association and volunteering your time and talents. We hope you'll join us for our annual meeting on February 12th. Please see page 10 for more details.

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.

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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

January 2015

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