

News and information for the residents of Wells Branch. Vol. 25. Issue 5. Fall 2017

National Night Out America's Night Out Against Crime Free Food • Great Company • Door Prizes!

Tuesday, October 3 ● 6-8pm ● Gazebo at KF Park



POLICE · COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Join your Wells Branch neighbors for our night out against crime, Tuesday, October 3, from 6-8pm at the gazebo in Katherine Fleischer Park. The WBNA will be serving up FREE hotdogs, sausage wraps, fruit & veggies, sodas and chips. For dessert, we'll have the

Friends of the Library handing out Culver's delicious frozen custard (while supplies last) at their table which just happens to feature their brand new 2018 Best of Wells Branch calendar. And don't forget the door prizes!

Distinguished guests from the Travis County Sheriff's Office, ESD No. 2 Fire Dept. and Precinct 2 Constable's Office will be on hand to visit with residents and answer questions. Both children and adults will have the opportunity to talk with first responders, receive information on Neighborhood Watch and other programs available to residents, and tour the fire safety house and fire truck that ESD No. 2 will have onsite. We may even get a peek at one the District's new ambulances!

Come find out what's going on in our community and discuss with local law enforcement officers and politicians what you can do to help reduce the opportunities for crimes to occur in our neighborhood.

National Night Out's purpose is to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, generate support for and participation in local anti-crime efforts, build neighborhood spirit and strengthen our law enforcement-community partnership. Help send the message to criminals that Wells Branch is organized and fighting back.

Take a stand against crime. Turn on your porch light and come join your friends and neighbors at the park for food and fellowship. If you have a Neighborhood Watch group on your block (or even if you don't) we'd like to encourage you to come eat dinner with us, listen to the speakers, and then return home to your street and gather with your neighbors over dessert to discuss how you can make your homes and our community safer.

We hope to see you there!

Upcoming WBNA Meetings Coyote Educational Meeting

Thursday, October 12 • 7pm
WB Community Center • 2106 Klattenhoff

Financial Planning Recap

Sunday, November 5 • 4pm
WB Community Center • 2016 Klattenhoff

Travis County Sheriff's Office Town Hall Meeting

Coming in December • Date TBA

Please see FALL CALENDAR insert for upcoming events.

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Fall Recap FOL Financial Foundations Series by Margaret McGhee-Sufke

Earlier this year the FOL and WBNA hosted a series of financial seminars. Each discussion focused on a specific aspect of financial planning. All members of the community were encouraged to attend to help increase financial awareness. While this educational series received many positive comments, the feedback that resonated the loudest was "I wish I had been able to attend."

That said, we are going to host a special "Reader's Digest" version of the presentations on Sunday, November 5, 4pm at the Wells Branch Community Center on Klattenhoff. We will also stream this "catch-up" presentation. This closing session will recap the highlights of each topic, while guiding folks to additional financial educational resources.

Additionally, we are going make copies of the various handouts and notes from ALL the sessions available for download through the current Wells Branch neighborhood communication network. Once the files are uploaded and ready for review we will send out a message across the usual forums.

Finally, we would like thank the financial professionals who participated in our program:

Mr. Philip D. Capriotti, Sr. Senior Tax & Insurance Advisors (STA)

Ms. Carmina Eaton, State Farm Insurance

Ms. Nicole Viator, Edward Jones

Mr. Brad Wiewel, Esq., TexasTrust Law Office

Each of the presenters donated their time and talents, providing the benefit of their financial expertise for free to help educate members of our Wells Branch community.

Disclaimer: The WB Community Library, the FOL and WBNA do not endorse nor recommend any specific financial group or individual. The sole intent of this program was to provide educational information.

WBNA Nominating Committee - Volunteers Needed

The WBNA is seeking residents to volunteer for the WBNA Board Nominating Committee for the 2018 election. The Committee will be responsible for interviewing residents seeking to serve on the Wells Branch Neighborhood Association Board and in turn, submitting a list of names for consideration at the January General Meeting. If interested in serving on the Committee, please email VOTE@wbna.us.



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NEW! Hotline for Non-Emergency Smoke Alarm and Carbon Monoxide

Alarm Information by Allison Strupeck, PIO/Community Outreach Coordinator/Travis County ESD No. 2

October is Fire Prevention Month, and to kick it off this year Travis County ESD No. 2 has launched a new Non-Emergency Hotline for information on smoke alarms and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms. For general information on smoke/CO alarms, ESD2 residents can call **512-989-4516**. When calling, be prepared to leave a message with your name, phone number, address, and the name of your neighborhood. Messages are usually returned the next business day. (Some residents may qualify for additional assistance.) Many of your questions may already be answered on our Smoke/CO Alarm webpage at www.PflugervilleFire.org.

NOTE: If you rent, your landlord or property manager is generally responsible for providing and maintaining your smoke/CO alarms. But you are still welcome to call the Hotline with questions about them.

Working smoke alarms more than double your family's chance of surviving a fire at home. You should have a smoke alarm in every bedroom and sleeping area, in the common area outside the bedroom(s), and at least one alarm on every level of the home.

Carbon monoxide (CO) is known as the "invisible killer" because you can't smell it or see it. If you have any gas appliances, you need at least one CO alarm on each level of the home. You're also advised to have CO alarms if you have any type of fireplace or an attached garage.

But simply having these alarms is not enough! Push the test button on each alarm every month, and change the batteries at least once a year — no matter what kind of alarm you have. Replace older alarms to ensure they'll work when lives depend on them.

EVERY SECOND COUNTS! Plan Two Ways Out

Fire grows and moves faster than you can imagine. When your smoke alarm sounds, your family could have less than 2 minutes to get out safely. Whether you live in a house or an apartment, follow these 7 simple steps to plan and practice your escape:

- Draw a basic map of your home's layout. Include all windows and doors.
- Plan two ways out of every room, in case one way is blocked by fire. Make sure doors and windows are not stuck closed or blocked by furniture.
- 3. Agree upon a "safe meeting place" outside near your home
- 4. Push the test button to sound the smoke alarm.
- 5. Smoke rises. Immediately "get low and go!"
- Practice your escape a few times a year with everyone who lives in your home. Finish by gathering outside at your safe meeting place.

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As part of my committment to this community, a donation will be made to the WBCL or WB 501(c)3 group of your choice upon closing.



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Joe Lee Johnson STEAM Academy News

From the PTA by Stephanie Hilchey

Welcome back Trailblazers! Joe Lee Johnson Elementary STEAM Academy PTA focus for this school year is living out our Mission and Values in the classroom.

How can you get involved?

- Join the JLJPTA: visit our website at www.jljpta.org
- Follow our Facebook page: along with our monthly email newsletter, we will be posting frequent announcements and updates on our FB page. Follow us! (https://www.facebook.com/jljpta/)
- Education Connection: volunteer to read with children during the school days. Join us in seeing every child reading by the end of 3rd grade! For more information or to sign up for a training, see www.education-connection.org or contact Stephanie Hilchey at steph.hilchey@att.net

Thank you to our Trailblazer Community for making the Back To School Bash on September 8th at Urban Air such a big success! Our JLJ families enjoyed a fun time getting to know each other.

Upcoming JLJ Events:

Thurs., September 21, 5:30 - 6:30pm: Back to School Night Tues., October 3, 7:30 - 8:30pm: PTA Meeting, JLJ Library Thurs., October 5, 6:30 - 7:30pm: Watch DOGS Kick off Cookout Fri., October 20, Time TBA: PTA Community Movie

Join our Trailblazer Community as we strive to Walk Arm-in-Arm with our Children! Driving the Dream!

Outdoor Learning Space by Heather Johnson

The JLJ Outdoor Learning Space is over-flowing with plants in September, thanks to the JLJ Garden Guardians who watered and tended the garden all the hot summer long. In April, third grade planted "Mammoth" sunflower seeds, that today are seven foot tall sunflowers full of seeds for students and birds to enjoy! Now in September, the same students are harvesting and enjoying the sunflower seeds of their labor.



WBE AIA Farmer's Market by Dianne Koehler

WBE Arts Integration Academy gardening is getting under way. The ever popular Farmer's market with all organic garden veggies will be back on Friday afternoons at the end of the school day soon. Watch your emails and FB for information.

Do-It-Yourself (DIY) Club by Daniel White

The DIY Club meets on the first Sunday of each month, unless otherwise noted, from 6-8pm in room #103 of the Rec. Center on Shoreline. The free meetings are open to anyone. Topics are announced on the WB Google Group and WBNA. us prior to the meetings. Presentations are live-streamed by the WBNA and are available for viewing on their Facebook page under 'Videos' if you'd like to catch up. We hope you'll join us!

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Deerpark MS PTA

PTA will host its **7th Annual Ranger Run 5K** on **Saturday, September 23**! This is Deerpark PTA's largest fundraiser of the year. All pro-

ceeds go to a Wish List that provides teachers and staff with the extra resources they need throughout the year.

Deerpark PTA has a goal of 400 registrations this year! This event is chip-timed and is a USATF certified race. Registered runners will receive a chip, race number, t-shirt, and more. Families over 4 are a set price of \$65, but must register via flyer, not online.

Register online: rrptiming.com

Late Registration (9/9 to race date): \$25

Volunteers Needed!

PTA needs quite a few volunteers to make an event like this happen. Please go to deerpark.my-pta.org to volunteer. *We need you!*

Important Dates

September 22 | 3:45pm | 6th Gr. Back-to-School Dance September 22 | 6pm | 7th & 8th Gr. Back-to-School Dance

September 23 | 8am | 2017 Ranger Run 5K

Welcome Back, McNeil HS Mavericks!!!

by Anita Frey, President, McNeil PTSA

There's a LOT going on this Fall at McNeil! Make sure you're informed so you don't miss anything:

- Subscribe to Mav Mail, the school's weekly newsletter at www.mcneil.roundrockisd.org
- Join McNeil's PTSA (PTA + Students = a campus-wide group working for ALL of MHS)! www.mcneilptsa.my-pta.org
- Follow McNeil on Twitter for the quickest info: @ MHSMavs

Show your Maverick Pride with our fabulous Spirit Wear! We have t-shirts, sweatshirts, bags, and lanyards for sale in the PTSA Store on our website!

Some of PTSA's Upcoming Events:

- MHS Homecoming Dance Sept 16, 6-8PM, at the Fickett Center (Tickets and permission form available on the PTSA site.)
- Underwear Drive vs. Westwood benefitting RRISD's Clothes Closet - collection from September 25 - Oct 12 at MHS and ALL of the feeder schools. (Last year, over 20,000 pairs were donated! To those who donated: Thank you!)

We're off to a great start this year! LET'S GO MAVS!!!

See Page 20 and Join YOUR Neighborhood Association Today!

Westview Middle School Amanda Johnson, Principal

Hurricane Harvey

Many of us have been impacted personally by the devastation of Hurricane Harvey. If you haven't been impacted personally with a family member, you still can't help but feel the need to reach out and support those who have.

Westview has adopted Aldine MS in Houston. Many of the staff and students have lost everything. After speaking with the principal, the main focus, right now, is to provide students with the basic school supplies they need. This includes backpacks, composition notebooks, pens, pencils, spirals, etc.

We will have a competition between grade levels to see who can bring the most supplies with a reward, still to be determined, at the end! Feel free to drop those off any time in the front office and we will get them to the appropriate counselor. Our goal is to need a trailer to haul this to Houston the week of September 25!

Please be on the lookout for additional emails with other activities taking place over the next several weeks to support this community.

This is our chance, as a community to give back to others. As part of our charge at Westview, we focus on not just making our students stronger academically, but also socially and emotionally. This is an opportunity to build that community and show our kids what it means to give to those in need.

Westview MS and the PTO need you!

We all know that a great partnership between the campus and home equals success for our kids!

We hope that your 2017-2018 school year is off to a great start! Want to get involved and stay connected to what's going on at Westview? Come be part of our PTO! Everything we do positively enhances school life for our students, families, teachers, and school.

Our PTO is currently looking for active parents to support all of our campus initiatives. Everything we do positively enhances school life for our students, families, teachers and school.

Contact PTO President, LaToya Finley, at lasuber@hotmail.com for more information about joining.

Ways to Stay informed

Westview MS Website: http://www.pfisd.net/wms

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/WestviewMsWildcats/

Harmony Science Academy by Clarissa Davila, Outreach Coordinator

Save-the-date! Join us for HSA's Multicultural Fair on November 17th! Come and enjoy the tastes and sounds of different countries from around the world without having to leave Wells Branch Parkway! The event is FREE and everyone in the community is invited! Harmony Science Academy is located at 1421 Wells Branch Parkway, Suite 200, just behind the Wendy's. Check our website for times: www.hsana.org.



Connally High School by Sheila Reed, Principal

We have had a FANTASTIC start to the 2017-2018 school year because we have 200 staff members working each and every day with a common focus... to develop College Ready, Work Place Ready, and Future Ready Citizens with Integrity, Loyalty, and Honor.

The mission of John B. Connally High School is to provide quality learning experiences and to ensure that students are college and career ready, while developing personal responsibility and values that will empower students to achieve to their fullest potential.

The vision of John B. Connally High School is realized through excellence in teaching and leadership by enabling STUDENTS to:

- participate in 21st century blended academic opportunities that allow all students to become contributing citizens in an ever-changing world
- be empowered with high expectations that allow all students to take personal responsibility for their actions and the resulting consequences
- graduate with postsecondary personal, academic, career, and financial skills to accomplish their goals

In collaboration with our families and community we value: ALL children; safety and security; uniqueness and diversity; high expectations; college and career readiness; learning as a lifelong process; and equal access to a quality education. The bridge between home and school is a proven hallmark of student success.

Ways to stay informed about Connally:

- Join the CHS Campus Academic Advisory Council
- Download the Connally App: https://goo.gl/RWz5Qg
- Become a PTA member: www.chspta.org; connallyhspta@ gmail.com
- Connally Website: http://www.pfisd.net/chs
- Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/ConnallyHS/
- Twitter: @JBConnallyHS
- Ask your student about their day.

WBE AIA is back!

by Blythe Jewell Gander, President, WBE AIA PTA

At WB Elementary School Arts Integration Academy, school is back in full swing. We're already off to a running start with our annual fall fundraiser - the Moveathon, which kicked off earlier this month and will take place at the school on September 22^{nd.} This event is a ton of fun, gets our kids moving, and helps raise valuable funds for the PTA – and this year, 10% of funds raised will be donated to Hurricane Harvey Relief efforts, so there's even more of a reason to donate! Visit our web site at http://wellsbranchpta.org/move-a-thon/ for more information and to make a general donation. Other events on our calendar for the coming weeks:

- September 27: Chick-fil-A Spirit Night
- October 6: Ace's Cookout
- October 9-10: Student Holiday/Staff Development
- October 12: School Photos
- October 13: Field Day

For the full calendar, go to 111.wellsbranchpta.org or email us at president@wellsbranchpta.org. Have a great fall!



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You guys are FABULOUS! Summertime is always rough because so many of our steady deliverers that we depend on are out of town, but we put the word out and y'all were truly wonderful. Many, many thanks to each and every one of you.

Bonnie Allison · Dan Barnekow · Anne, Winston, Brady, & Colton Bennett · Emily Berver · Shannon & Durbin Black · Gail Bloch · Christine & Charles Bloemsma · Debbie Brown* · Karen Buerkle · Garland Bullock · Creola Burns · Phil & Dana Carter · Kim Clark · Chris & Alex Connell · Delian Filip · Michelle Gadush · Miriam, Melissa, & Briana Garate · Glen Garey · Dave Gezana · Noe Gonzalez · Carla & Alexander Gordon · Katie Halling · Cynthia Hannon · Chris, Jennifer, & Millie Harper · Dianne Koehler · Gus Kohn · Kim Lanicek · Vicky Linsalata · Angel Lugo · Jane Marawar · Arlie Pfeifer · Peggy & Dave Rackley · Jeremy, Chevonne, Mina, & Marleigh Read · Jennifer & Audrey Ricci · Jon & Jessica Ridge · Barbara Romero · Vangie Sager · Mark Schneider · Julie & Doug Schwartz · Jeremy Selvidge · Tim & Sonya Shaffer · Virgil Smith* · DeLane Spriggs · Jeff & Jeannette Stevens · Marie Streusand · Mark & Margaret Sufke · Debby Thompson* · Pam Wachholz · Mike*, Maura, & Thomas Weis · Daniel White* · Wally Wingfield *Delivered more than one section

As always, thank you to all who contribute articles and share information. Our newsletter continues to grow because of you. Keep the articles coming! Special THANKS to Malita Jones and DeLane Spriggs for recycling and donating their HEB bags for newsletter delivery!

If you would like to deliver the newsletter, please contact our distribution team at info@wbna.us or 512-656-0654. We'll bring the newsletters 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. . If not available, 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.

Wells Branch Garden Guild by Dianne Koehler

Join us for our annual planning meeting on Sept 16 at 11am at the Rec. Center, 3000 Shoreline Drive. We'll be doing a potluck lunch and picking topics for next year's meetings.

We are a friendly group of gardeners with all kinds of interests, largely organic, but flowers, vegetables, trees, and shrubs are all on our plates. We normally meet the third Saturday of every month at 10:30am for a plant/seed swap and then at 11:00am for the presentation at the Rec. Center on Shoreline.

Our meeting in October will be a week late to accommodate the ever popular pumpkin painting in the park. Check the WBNA website, FB page or FB Wells Branch Garden Guild page for up to date information on meetings and more.

Pioneer Pals is Back! by Gwendolyn Johnson, Curator, WB Homestead • Sponsored by WB MUD Parks & Rec. Dept.

Calling all preschoolers and their caregivers! Pioneer Pals is back! Join us on the Homestead lawn starting each Wednesday at 9:30am for this fun, weekly story-time program. We read stories, sing songs, make crafts, and play. It's free to attend and no registration is required. Join us to see old pals and meet new ones too!

For more information, contact Gwendolyn Johnson at gjohnson@wellsbranchmud.com

Mr. PC's Computer Corner by Dave DeVore

Every Windows computer should have a package of basic free programs that will make it more useful, keep it running well and help to keep it secure. The problem for the average person is telling reputable shareware from wonderful sounding bogus software with names like PC Optimizer, Uniblu Registry Cleaner, Driver Updater, Maps Galaxy or a host of others that oftentimes are touted in pop-ups that appear when you are browsing the web, usually in the lower right-hand corner of your screen. Trust me, you don't want the bad ones, they slow down your computer, expose you to identity theft, may hijack your browser settings and search capabilities or worse.

When we prep a new computer or work on one for a new client, our basic list of helpful shareware includes Adobe Reader or Foxit Reader for viewing PDF files, Adobe Flash, Microsoft Silverlight, .NET, Java, Adobe Air and Shockwave to make various web pages work, Skype for video messaging, 7-ZIP file compression, Itunes and VLC for media players, LibreOffice as a Microsoft Office replacement and Malwarebytes for removal of malware.

These packages can be easily downloaded for free and installed in one move from one of our favorite web sites, www.ninite.com. You just check off which programs you want, download a small installer and it does the rest. It installs all your selections in one move, getting the software from the actual manufacturer's web sites. It doesn't ask you any questions you don't know the answers to or add any extra toolbars or advertising.

One other software we install on every computer is the free version of Ccleaner. Years ago, it was called CrapCleaner, which was an appropriate name, since it flushes out temporary Internet files, empties your Recycle Bin and rids your hard drive of other unnecessary files safely. Years ago, Yahoo! decided to sponsor this package, but they are family friendly and told Piriform, the makers of Ccleaner, that the deal depended on a name change. Anyone old enough to remember knows what the "C" in Ccleaner stands for! Now you know the rest of the story. It is now sponsored by Google. It will ask you to upgrade occasionally to a paid version, which is unnecessary. It is available at www.piriform. com.

I hope these software packages make your everyday computing a better experience!

dave@mrpcaustin.com | www.mrpcaustin.com | 512-323-5343

Silver Branchers by Darlene Bauhs

The Silver Branchers continue to meet at 1:00pm each Thursday at the Rec. Center on Shoreline for games and socialization. Starting in September, we anticipate joining in community day trips as they are scheduled. Look for announcements from the WB MUD staff. We view a movie on the last Thursday of each month at Affinity on Owen Tech.

More Brancher news is available at www.facebook.com/silverbranchers/.

WB Photo Club by Margaret McGhee-Sufke

We launched into the summer with a series of basic camera classes closing with a great field session at Mayfield Park. Our talented photographers helped document WB 4th Fest and were active participants in the annual WB Friends of the Library calendar photo contest; once again, several group members' images were chosen as finalists.

The fall meetings will include more hands-on sessions. We will also take our photographic skills into the community to help with all the great seasonal events.

We will continue to meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 6:30-8:30pm at the WB Rec. Center, 3000 Shoreline Drive, Room 100/101.

October 10 - Photo essay program kick-off & critique session November 14 - Still life session

For more info, contact Margaret at mmsufke@gmail.com.

September is Library Card Sign-up

Month by Jeremy Selvidge, Outreach and Technology Librarian

With the new school year in full swing, now is a great time to pick up your most important back-to-school supply: your library card! 2017 marks the 30th anniversary of Library Card Sign-up Month, a time when libraries across the country remind parents, caregivers, and students that signing up for a library card is the first step toward academic achievement and lifelong learning.

The WB Community Library is proud to provide free library cards to all adult Texas residents with proper ID and proof of address. Children and teens ages 5-17 can also register for a library card with a parent or legal guardian present.

Your library card is your ticket to borrow books, movies, magazines, and more! In addition to the DVDs and print books you can borrow, you have free access to tons of online resources:

- Digital books, audiobooks, and magazines
- Downloadable movies and music
- · Language-learning programs
- Homework help and test-prep resources
- · Medical and legal databases
- Job and career search tools

Stop by the WBCL today to find out why a library card is the most valuable card in your wallet! The library is located at 15001 Wells Port Drive and is open seven days a week. For more information, visit our website (www.wblibrary.org) or call 512-989-3188.

www.Storage-Mart.com



15601 FM 1325

First Month FREE 877-STORAGE

Wells Branch is AWESOME!!! Special THANKS to ALL who participated in our July 4th S

The Wells Branch Neighborhood Association would like to thank our neighbors for coming out and supporting our organization through the Silent Auction. We had an incredible turnout and truly appreciate your support once again in our efforts to fund our neighborhood activities over the next year. Our Fourth Fest Silent Auction brought in \$6,708.00 last year, down from \$7,872.50 the previous year (which was a record). This year, we raised \$6,388.00, a decrease of only \$320.00 from last year's total.

As most of you know, this is our big fundraiser. Its purpose is to raise enough money to pay for National Night Out, the annual Easter Egg Hunt, participation in Halloween events, Friday night at Luminary Fest in December and to help with our educational/safety programs and candidate forums. We met our goal thanks to all of YOU! Whether you were a donor, a buyer, a volunteer, or the WB MUD, who so graciously allows us use of their facilities, you all made a tremendous difference and the WBNA is grateful!

When you see the neighbors listed below, please thank them for supporting our community. In addition, we hope you'll patronize these businesses and join us on October 3rd for Wells Branch's National Night Out Against Crime.

A&T Haight Ranching & Rescue Alex & Tabitha Haight

8520 FM 972, Bartlett, TX 76511 (512) 762-8816 facebook.com/athranchinginc

All Day Lips by Becca Rebecca Jackson

Wells Branch Neighbor (512) 944-6656 becca.allen@gmail.com

Amazing Auto Repair Damon

Wells Branch Neighbor 1601 Hydro Dr., Austin, TX 78728 (512) 383-8000 amazingautoandtransmissionrepair.com

Austin's Embroidery, Alteration & Cleaners

Joe & Anna Duran

Wells Branch Neighbors 3407 Wells Branch Pkwy #725 Austin, TX 78728 (512) 388-4111 austinseac.com

Austin Printing & Mailing Bruce Kuemmel, Owner

Wells Branch Neighbor 6906 Guadalupe Street Austin, TX 78752 (512) 302-1499 austinprint.com

Bedeck Barber & Beauty Salon

13717 N Mopac Expressway, #425 Austin, TX 78728 (512) 470-0923 tinyurl.com/BedeckBBS

Bloemsma's Bees Christine & Charles Bloemsma

Wells Branch Neighbors cbloemsma@me.com bloemsmasbees.com

Bo Asian Bistro Leo Ng

2711 La Frontera Blvd, Ste 260 Round Rock, TX 78681 (512) 388-7033 boasianbistro.com

Karen Booth

Wells Branch Neighbor

Branch Bar-B-Q Chris & Catherine Carby, Owners

1799 Wells Branch Pkwy, Ste 112 Austin, TX 78728 (512) 990-5282 branchbbg.com

Bribery Bakery Jodi Elliott, Owner

2013 Wells Branch Pkwy, Ste 109 Austin, TX 78728 (512) 531-9832 briberybakery.com

Cathy Beyer

Wells Branch Neighbor

Carmina Eaton Agency State Farm Insurance Carmina Eaton, Agent

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Silent Auction! Every year just keeps getting better and better! by Debby Thompson, WBNA President

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Amisha Gidda, Primary Trainer Camp Gladiator amisha.gidda@gmail.com

amisha.gidda@gmail.con campgladiator.com

Golden Corral #934Michael Burress, Hospitality Mgr. 12509 N. Lamar Blvd.

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The Healing Acupuncture Center Karen E. Nunley, L.Ac. Wells Branch Neighbor 8705 Shoal Creek Blvd. #113

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mecbarr@yahoo.com

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Brittany Sechrist
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Debbie SchultzWells Branch Neighbor

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Thelma Wells Friend of Wells Branch

Wells Branch Soccer Association Chris Connell, VP/Registrar Wells Branch Neighbors wellsbranchsoccer.com facebook.com/ WellsBranchSoccer/

Wells Branch Vision Care Derek Hamilton, OD

13717 N Mopac Expwy Austin, TX 78727 (512) 251.4040 wellsbranchvisioncare.com

Wings N More Leo Viera

1200 W Howard Lane Austin, TX 78753 (512) 989-9028 wingsnmore-austin.com

Bre'Anna & Pamela Woodward Wells Branch Neighbors

We also thank our many donors who wish to remain anonymous.

Last, but not least, the WBNA would like to thank all of our Silent Auction volunteers. EXTRA SPECIAL THANKS to our Silent Auction Chairperson, Gus Kohn and all the amazing neighbors who devoted so much time seeking donations, planning and organizing, working the day of, feeding us wonderful Honey-Baked Ham, and making sure the event was memorialized in photos: Lara Bennett, Emily Berver, Cathy Beyer, Debbie Brown, Joy Bryant, Steve Hilchey, Dianne Koehler, Sherrie Lindig, Donna Malone, Janet Maxey, Patsy Nelson-Farmer, Arlie Pfeifer, Lisa Rankine, Ralph Simon, Tracy Simon, Marie Streusand, Mark & Margaret Sufke, Pam Wachholz, Chuck Walters. Pamela & Bre Woodward, and Tom & Debbie Zimmer. If I've left anyone out, please accept my sincere apology, let me know, and we'll get you properly recognized! Thanks so much EVERYONE for making it happen!!!

If you haven't seen the photos, they're on the WBNA Facebook page in individual albums. Feel free to download, tag and share.

easons

Our appreciation for your continuous support throughout the years."

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Save the Date – October 28 Day of Disc Golf for Veterans by Brian Litke

The 4th Annual Day of Disc Golf for Veterans will take place on October 28, 2017. Veterans play for free and supporters pay \$15 to play. Participants will receive a custom design disc, and food and drinks will be provided for players after the round. All money will go to support the disc purchase and food for the participants.

To signup or for more information, check the Facebook page for the event at

https://www.facebook.com/events/117695708827597/

It is Bird Migration Time by Wanda Holcombe

Keep your eyes on the skies as the Fall Migration has begun. The annual, large-scale movement of birds between their breeding (summer) homes and their non-breeding (winter) grounds has begun. There are over 650 species of North American breeding birds, and more than half are migratory.



Photo by Rob White

Migrating birds find our Wells Branch trees along the trails and our backyards a good stopover on their way south. Already Orioles have

been spotted at a backyard feeder. To attract Orioles to your yard, put out oranges cut in half (see photo).

According to All About Birds, "The secrets of their amazing navigational skills aren't fully understood, partly because birds combine several different types of senses when they navigate. Birds can get compass information from the sun, the stars, and by sensing the earth's magnetic field. They also get information from the position of the setting sun and from landmarks seen during the day."

This is a fascinating time in the world of birding and much more information can be found on the internet, on the ebird. org website, the Travis Audubon Society site: travisaudubon. org/, and in books at our local Wells Branch Community Library.

How fortunate are we in Wells Branch to have many birds that stay with us year-round. For a list of some of these birds along with photos and info on each, visit WBNA.us under the Community tab.

Fall Hosted Bird Walks in Wells Branch are held on the 2nd Monday and 3rd Saturday of each month at 8am starting at the Mills Pond Gazebo off Wells Port Drive. We hope you'll join us!

Happy Birding!

Wanda Holcombe | wandah70@gmail.com Sharon Richardson | sharonorichardson@gmail.com Heather Johnson | frioswimmer@gmail.com Paul Wadehra | paul.wadehra@gmail.com Karen Hagemann | khallhagemann@hotmail.com



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1 qt. Potato Salad, 1 qt. Cole Slaw,

Pickles, Onions & Bread

*Substitutions \$1.50 each

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Northwest Elementary by Nathan Steenport, Principal

We've had a wonderful first few weeks here at Northwest Elementary! Our staff has been busy teaching students class-room expectations and building center rotations. We focus a great deal of attention on management and structures so our students know exactly what is expected of them and so they take more control of their learning.

Northwest is an extremely diverse community of students from all over the world. We have a long standing tradition of academic excellence and social emotional learning (SEL) within each classroom. In addition, we celebrated our 30th anniversary last year, which was touted throughout the district, and just finished refurbishing our campus with new floors, paint and A/C units. The campus looks great!

Communication

Remind 101: The best way to get last-minute details for what is happening at NES. To sign up, text 81010 to @pfnesfam.

Northwest ES Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/ PISDNorthwest/. Look for pictures to be posted from around the campus and updates of future events.

Northwest Twitter: @NorthwestES

Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)

Our PTO is currently looking for active parents to support all of our campus initiatives. Everything they do positively affects what happens in the school and classroom.

If you would like more information about joining, please email our PTO president, Cristina Cortez, at sweetskye08@gmail.com

Join us for our annual Fall Festival on October 21st from 5-8pm.

Check online for other scheduled events & activities.

Fitness in WB by Katie Hutcheson, WB MUD Aquatics Supervisor

Aquafit Classes

WB MUD offers Aquafit classes year-round each Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 1-2pm at Willow Bend Pool. This class requires the MUD Multi-class card; for more information visit wellsbranchmud.com.

Please wear swim attire, bring a water bottle and towel. If it is raining or below 55°, we will not meet. Otherwise, we are there year round. See you at the pool!

WB MUD Swim Across Texas Program

We will collect lap swim mileage from November 1, 2017 to February 28, 2018. Together we'll calculate and track your mileage. For example: Wells Branch to Wimberley is 55 miles, Wells Branch to Fredericksburg is 67 miles or Wells Branch to College Station is 88 miles. You can pick a city of your choice to swim to if you have another destination in mind. The top three swimmers with the most mileage on February 28 will receive an individual Recreation Tag for the following year.

There's no initiation fee; just email Katie at khutcheson@ wellsbranchmud.com and let her know you are interested. After you finish your daily lap swim at Willow Bend, email Katie to let her know your mileage. On March 1, 2018, the top three swimmers who have swum to the farthest city from Wells Branch (most miles) will win! There will be a map on the bulletin board at Willow Bend Pool with posted results updated weekly.

You can enter anytime but the earlier the better if you want to be one of the top three at the end of February!

WB Walking Club

Get out and take advantage of this beautiful weather we're having! Temps are mild in the morning and the trails are beautiful. Fall is here and a perfect time to start walking! WB Walking Club meets in front of KF Pool at 7:30am and 8:30am on Tuesdays & Thursdays and utilizes the Wells Branch MUD trails. The 7:30am group walks at a faster pace and for longer distances while the 8:30am group is best for beginners or those who'd like to take it a little more slowly and enjoy the scenery.

For more info on the above of programs, contact Katie Hutcheson at khutcheson@wellsbranchmud.com.

Above programs sponsored by WB MUD Aquatics and Parks & Rec. Depts.

WB Running Club by Kara Myers

The Wells Branch Running Club is a completely free and fun group of community members who meet every Tuesday and Thursday at 5:45am at the Gazebo in KF Park. Workouts are tailored to meet the needs of every individual with members running at all different paces. Come join the fun!

We are now on Twitter @wellsbranch_run and Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/wellsbranchrunclub/.

Contact Kara at karamyers@austin.rr.com or 512-470-9782.



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

Edward **Jones**

AKING SENSE OF INVESTING Member SIF

BSA Cub Scout Packs 140 & 728 News

Calling all elementary age boys! We have two dynamic Cub Scout Packs right here in WB. Both Packs have an exciting year ahead of them. It's not too late for your son to join.

To learn more about Pack 140, visit Pack140.org, email info@ Pack140.org, or call 512-627-9741. For information on Pack 728, email WBPack728@gmail.com.

BSA Venture Crew 1409 by Jill Douglass, Advisor

Crew 1409's Colorado adventure did NOT go as planned. The first "challenge" was the car breakdown in Dalhart, Texas which was frustrating and stressful and led to some of the Scouts arriving a day later than expected. The second "challenge" was the stomach virus that hit the Crew at 11.000 feet. We had to make the disappointing decision the second morning on the trail to not continue our loop. Climbing two 12,500 foot passes in 6 miles was not something safe to ask two crew members who were sick. Instead we hiked down the mountain a bit, set up a base camp, and recovered. Card games, charades, snow cone making, and recovery filled our days. We survived some awesome thunderstorms with hail and lightning and minor tent flooding. We became familiar with our neighborly yellow bellied marmot. During this time we had no running water (we had to filter from the mountain streams) or toilets. This made managing illness and Leave No Trace a challenge. The crew, though disappointed, did have lots of new experiences, just not the ones they imagined. Never fear, we are hoping to take on the mountains in better health during Spring Break. Snowshoeing and snow shelters are on the itinerary!

Venturing is a youth development program of the Boy Scouts of America for young men and women who are 14 – 20 years of age. Contact Jill Douglass (512-293-9022 / jdouglass@crew1409.com) for questions about the Crew. Visit http://www.Crew1409.com/ to learn more!

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BSA Troop 1409 News by Daniel White, Committee Chair

Troop 1409 held a leadership and parents planning session on August 19 to plan ahead for Troop activities throughout the school year. We have lots of fun, camping, and service coming our way.

It's popcorn time once again and the Scouts are busy taking orders; Show & Sell begins soon. This is one of the major fundraisers for Scouting. Our Scouts use the profits to pay for their Scouting activities. Help support your Wells Branch Scouts - Buy popcorn!

Interested in Scouting? We always welcome new youth between the ages of 11 to 18! Contact scoutmaster@ Troop1409.com for more information or visit our website at http://www.Troop1409.com/ or our Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/Troop1409/

BSA Venture Crew 1409 Extreme Clean Fundraiser by Debby Thompson

Each quarter, the WBNA has requests for help transporting items to Extreme Clean. The young men and women of our WB Venture Crew have stepped up and offered to organize trailer transportation of larger items to the Extreme Clean event on October 14. The service is free, but donations will be accepted. All monies received will be used for future Venturing endeavors.

Transportation is limited to In-District residents only. Please schedule your pick up with Committee Chair Daniel White by October 9. You may reach him at 512-413-0097 or danwhite-wb@gmail.com.

NOVEMBER 5: Time to "Fall Back"

Daylight Saving Time comes to a close on Sunday, November 5 at 2am. Don't forget to turn your clocks back an hour before bed on Saturday night!



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LIBRARY EVENTS

*Registration required at wblibrary.eventbrite.com.

Friends of the Library Community Garage Sale

Saturday, September 23 from 7:30 a.m. to noon

World Space Week Planetarium Shows*

Friday, October 13 at 6:30 p.m.

Staci Gray Concert*

Wednesday, November 8 at 10:30 a.m.

National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo)
Write-ins

Saturdays, November 4 and 18 from 2 to 5 p.m.

Hands-On Science with Austin Community College* Friday, November 10 at 4:30 and 6 p.m.

FINANCIAL SEMINARS

Planning for Medicare*

Thursday, October 12 at 6:30 p.m.

Understanding Roth IRAs*

Thursday, November 2 at 6:30 p.m.

KIDS & TEENS

LEGO Lab (Ages 5+)

Mondays from 4 to 5 p.m.

LEGO robotics and free play. Robotics registration at 3:30.

Rueda de Amigos (Ages 0-3)

Tuesdays from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Learn vocabulary and early concepts in this Spanishlanguage circle time!

Circle Time (Ages 0-3)

Wednesdays from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Learn through song and play in a first classroom experience!

Arts and Crafts (Ages 5+)

Wednesdays at 6 p.m. (Tickets available at 5:30 p.m.)

Make a new craft each week!

Sign Language Storytimes (All Ages)

Thursdays at 11 a.m.

Enjoy stories and songs in sign language!

Storytime & Craft (All Ages)

Saturdays at 11 a.m. | Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. Hear stories and make a simple craft!

Teen Library Council Meetings (Ages 10+)

Second Saturday of each month at 2 p.m.

Earn volunteer hours and make your voice heard!

HALLOWEEN EVENTS

Spooky Family Film: Hold That Ghost

Friday, October 27 at 6:30 p.m.

Trick-or-Treating and Face Painting

Tuesday, October 31 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.



UPCOMING CLOSURES

Saturday, September 23

Library opens at 2 p.m. (FOL Garage Sale)

Thursday, October 26

Library closed for Inventory

Wednesday, November 22

Library closes early at 4 p.m.

Thursday and Friday, November 23 & 24

Library closed for Thanksgiving

ADULTS

Spanish Conversation Hour

First and third Mondays of each month at 6:30 p.m. Practice your speaking and listening skills with others!

Wells Branch Writers' Guild

First Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Visit the library's website to join the online forum!

Outside the Lines: Coloring Club for Adults

Third Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m.

De-stress and make friends while coloring at the library!

Morning Yoga

First and third Thursdays of each month at 10:30 a.m. Please bring your own yoga mat.

English Conversation Group

First and third Saturdays of each month at 10:30 a.m. All skill levels are welcome.

Computer and Career Workshops

Explore topics like Microsoft Word and Excel, résumé help, and more! See all class offerings and register online at **wblibrary.eventbrite.com**.

MONTHLY BOOK CLUBS

- Steamy Reads: first Wednesday at 6 p.m.
- Wine, Women, & Words: first Thursday at 7 p.m.
- Clueless Mysteries: third Sunday at 3 p.m.

To see everything happening at the Library this fall, check out our event calendar at

WWW.WBLIBRARY.ORG

WB Soccer Kicks Off with a Bang!

By Leisha Richardson, Secretary, WBSA

The Wells Branch Soccer Association (WBSA) fall 2017 soccer season has kicked off this month with plenty to celebrate! The Club hit its highest recorded number of players in its history and thanks to the WB MUD, the grand opening of the new WB Soccer Complex! Soccer is definitely topping the charts here in WB with 434 registered players, making up 42 recreational, academy, and competitive teams across ages U6 thru U19. The club's growth continues to demonstrate that WBSA is one of the most family friendly soccer associations in the Austin-Round Rock-Pflugerville metropolitan area.

The season kicked off on September 9 with 14 games played on the beautiful pitches at the new soccer complex. The fun didn't stop there! The annual season kick-off party finished off the day's festivities, welcoming the entire WBSA soccer community and the WB MUD directors to commemorate the opening of the new complex.

A special thanks to all the volunteers who helped make this year's kick-off event a huge success! WBSA is an all-volunteer organization and we couldn't do it without the great support we receive from our volunteer coaches and families!

We invite you to come out and show your support for your

favorite WBSA players. Visit http://wellsbranchsoccer.weebly.com/games.html for the game schedule. For more information about WBSA community events be sure to follow us on Facebook.



Food Pantry in Wells Branch by Yvette Shelton

Did you know that St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church at the corner of Wells Branch and Wells Port has a food pantry? It is open on the $2^{\rm nd}$ and $4^{\rm th}$ Saturdays of January through October. In November and December the food pantry is open on the $2^{\rm nd}$ Saturday of the month. The hours are from 10am to 12pm. All are welcome.

St. Andrews is in partnership with the Central Texas Food Bank. However, we are always in need of donations of dry and canned goods. Canned tuna, chicken, and vegetables as well as peanut butter are always in high demand. Donations are always welcome. They can be dropped off at St. Andrews Monday-Friday from 10am-1pm.

Wells Branch Neighborhood Association will also be collecting food donations for our food pantry at Pumpkin Painting in the Park on Saturday, October 21 from 10am-1pm.

Volunteers to help on food pantry days are needed as well. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Laura Landsman at: laura_landsman@sbcglobal.net.

KWBB Volunteer Days by Shelley Palmer

The Keep Wells Branch Beautiful group has accomplished a great deal over the last few years. KWBB volunteers have removed invasive plants, planted trees, mulched the disc golf course and butterfly garden and have held cleanups all across the District.

Educational components have recently been added to KWBB events. A tree pruning clinic was held earlier this year where Rebecca Johnson of Arborholic, LLC taught the group how to prune small trees. The 2017 September event was a tree scavenger hunt where adult/child teams were tasked with finding twelve different tree species at Mills Pond while making use of the new tree database. The teams were proud to have learned how to identify different Wells Branch trees. Interested in learning more about our WB landscape? Visit http://wellsbranchmud.com/tree-species-lookup

KWBB events are usually held on the first or second Sunday afternoon of the month although sometimes they coincide with a Texas or Austin based event like the It's My Park Day/ Arbor Day Celebration coming up on Saturday, November 4. Find upcoming KWBB events at http://wellsbranchmud.com/parks-a-recreation/keep-wb-beautiful.

In the future, Keep Wells Branch Beautiful events may be educational, involve a creek cleanup, or digging and mulching, but they will always be fun! Join us next month on the second Sunday, October 8, from 4-6pm as we help ready the Eastside Butterfly Garden for fall. Be sure and bring your gloves, and wear long sleeves and close-toed shoes.

KWBB is managed by Katie Hutcheson, WB MUD Aquatics Supervisor. If you have ideas for future events, email Katie at khutcheson@wellsbranchmud.com.



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The Fleischer Family by Kimberly Clark

We are all familiar with the name Katherine Fleischer, since our fantastic neighborhood park bears her name. Have you ever wondered who Katherine Fleischer was?



The history of Katherine Fleischer begins with Katharina Fleischer, her mother. Katharina was a German widow with one living child, Arnold, when she married Herman Fleischer in Berlin, Germany. They then had a son named William. Katharina, Herman, Arnold, and William immigrated by boat to Galveston, Texas in 1886. The Fleischers had five more children after moving to Texas: Eugene, Anna, Wilhemina, Louise, and Katharina (called Katherine or Katie).

In 1901, the Fleischer family purchased a farm in the Merrilltown community, which is now known as Wells Branch. Katharina, Herman's wife, died at the age of 55 in the year 1909. In 1917, Herman left the farm here and moved with his daughters to Round Rock. He passed away in 1925. They are both laid to rest in the Merrilltown Cemetery just north of Merrilltown Drive on FM 1325. The Fleischer's youngest daughter, Katherine (Katie) and her husband Alex Klattenhoff purchased the family farm in 1940. Katherine and Alex, along with their children, sold the land and farm house in 1981 to home developers. You may recognize the names of Katherine and Alex Klattenhoff's children, who have the honor of having streets named after them in Wells Branch: Jennave, Margalene (Delvin Haas was Margalene's husband), and Alex.

I had the pleasure of visiting with Jennave Klattenhoff Fuchs recently. Born in 1929, she is the only living child of Katherine and Alex Klattenhoff. Jennave lives in a retirement home in Pflugerville. Her husband, Wilfred, died in June 2017 after nearly 68 years of marriage. They spent their marriage living in Pflugerville and Round Rock. Jennave was the first baby to be baptized in the rebuilt Immanuel Lutheran Church in Pflugerville, after fire destroyed the original building in 1928. There is a cemetery at the church where other family members are buried, I was told. She was kind enough to share this Fleischer family history with me. Jennave Klattenhoff Fuchs is a living legacy.

Please watch for more Wells Branch history in future issues of the newsletter.

European Dance Guild

Come learn something NEW (or OLD, as the case may be). The European Dance Guild meets on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, from 6 to 8pm in Room 104 of the Rec. Center, 3000 Shoreline Drive. The meeting is free and open to the public. No previous experience is



required. Every dance is taught before it is danced to music. If you can walk, you can do this type of dance. If you have any questions, please contact Daniel White at 512-413-0097.

The WBNA has requested articles from area places of worship outlining their beliefs and involvement in the community. We hope to feature several over the next few months. As with any of our articles, publication is not endorsement. We welcome input and interaction from all faiths. If you'd like to feature a place of worship which serves the Wells Branch area, please contact us at info@wbna.us.

Shoreline Church

by Julianna Morlet, Worship Leader + Social Media, Shoreline Church

Shoreline Church exists to do one thing: introduce people to Jesus. We understand we live a world where evil and tragedy are constantly on the forefront of our devices, televisions and homes. Every single week, we get to walk with people who are searching for something more. *There's got to be something more for me,* is a common phrase we often hear. And the good news is, there is!

With so many incredible churches in the Austin area, we've found our lane to be in helping people know God, find life in a thriving community, and make a difference around our city and around the world.

We believe a relationship with Jesus can completely transform the human life. We believe it, because we've seen it. Over and over and over again, we've seen people walk through our doors, hopeless and defeated, and walk out with a spark of hope.

"The essence of optimism is that it takes no account of the present, but it is a source of inspiration, of vitality and hope where others have resigned; it enables a man to hold his head high, to claim the future for himself and not to abandon it to his enemy." - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Or as Jesus put it, "What do you want Me to do for you?" [The blind man] said, "Lord, let me regain my sight!" Jesus said to him, "Regain your sight; your [personal trust and confident] faith [in Me] has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and began following Jesus. (Luke 18:35-43)

Jesus asks us everyday, What do you want Me to do for you? Is it your family? Your marriage? Your education? Your finances? Do you need healing? Do you need answers? Do you need hope?

At Shoreline, we *know* you will experience Jesus in a fresh way and we *pray* the hope we live into everyday is contagious to our community.

Service Information:

SUNDAYS

North Austin Campus 15201 Burnet Rd, Austin, TX 78728 9:30AM & 11:30AM

South Austin Campus 2008 Brandt Rd, Austin TX 78744 9:30AM, 11:15AM & 12:45PM

http://www.shoreline.net/campuses-and-times



FOL 6th Annual **Community Garage Sale!**

by Tracy Simon, President, Friends of WB Community Library

Reserve your space at wbfriends.org for the FOL community garage sale Saturday, September 23rd from 7am to

Noon in the WBCL parking lot, 15001 Wells Port Drive.

Sell your treasures! Find NEW treasures!

Don't want to be a seller? You can donate items you don't need to the FOL booth; all proceeds go to library programs.

Whatever you choose, come have coffee with your neighbors and shop the many vendors all in one place!

The Best of Wells Branch! Now on Sale!

Our 2018 Friends of the Library Calendar is on its way! Sales start September 23 rd at the FOL Garage Sale. Over 200 Wells Branch neighbors voted for their favorite photos at FourthFest. Special thanks to



volunteers Marie Streusand and Debbie and Tom Zimmer for their help on the 4th. Come see if the photos you voted for are in the calendar! After all, it is "The Best of Wells Branch!"

Jubilee Academies by Sylvia Brito (Athlos & WB Leadership Academy)

Our charter school welcomes applications from K - 8th grade. We are located right in the heart of Wells Branch. Visit our website for more information. http://www.athlosaustin.org/.

Come and see what we are all about. Athlos Leadership Academy conducts campus tours by appointment every Tuesday from 8:30-3:30. Call 512-872-8400 today to schedule your tour! Questions?

Email Blake.Schneider@JubileeAcademic.org.

Interested in volunteering? Please see http://www.ala.mypto.org.

Middle School Back to School Bash

Jubilee Academies Middle School would like to welcome the community to come enjoy a night of fun and games! Open to all current 6th-8th grade students in the Wells Branch community.

September 29th | 6:30-9:30pm | 3711 Shoreline Drive \$5 entry fee includes: 2 slices of pizza and a drink.

Upcoming Events

October 13 | 9am | Hispanic Heritage Assembly | WBLA

October 27 | 5:30-8:30pm | Fall Fest | Athlos

October 27 | 7 Habits Night | WBLA

November 9 | Veteran's Day Celebration | Athlos & WBLA

November 17 | Thanksgiving Family Lunch | Athlos

December 7 | Art Showcase, Winter Concert, and Literacy

Night | WBLA

Annexation Relief at Long Last

by Derek Cohen, Ph.D., Wells Branch Resident

On August 15th, Governor Abbott signed Senate Bill 6 into law, curtailing the authority of home-rule cities to unilaterally annex surrounding areas.

Historically, annexation was used as a mechanism for budding cities to grow organically beyond existing borders. As unincorporated areas developed and became less distinguishable from the neighboring city, annexation provided a legal framework for extending municipal services – and subsequent tax obligations to fund them - to the annexed area. However, after decades of dubious land grabs, unfulfilled service obligations, and manifold increases in municipal tax rates, Texans have realized that annexation is best executed when both the city and residents of a targeted area negotiate from equal footing.

This is what SB 6 enshrined into law: that residents are brought within the boundaries of a city democratically when it serves the mutual interest of both parties. If Austin were to move to annex Wells Branch, the move would have to pass a democratic vote.

The complexity of the existing local government code and the enacted legislation has led to some confusion surrounding whether or not Wells Branch is still eligible for annexation. Specifically, the bill exempts areas that are presently operating under strategic partnership agreements (SPA) with the annexing municipality. Oftentimes, these agreements establish a date certain for annexation.

Unfortunately, for the residents of River Place and Shady Hollow – two outlying areas with annexation agreements in place – jurisdictions with existing SPAs are exempt from the bill's protections. The concerted showing of citizens from these areas during open testimony on the legislation underscored how important the issue has become. Luckily, Wells Branch is not party to such an agreement in place with the City of Austin. Unless we were to enter into one before December 1St, the full protections of SB 6 apply to us.

There is one lingering point of concern. Well Branch is currently under a consent agreement with Austin to provide water and wastewater service to the District; an agreement due to expire in the not-too-distant future. At this time, the District will have to renegotiate certain terms of its relationship with Austin, which distally affect how much water costs its residents. As with most monopolies, there is nothing to restrain the seller from drastically increasing the price to consumers. While the legation includes a clause that prohibits retaliatory price increases, loose language renders this measure largely unenforceable.

There may come a future date where it is in the mutual interest of the residents of Wells Branch and the City of Austin for the district to become fully and formally part of the city. SB 6 does not prevent this from happening; it simply ensures that all of our neighbors have direct input in the process.

November 7th Constitutional Amendment & Travis County Bond Election-Affects WB! by Debby Thompson, WBNA President

This election season, Wells Branch residents will be voting on Constitutional Amendments as well as Travis County Bond Propositions. Historically, we've seen very low voter turnout at these elections. Let's change that, Wells Branch!

For a list of the seven Amendments as they will appear on your ballot in November, please visit https://www.votetexas.gov/voting/constitutional-amedments/2017-constitutional-amendment-ballot-language.html.

As always, the WBNA encourages everyone to research issues and make an informed decision. Guides were not yet available at the time of publication. However, the League of Women Voters publishes an impartial guide prior to each election at http://lwvaustin.org/voter-guide/.

In addition to the Constitutional Amendments, Travis County has two Bonds totaling \$185 million up for consideration: Proposition A, Roadway, Draining, Bridge, Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects; and Proposition B, Parks and Conservation Easements Projects. Should these bonds pass, the estimated increase to taxes for a home valued at \$250k is \$19.75 per year, less than \$2 per month. To calculate the impact to your taxes, visit: https://www.traviscountytx.gov/2017-bond-calculator.

Issues Important to Wells Branch

Included in this bond package are additions to Grand Avenue Parkway: the construction of a new four-lane divided roadway with bike lanes and sidewalks from Bratton Lane to Crissom Lane and two additional lanes from Crissom Lane to 350 feet north of Roller Crossing enabling east-west travel between IH 35 and 1325/MoPac, hopefully helping to relieve some of the congestion on Wells Branch Pkwy and offering additional routes out of the neighborhood.

Already included in this year's budget: a Wells Branch Pkwy Comprehensive Study to evaluate and improve safety, roadway design and signal coordination and efficiency along Wells Branch Pkwy from Interstate 35 to MoPac Boulevard (Loop 1)

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- Homes sold for MORE MONEY: 100.7% average list/sales price ratio for Tammy's homes sold* vs. 99.6% Wells Branch average
- ♦ 63 Wells Branch homes sales since 2003
- ♦ 30 WB homes sales between 2012—2016
- ♦ Average of 6 WB homes sold every year*
- All 5-star customer reviews



*Based on Tammy's Wells Branch sales from 2012—2016



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www.HomeSalesAustinTexas.com

and a Wells Branch Parkway/Howard Lane median modification which would add and extend left turn lanes on Wells Branch approaching the Howard Lane intersection and close the median opening between Howard Lane and MoPac.

Information on all the projects may be found at: https://www.traviscountytx.gov/cbac/project



Last day to register to vote in the Nov. 7^{th} election is Oct. 10^{th}

Contact us: VOTE@wbna.us or (512) 656-0654 or Register at National Nightt Out

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 2017 Fall 2017				
	I am: re	enewing my membership	a new m	ember	
Name(s)	E-mail:				
Address:		Phone:			
I/we want to h	elp with: Ne	wsletter Delivery	_Crime Watch	July 4th	
Eas	ter Egg Hunt	Nat'l Night	Out _	Luminary Fest	
MAIL TO: WBNA Membership, 2104 Klattenhoff, Austin, TX. 78728					