

HAPPY
INDEPENDENCE
DAY
4th of JULY



4th Fest! Celebrate Independence Day the WB Way! by Debby Thompson

Roll out the Red, White & Blue! If you haven't decorated yet, you better get busy! Let's show our Wells Branch Spirit. Meet in front of the community center at 9:30am.

The parade takes off at 10am. If you've never been to one of our parades before, then you should probably know we have decorated bikes, wagons, trailers, DOGS, KIDS, hats, motorcycles and floats. It's a grand event! If you wish to include a float in this year's parade, please contact the MUD Rec. Staff at 512-251-9814.

2017 Parade Route

Klattenhoff Dr. (facing east) => Depart Community Center
=> East on Klattenhoff Drive => Right on Surrender Drive
=> Left on Delvin Lane => Right on Weldon Lane
=> Left on Gaylord Drive => Left on Sandy Side Drive
=> Cross over Klattenhoff Drive => Left on Crystal Shore Dr.
=> Right on Klattenhoff Drive => Return to KF Park

When the parade returns to the Community Center, we kick off a FULL day of events. There'll be children's activities throughout the park from 11am-3pm and free admission to KF Pool with games there from 12-3pm. The Kiddy Train will be all revved up and giving rides and there'll be balloon clowns and carnival games in the courtyard and inflatables in the park from 11-3pm. Be sure and look for the dunk tank and capture a moment in the 4thFest photo booth. Cool off inside the CC and get your face painted, visit the WBNA Silent Auction and don't forget to stop by the Friends of the Library table and vote for your favorite photos for their 2018 calendar. **ALL FOR FREE!!!**

Live entertainment starts at 11am and goes through 5pm under the Big Tent with a magician, live music by the *Camille Sanders Trio*, a ventriloquist, and then MORE music! Throughout the day, concessions will be available from local restaurants and community service groups offering a variety of items to enjoy. For over 20 years, Branch BBQ has been on hand at 4thFest with their fabulous chopped beef sandwiches and for fans of Chon Som, they'll make their annual reappearance serving Asian cuisine. El Faro will be here as well with their delicious fajitas and for the first time, we'll have Johnny Beans on hand serving coffee, pastries and iced coffee drinks. For a complete list of entertainment, visit wbna.us or wellsbranchmud.com.

The Silent Auction is back this year and benefits the WBNA. Money raised from this event funds the Easter Egg Hunt, National Night Out, our participation in Halloween Trunk or Treat, Friday night at Luminary Fest and all of the educational and safety seminars we put on throughout the year. Come check out all the wonderful gift baskets and gift certificates donated by WB friends, neighbors and businesses and start placing your bids as soon as the parade returns. Contact Debby Thompson at 512-656-0654 or SilentAuction@wbna.us if you have an item or service you'd like to donate or if you'd like to volunteer at the Silent Auction. We can **ALWAYS** use a hand!

As the afternoon winds down, we hope you'll join us as WB Celebrates Independence Day with a fireworks show to remember. Please see the map and information on page 2 for parking and viewing areas. **Come show your spirit, and remember YOU make Wells Branch GREAT!**

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Fireworks Location Reminder

As a reminder, WB MUD will launch the July 4th fireworks display from the soccer field/detention pond on Shoreline Drive between the Rec Center and Fire Station.

Please refer to the map to the left for designated seating areas and we suggest being in your seats by 9pm, as the fireworks begin at dark.

Although parking is available along the street and in the Willow Bend Pool parking lot, the number of spaces are limited, so we encourage all that can, to walk or ride bikes. Please come early, bring your blankets, chairs, coolers and bugspray.

Don't forget to clear your area and pick up your trash when you leave. Thank you!

Questions? Call the MUD Rec Center at 512-251-9814.

**Fireworks display is subject to change or cancellation depending on weather conditions so check our website for updates.*

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Page 2

Hot Cars Kill Dogs

On an 85° day, it only takes **10 minutes** for the inside of your car to reach **102°!**

Cracking the windows or parking in the shade is NOT ENOUGH.

If you see a dog in a hot car:

1. Record information about the vehicle
2. Alert the management of the business
3. Call your local police department
4. Stay with the dog until help arrives



WWW.ASHEVILLEHUMANE.ORG

Heat Kills! Courtesy of Asheville Humane Society

Steamy, summer temperatures are here, which means our canine friends should not be left inside cars... not even for a minute! Running into a store "just for a minute" can easily turn into 10 or 20 minutes, which is long enough for your car to turn into an oven. Cracking the windows or parking in the shade does **NOT** keep the temperature at a safe level. Pets can't withstand high temperatures—heatstroke can cause irreparable organ damage and even death. If you love your dog, leave him at home! And if you see a dog in a hot car, follow the tips above. Let's all work together to keep the pets of our community safe!

Help our Rainy Day Fund! Austin Wildlife Rescue

by Cynthia Robertson

Many of you have asked how to help Austin Wildlife Rescue. With over 6,000 animals a year, our greatest need is always cash to pay for formula and medications. You can make a donation on our website at www.austinwildliferescue.org.

Another critical need is items from our Amazon list. Items are shipped directly to us at no cost to you. Visit our Wish List through Amazon.com or make a donation of items such as Bounty paper towels, Bleach, Wild Bird Seed, Laundry Detergent (Gentle), used large bath or beach towels, or used pillow cases.

Text or call Cynthia Robertson at 512-653-0517 for pickup. Or, to make it even easier, next time you are at Wal-Mart or HEB, purchase a gift card for staff to buy fruits and veggies for the animals. Gift cards can be mailed to: Wildlife Rescue, P.O. Box 302695, Austin, Texas 78703.

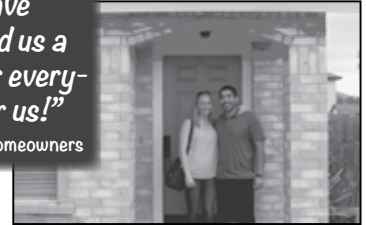
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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – Help People in Your Community

by Tyke McFarland

Thinking about helping others? Have a little extra time this summer? Want a flexible volunteer schedule? We need YOU! You can choose when, where, and how you volunteer. Drive a Senior (DaS) is a community non-profit that provides free transportation to seniors who no longer drive. We are looking for volunteer drivers and people who can help with client phone calls/scheduling. Contact us and help a neighbor remain independent. Email (nc@driveasenior.org) or call (512-302-5980).

Volunteer with Meals on Wheels

by Kim Lanicek

My children and I have been delivering Meals on Wheels for 10 years. It is a gift to serve, and a rare chance to directly help individuals in your community one meal at a time. Meals on Wheels needs additional volunteers each summer as many of their regular volunteers go out of town on vacation.

There is a short training video. When a substitute driver is needed, Meals on Wheels will contact you in the morning and ask if you're available that day. If you can deliver, they'll give you the route details. If not, just let them know! It's that simple!

Visit www.mealsonwheelscentraltexas.org/ or call 512-476-MEAL(6325) or for more information.

Coyote Sightings in WB

by Monte Neal

Running again for safety's sake! With the increase in construction just north and west of Wells Branch, we've seen a rise in coyote sightings, hearing packs at night, and reports of several missing cats.



Photo taken by Brian Walters off Mocha Trail

It's four months later and we're still losing pets to coyotes. Please visit the sites listed below and make sure you're following all their tips. Most of all, keep your pets inside from just before dusk until after dawn.

Here are links to a great hand out from Travis County to download, the City of Austin webpage on coyotes, and the Humane Society page. All cover tips on deterring coyotes and discuss how to best protect your fur babies.

Living with Urban Coyotes in Austin/Travis County - What to do. Who to call. austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Animal_Services/UrbanCoyote-web.pdf

<http://www.austintexas.gov/department/coyotes-central-texas>

http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/coyotes/tips/coyotes_pets.html

Be safe, not sorry!

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MUD Events

Teen Pool Parties!

July 21 | August 11 • 9pm-Midnight

KF Pool • 2106 Klattenhoff Drive

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

Have a blast with your friends this summer at WB MUD's late night teen pool parties. They'll have music and pool games. Pizza and Drinks will be provided. Parties are open to anyone between the ages of 12 and 16.

Movies in the Park

July 15 • **Monster Trucks** | August 19 • **Sing**

KF Park • 2106 Klattenhoff Drive

Movies in the Park returns for two more nights this summer. Bring your blankets and chairs

and enjoy a fun-filled night with your family and neighbors. Admission is free. Parking is limited so residents are encouraged to walk or ride a bike. Concession sales begin at 8pm with the movie starting at dusk.

Labor Day Casino Night

September 2 • 6-9pm • WB Rec. Center

WB MUD presents its annual Labor Day Casino Night Saturday, September 2, from 6-9pm. An adult only evening of gaming for MUD residents, this event is for ages 21 and up only and IDs will be checked at the door. Alcohol, sodas, and snacks are free. No alcohol allowed outside of the gym. See you there!



FOL Financial Series by Margaret McGhee-Sufke

While this educational series received many positive comments, the feedback that resonated the loudest was "I wish I had been able to attend." As a result, we will host a special "Reader's Digest" version of the presentations on Sunday September, 17 (venue and time TBD) which will also be live streamed. This session will recap the highlights of each topic, while guiding folks to financial educational resources.

Additionally, we will make the various handouts and notes from ALL the sessions available for download. Once the files are uploaded and ready for review we will send out a message through the WB communication channels.

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

Sessions 1 & 2 - Mr. Philip D. Capriotti, Sr. Senior Tax & Insurance Advisors (STA)

Session 3 - Ms. Carmina Eaton, State Farm Insurance

Session 4 - Ms. Nicole Viator, Edward Jones

Session 5 - Mr. Brad Wiewel, Esq., The Wiewel Law Firm

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 MUD, WB Community Library, Friends of the WB Community Library (FOL) and Wells Branch Neighborhood Association (WBNA) do not endorse nor recommend any specific financial group or individual. The sole intent of this program was to provide educational information.



Plan Ahead for Fireworks Safety

by Allison Struheck, PIO/Community Outreach Coordinator, Prevention Division Pflugerville Fire Dept./Travis County ESD No. 2

Please respect your neighbors if you choose to light fireworks. This year, July 4th falls on a weeknight when many families will be working the next day. Keep in mind that the sound of fireworks can be very stressful for some veterans

and others who experience Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). It also scares many dogs and other pets.

Remember that fireworks are NOT legal to use on or around schools and Travis County parks. They're also not legal on Wells Branch Municipal Utility District (MUD) property, which includes all MUD facilities, parks, trails, greenbelts, the Pond, drainage detention areas, the veloway, and the grassy area located at Robert I. Walker and Charla Circle.

But if you choose to light fireworks in a safe, legal location, Travis County ESD No. 2 (Pflugerville Fire Dept.) wants you to better understand the dangers of fireworks and work together as a family to stay safe. Rather than risking your safety with personal fireworks, we strongly recommend checking out a professional fireworks show. A great option in this area is the 4th Fest in Wells Branch! Here are other safety tips for your family:

Make Fireworks a Family Activity

- Before the holiday, make a point to discuss fireworks safety with everyone in your family to decrease the chance of someone getting hurt.
- Never let children purchase fireworks without parents there — even older kids.
- Insist on adult supervision whenever fireworks are being lit — even for older youth. Children age 10 to 14 years old actually get the second-most number of fireworks burns and injuries, right behind preschoolers and toddlers!
- Kids who are younger than kindergarten-age should never be allowed to hold any fireworks on their own, *including sparklers*. Sparklers reach temperatures of 1,200 degrees, which is hot enough to melt metal. Give little kids glow-sticks instead. Pass the sparklers to much older kids and adults to carefully light ONE at a time — ideally wearing gloves.

Preparing to Light Fireworks

- Only light fireworks OUTSIDE on a flat surface that's far from any homes or buildings. Don't light fireworks near dry grass or leaves — you can catch them on fire.
- Before you light a firework, take a good look around to be sure there aren't any people or pets in range of possibly getting hurt.
- Don't lean over firework devices or place your hand over them when lighting. Immediately back up as far as you can after lighting! The body parts that suffer the most fireworks injuries are fingers, hands, eyes, face, and ears.

Safely Disposing of Fireworks

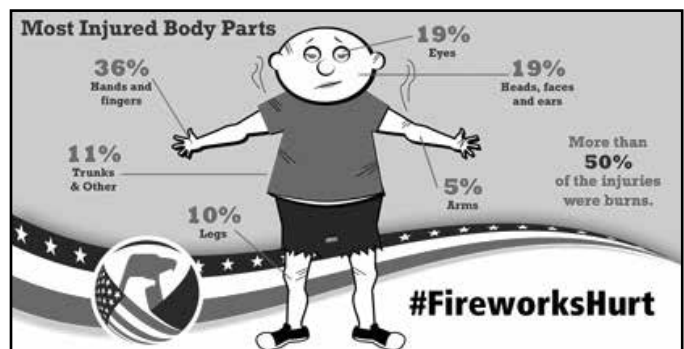
- Don't try to re-light fireworks that didn't work on the first try! Leave them alone, then thoroughly soak them in water with a bucket or hose before you try to handle them.

- Double-wrap ALL fireworks in plastic before throwing them in the trash. The same is true for a firework you find sitting on the ground that looks like it's been used. It may still be active and could re-ignite in your hand or pocket.

NOTE: Fireworks are poisonous to pets. Symptoms may include vomiting, a painful abdomen, and bloody diarrhea. Be sure not to leave behind any used fireworks where pets (yours or someone else's) spend time.

Remember to Stop, Drop and Roll

TEACH children and REMIND adults to Stop, Drop, and Roll with their eyes covered if their clothing or hair catches fire. NEVER run or walk around if on fire! After the fire on the person is put out, remove any burned clothing then wrap the person in a clean, dry blanket to keep them warm until help arrives.



New Google Group for Cyclists



In May, the WBNA hosted a meeting with the Public Works division of the City of Austin regarding urban trails, bike lanes, sidewalks, and plans for connectivity to ETJ areas (Wells Branch). A basic overview of the current systems in place and what is planned (Urban Trails, Tier I & Tier II and forecast timeline for safe overall connectivity for Wells Branch and far North Austin, off road where possible was presented.

Our neighborhood has invested heavily in our trail system, but the MUD can only affect trails within its boundaries; we're isolated here and cannot easily and safely connect to any other trail system. Coordination of central authorities (Travis County, COA, MUD) to develop plans to connect our neighborhood with other communities would be ideal.

Our goal for this meeting was to find out, as residents in the ETJ, how can we impact the plan and where to start. Mark Johnson and Joe Wieck have taken the lead in this effort and have started a Google Group for Wells Branch Cyclists with the idea of using it as a place to focus ideas on how to improve cycling facilities in and connecting to Wells Branch.

Whether you cycle occasionally for recreation or are a regular bicycle commuter please feel free to join: <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/wells-branch-cyclists>.

Municipal Annexation Reform in the Texas Legislature

by Joe Petronis

While your mailing address is Austin, you do not technically live within the city limits of Austin. Wells Branch Municipal Utility District (MUD) is a political subdivision located within Austin's Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ). Wells Branch MUD has its own board of directors that is in charge of water, trash, trails, pools, facilities, and other levels of service. The county and Emergency Services District provide basic services such as police, road maintenance, and fire protection.

Currently cities can annex areas that are in its ETJ into its city limits almost at will. If the City of Austin wanted to, it could annex Wells Branch and we would lose our local control. The city has to give a 3 year notice, but the area being annexed has little to no say in the process. Municipal Annexation Reform has been a big topic at the State Capitol as cities are being criticized for abusing their annexation power. Typically a city will annex an area motivated by tax revenue but not maintain the area to the same standard as before and the residents suffer.

During this legislature session, Senator Donna Campbell and Representative Dan Huberty submitted bills that would allow the residents who are being annexed to vote before the city could annex them. This would give the citizens power in choosing if they wanted to be annexed by the city or not. If the voters rejected the city's annexation proposal, the city would have to wait a year before another vote could occur.

The bill passed the Senate and the House; but each had different amendments added to it. To get to the final version, a special committee of both Senators and Representatives was formed. The House voted and passed this final version as the very last bill of the session. However in the Senate, Jose Menendez from San Antonio conducted a 2 hour filibuster that killed the bill. Kirk Watson, our state senator, participated in the filibuster.

There is a ray of hope for this year. Governor Greg Abbott has called for a Special Session. One of the items listed is Municipal Annexation Reform. While we do not know for certain if the Senate and House will actually make meaningful reforms; there is a very good chance they will. Other good news is that our state representative Celia Israel has been extremely supportive of the Annexation Reforms. She voted for it throughout the process. I encourage everyone to stay engaged as this issue directly impacts Wells Branch. We need to continue pushing for a right to vote on where we live and for what is in the best interest of our community.

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 meetings are open to anyone and are free. 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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KUDOS



Thank you all for taking time out of your weekends to volunteer distributing our neighborhood newsletter. Your efforts in helping build and maintain our community spirit truly have a positive impact on Wells Branch. This issue we have combined KUDOS for the March and May deliveries.

Please, if I've missed anyone, let me know so that I may recognize you in the next edition. Special THANKS to Malita Jones and DeLane Spriggs for recycling and donating their HEB bags for newsletter delivery!

March Issue

Dan Barnekow · Emily Berver · Christine & Charles Bloemsma*
Tineke Blythe · Kathy Brown · Creola Burns · Phil & Dana Carter
Kim Clark · Chris & Alex Connell · Delian Filip · Michelle Gadush
Miriam, Melissa & Briana Garate · Dave Gezana · Katie Halling
Carla & Alexander Gordon · Cynthia Hannon · Max & Grant Hatfield
Travers Hough · Bruce Jones* · Jennifer Jones · Kim Lanicek
Brian Litke · Nancy Loomis · Siv, Jyoti & Arjuna Manda*
Dee Marks* · Jeaneane McNulty · Joan & Dave Mead · Jon &
Jessica Ridge · Ron Robinder · Barbara Romero · Vangie Sanger
Mark Schneider · Julie & Doug Schwartz · Sonya & Tim Shaffer
Roxanne Shirvan · Ralph Simon* · Virgil Smith* · DeLane Spriggs
Jeff & Jeannette Stevens · Mark & Margaret Sufke · Debby Thompson*
Jill & J.R. Traffanstedt · Pam Wachholz* · Daniel White*
Wally Wingfield · Pamela & Bre Woodward

May Issue

Dan Barnekow · Emily Berver · Christine & Charles Bloemsma
Karen Buerkle · Creola Burns · Kim Clark · Chris & Alex Connell
Ryan & Alex Faris · Delian Filip · Miriam, Melissa & Briana Garate
Dave Gezana · Carla & Alexander Gordon · Cynthia Hannon · Chris
& Jennifer Harper · Max & Grant Hatfield · Travers Hough · Deanna
Johnson · Bruce Jones* · Jennifer Jones · Dianna & Alex Ladwig
Brian & Rachel LeBansky · Sherrie Lindig · Brian Litke
Nancy Loomis · Angel Lugo · Steve & Donna Lyons
Siv, Jyoti & Arjuna Manda · Dee Marks* · Mikella, Cy & Max Maughan
Michelle McGuire · Joan & Dave Mead · Gary Mueller
Ethan & Haylee Nguyen · Arlie Pfeifer · Jeremy, Chevonne, Mina &
Marleigh Read · Sharon Richardson · Marisa, Nat*, Mischa & Tasha
Sawatphadunkij · Mark Schneider · Julie & Doug Schwartz
Alice Sears · Jeremy Selvidge · Roxanne Shirvan · Virgil Smith*
Sharon Sproat · DeLane Spriggs · Jeff & Jeannette Stevens
Mark & Margaret Sufke · Debby Thompson* · Daniel White*
Amy Williamson · Pamela & Bre Woodward

*Delivered more than one section

See event photos on the
WBNA Facebook page from
Pioneer Fest, Youth Fishing Tournament,
Fourth Fest and more!



Save the Date! First day of school begins August 16th! There's still time to register your child!

Visit www.hsana.org for more information or give us a call at (512) 251 - 5000

Concordia HS Notes by Jim Binneboese

Of special note - On Friday, May 28th 36 students graduated Concordia High School. Our students were truly blessed with a cumulative scholarship value of over \$4.3M. CHS is proud to have been able to educate these 36 young men and women in the many core classes along with special attention to ethics, behavior and the proper social skills to prepare them for their next step in life.

There is still time to register for the 2017/2018 school year. CHS also has developed an aggressive Tuition Assistance Program - we believe that a private Christian education and the benefits of such should be available to all who choose it. If there is interest in attending CHS - please call the office at 512-248-2547 and talk with the office staff.

The traditional "Freshmen Retreat" begins August 14th for two days. The first full day of school will be August 16th. Prior to the beginning of school, there will be an opportunity for freshmen parents and students to meet on Wednesday August 9th at 6:30pm on the CHS campus.

There are several students this next year attending from China. This is a major benefit for all the students as they learn together with kids from other countries. Families are needed to host the Chinese students for the 2017/2018 school year. A monthly stipend is available to cover all expenses.

Athlos Leadership Academy/WB Leadership Academy by Marisa Sawatphadunkij

Our charter school welcomes applicants from K - 8th grade. We are located right in the heart of Wells Branch.

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

July 27 | Middle School Open House

August 11 | Back to school night.

August 16 | First Day of school.

Visit our website for more information <http://www.athlosaustin.org/>. Interested in volunteering? Please see <http://www.ala.my-pto.org>.

WB Photo Club: Summer Update

by Margaret McGhee-Sufke

Summer is in full swing and so is the WB Photo Club! In June, we kicked off our own "Camera Basics Summer Camp". Steve Hilchey led an excellent session on the "Exposure Triangle" which covered the basics of Aperture, Shutter Speed and ISO settings (fstoppers.com also has an excellent short article that highlights the main discussion points).

"Summer Camp" continues July 11 when we offer Part II of Camera Basics. We'll work through bracketing, white balance, and some best practices to leverage basic "magic light" techniques. August 8, we'll host a hands-on session, with a photo op field trip. Be sure to watch the WB community forums for more information.

WB Photo Club meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month, at the WB Rec. Center, 3000 Shoreline Drive, at 6:30pm. Our meetings follow a drop-in session format and are open to the entire community. Questions? Contact Margaret at mmsufke@gmail.com.

FOL Photo Contest Update: Everyone is encouraged to participate! Deadline in June 30th for all photos, with one exception; you may submit your absolute favorite shot of 4th Fest no later than 8pm, July 6. See wbfriends.org for more information.

Precision Camera will hold their "Summer Swap" July 16, 1-5pm at the Precision Camera store on Anderson Lane. (<http://www.precision-camera.com/swapmeet/>)

Fitness in WB by Katie Hutcheson

Aquafit Classes

WB MUD offers Aqua-fit 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, we will not meet. Otherwise, we are there year round. See you at the pool!

WB Walking Club

Get out and take advantage of this beautiful weather! Temps are mild in the morning and the trails are beautiful; summer-time is 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 WB 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 information about either of these programs, contact Katie at 512-516-2621, or khutcheson@wellsbranchmud.com.

WB Running Club by Kara Myers

The WB Running Club is a free and fun group of residents who meet every Tuesday and Thursday at 5:45am at the Gazebo in KF Park. Workouts are tailored to meet all levels with members running at different paces. Come join the fun! Contact karamyers@austin.rr.com or 512-470-9782.

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SUMMER READING

Our Summer Reading Challenge runs **June 1 through July 31!** Register and log your reading at wblibrary.readsquared.com to participate and win fun prizes. Build a better world at the library!



SPECIAL SUMMER PROGRAMS

Register online at wblibrary.eventbrite.com.

Kids Cartooning Show

Wednesday, July 12 at 5 p.m.

Teen and Adult Cartooning Workshop

Wednesday, July 12 at 6 p.m.

Cody Fisher Magic Show

Tuesday, July 18 at 6 p.m.

Summer Reading Finale:

Will Parker Concert with Kona Ice

Saturday, July 29 at 10 a.m.

LIBRARY EVENTS

Crochet for a Cause/Knit for a Need

Sunday, June 25 at 4 p.m.

Thursday, July 20 at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, July 30 at 4 p.m.

Learn knitting and crocheting skills while helping local charities! Materials provided by the library.

Family Movie Nights

Thursdays at 5:30 p.m.

June 29: Despicable Me (PG)

July 6: Moana (PG)

July 27: LEGO Batman (PG)

Coding Club for Adults and Teens

Saturdays in June and July from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Learn coding skills through self-guided practice.

Community Meet & Greet

Sunday, July 9 from 3 to 5 p.m.

Meet your neighbors and make new friends at the library! Refreshments will be provided.

KIDS & TEENS

LEGO Lab (Ages 5+)

Mondays from 4 to 5 p.m.

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

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

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

Make a new craft each week!

Block Parties (Ages 3+)

Thursdays from 2 to 4 p.m.

Free-build with a variety of blocks and bricks!

Thursday Storytimes

Sign Language: first and third Thursdays at 11 a.m.

La Hora del Cuento: second and fourth Thursdays at 11 a.m.

Little Helpers (Ages 4-8)

Fridays at 2 p.m.

Learn how to become a community helper!

Teen Library Council Meetings (Ages 10+)

Second Saturday of each month at 2 p.m.

Earn volunteer hours and make your voice heard!

ADULTS

Spanish Conversation Hour

First Monday 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!

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 summer, check out our event calendar at

WWW.WBLIBRARY.ORG

Summer Safety Reminders

Summer is a great time in Wells Branch - keep yourself and your property safe this summer by following the suggestions in this article.

~ Captain Craig Smith, Travis County Sheriff's Office

Most of the crimes around Wells Branch are crimes of opportunity and unfortunately, those types of crime tend to increase as the weather gets warmer. Make that extra effort to not become a victim.

- Take your keys.
- Lock your car.
- Don't leave anything of value in plain sight. Better yet, take it in the house.
- Keep your garage doors closed; do not leave an open garage unattended.
- Always lock the inside garage door.
- If you park your car in the driveway or on the street, make sure you take the remote garage door opener in with you. A garage door opener gives instant protected access to your home and your belongings.
- Check your mail every single day.
- Be aware of your surroundings at all times.
- Keep your house secure when working in the yard.
- When leaving your home, pay close attention to anything that doesn't look right.
- Never put yourself at risk.

Call 9-1-1 **IMMEDIATELY** if you see **ANYTHING** suspicious. Many of the break-ins we've suffered could have been prevented. The Sheriff's Office can't be everywhere all the time. They rely on neighbors to be their eyes and ears in their absence and to alert them to dangerous situations. Don't stop to ask a friend, the Google Group, Facebook or the folks on Nextdoor. **Call 9-1-1 FIRST**, then share with your neighbors. Time is of the essence. If you're not sure if it's an emergency - **DON'T WORRY** - the dispatcher will prioritize the call. Never be afraid to call! Travis County would much rather answer a false alarm than deal with a tragedy later. If it doesn't feel right, it probably isn't - **CALL!**

A NOTE ABOUT 3-1-1: In short, DON'T USE IT - In a recent copy of *The WORD*, the WB MUD recommended using 3-1-1 to report crimes. Unfortunately, 3-1-1 is a City of Austin service and we're in the county. While you would eventually be routed to the correct entity, it's always best (and quickest) to call 9-1-1 and tell them you're in Travis County. If you need to report a crime that's already taken place (not in progress), you may call the non-emergency number at 512-974-0845 and press 3 to be connected, file a report online at tcsheriff.org/community/file-a-report, or call 9-1-1 and they'll route your call appropriately. 3-1-1 may be used to report street light outages for Austin Energy lights (not Oncor) and Animal Control if it's a non-emergency. **If you're in need of immediate assistance, always call 9-1-1.** In addition, 3-1-1 does not work with some cell carriers when dialed from outside the city limits. To report graffiti for removal, contact the WB MUD via <http://www.wellsbranchmud.com/services/graffiti-report-removal>.



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I MAY HAVE A BUYER FOR YOUR HOME

Dear Neighbors,

I currently live in Wells Branch (I love it!) and have been working with buyers who have been unable to find a home in this area.

In March, the median price for single-family homes in the Austin-Round Rock area **increased 5.6%** to \$295,767, and housing had **2.4 months** of inventory.

Typically, **a market that favors sellers has less than a 6 months supply**, while more than a 6 months supply indicates an excess of homes for sale, thus favoring buyers.

"You don't happen to know of anyone that might be interested in selling a home, do you?"

Please contact me at 512.844.0612 to discuss.

Thanks!

Pat Dixon

Patrick Dixon
"Your Friend in Real Estate"
Patrick@WellsBranchHomePrices.com

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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.



Jogger & Cyclist Safety: Visibility is Key

by Tracy Tuma

Hello everyone! I live in WB and would like to share some observations from my pre-daylight commute to work. There are a significant number of pedestrians and cyclists out and about before the sun comes up. Unfortunately, there are some who are not being as safety conscious as they should be. As I travel northbound on Wells Port to Grand Avenue, I daily pass runners and cyclists who are nearly invisible to drivers. Both the joggers and the cyclists sometimes veer into the designated traffic lanes to avoid parked vehicles. Joggers are running three and four abreast, which puts them outside the designated biking/pedestrian lanes and into the path of oncoming traffic. A majority of those who are out before daylight take proper measures to make themselves visible and I want to thank you. Because you are readily visible I can adjust my speed to well below the posted limit and keep a safe distance between you and my vehicle. If you have to veer into my lane, at least I can see you from a distance and adjust to accommodate you, or even stop until you are safely around my vehicle.

Wells Port is a winding street with blind curves, cars are entering from the side streets and drivers are often focused on other vehicles, not necessarily pedestrians or cyclists. I would feel horrible if I hit someone. An accident of this nature could be life changing for all those involved, particularly the unprotected jogger or cyclist. Even if someone is driving the posted speed limit and you are struck, your injuries could be disabling or lethal. Pavement is not forgiving to the human body!

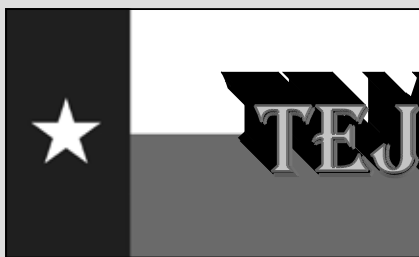
So, to my neighbors who are out exercising before dawn, keep it up, just please do it safely. Make yourself as visible as possible and please try to stay in the designated pedestrian lanes. We can all share the roadways, even in the early morning hours, safely. To all drivers who may be out and about, please drive safely, respect the speed limits and please, please watch for pedestrians and cyclists. Our neighborhood has some wonderful amenities to enjoy nature and stay active. Let's all do our part to keep each other safe and healthy. Thank you!

LFL Scavenger Hunt Ends Soon!

The Wells Branch Little Free Library Scavenger Hunt ends soon! All completed entry forms are due at the 2009 Castle View Drive LFL on June 30 by 7pm. The winners of the Barnes & Noble gift cards will be announced on July 1.

Just because the Hunt is coming to a close doesn't mean you have to stop visiting the LFLs. They're open for the community 24/7, 365 days a year, in all kinds of weather! Our LFLs' success depends on the participation of neighbors. It's YOU who help the LFL book selections circulate when you follow the "take a look, leave a book" philosophy and we hope you continue to enjoy them year 'round.

We'd like your feedback on the Hunt. Should we do one again next year? Do you have other ideas to Keep Wells Branch Reading? Visit wellsbranchreads.com and share your ideas via the Contact Form.



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Vacation "Close Patrol Requests"



If you're traveling this summer, take a few minutes to let the Sheriff's Office know you'll be gone. This is done by calling 512-854-9721 and telling them you'd like to file a "Close Patrol Request". If you have any-

one house/pet sitting or picking up the mail, TCSO will want a description and vehicle information. Your address will be added to a list and when the deputies are in the area or have a free minute, they'll check on your home.

For more info on protecting your home while you're away, look for the TCSO Home Safety series at wbna.us, under the Safety tab.

FOL News by Tracy Simon, President,
Friends of Wells Branch Comm. Library (FOL)

FOL 2018 Calendar Contest Deadline Approaches

Hurry and get your entries in! We've received some amazing photos, but we still need YOURS! The Friends of the Wells Branch Library's second annual contest is well underway. We're in search of 16 photos to grace the 2018 Wells Branch calendar. Your picture could be a WINNER!!

This year's theme is "Best of Wells Branch" - show us what that means to you! Come by and vote on your favorites July 4th during Fourth Fest. We'll be in the Community Center. Pre-order your calendar for September delivery. The contest ends June 30, 2017.

ENTER YOUR PHOTOS NOW!

Please see wbfriends.org or www.facebook.com/WBFOL for more information about FOL, the Garage Sale, and the rules and submission details for the Calendar Contest.

Save the Date! FOL Annual Garage Sale September 23!

Mark your calendar for the 6th Annual FOL Community Garage Sale on Saturday, September 23rd from 7:30am to Noon. The Library will be closed until 1pm. Start saving your garage sale items to sell or donate to the FOL booth! Vendor space reservations will be available in August.

Silver Branchers

by Darlene Bauhs

At our June 8 meeting, the Silver Branchers chose August 3 to host our annual ice cream social. We hope many retirees and their friends will come to get acquainted and indulge in desert. As always, we meet at the Rec. Center on Shoreline Drive at 1pm.

The monthly movie at Affinity on Owen Tech will not be shown in June due to conflicts with July 4 activities. We will resume movies on July 27.

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



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Catherine & Chris Carby

Summer Art Enrichment Camps

by Dianne Koehler, Art Teacher

Summer Art Enrichment Camp is well underway with lots of great projects and a chance for each kid to customize their art. No cookie cutter projects here, except at Artistic Food Camp! Camp is open to kids age 4½ to 12. \$45 fee includes camp and all materials. All camps are held at the WB MUD Rec. Center on Shoreline. For more info, call 512-300-3095 or visit: <https://sites.google.com/site/woodenitbewonderful/art-mini-camps-2017>.

Register online at <http://www.wellsbranchmud.com/parks-a-recreation/youth-programs>.

Junior Artists (Age 7½ - 12) | 12:30-4pm | T-W-Th

July 11-13 | Make it with Clay - FULL

July 18-20 | Painting & Drawing: Traditional & Modern - We'll look at all kinds of artists and their art then do our own projects.

July 25-27 | Puppets & Theatre - We'll create a variety of puppets and a stage and put on a show.

August 1-3 | Wacky Science Art Projects - We will work on colorful applications of science from splitting light into rainbows to exploding color bombs and more.

Beginning Artists Sessions (age 4½ - 7) | 9-11:30am | T-W-Th

July 25-27 | Puppets and Plays - We'll create a variety of puppets and a stage and put on a show.

August 1-3 | Wacky Science Art Projects - We will work on colorful applications of science from crystals and fossils to making bubbling glitter.

August 8-11 | Artistic Projects with Food - Let the kids come play with their food as we make artwork from the fruits and veggies and find ways to serve what we eat.

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BSA Cub Scout Packs 140 & 728 News

Calling all elementary age boys! We have two dynamic Cub Scout Packs right here in WB! With busy summers ahead of them, these boys still find time to serve their community. Watch for both Packs at 4th Fest and Movies in the Park!

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 Troop 1409 News

by Daniel White, Asst. Scoutmaster

Four Scouts from Troop 1409 attended Lost Pines Scout Ranch at the beginning of summer. Two had just crossed over from Cub Scouts and attended Eagle Quest which is a course designed for new Scouts to teach them the basics of Scouting and to earn most of the requirements for the first three ranks. Our other two Scouts chose this opportunity to work on five merit badges each. The Troop will be selling drinks at 4th Fest and Movies in the Park this summer.

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 www.Troop1409.com/ or our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/Troop1409/

BSA Venture Crew 1409

by Jill Douglass, Advisor

The Memorial Day canoe trip was remote, primitive, hot, cold, and AWESOME. We broke one paddle and lost another. We encountered water snakes, LOTS of spiders, longhorn cattle, a dead pig and a dead turtle, hundreds of cliff swallows, and unidentified creatures of the night that generally splashed around in the water making us nervous. We survived the thunderstorm and river rise and arrived on schedule at our takeout point 3 days after starting. Three of our four water filters became clogged from filtering the milk chocolate colored water from the Colorado River. Some of us had lots of chigger bites and while others had none. One unfortunate paddler had a run in with fire ants AND poison ivy. Clearly, you don't have to travel far (San Saba) for adventure. Next on our agenda is a long trek to the Snowmass Wilderness Area in Colorado. We are looking forward to the COLD weather found in the mountains.

Venturing is a youth development program of the Boy Scouts of America for young men and women who are 14 – 20 years of age. Visit www.Crew1409.com/ to learn more or contact jdouglass@crew1409.com.



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Thank You to WBSA Coaches and Volunteers!

by Leisha Richardson, Secretary, WBSA

Soccer has become an integral part of Wells Branch and continues to grow each season due to the tremendous support from the community and the Wells Branch MUD. Every season our volunteer coaches, assistant coaches, team managers, and volunteers give their personal time to help make WBSA the most fun and affordable soccer program in North Austin. This year more than 50 coaches and assistant coaches volunteered thousands of hours to teach the love of the beautiful game and help 370+ kids grow their soccer skills. Team managers worked tirelessly behind the scenes supporting our coaches, helping organize and communicate game details, team events and more. Family and friends volunteered countless hours to help with WBSA and Wells Branch neighborhood events and fundraisers, not to mention transporting players to and from practices and games. And last, but certainly not least, the hours and investment made by the Wells Branch MUD and staff to maintain the beautiful pitches and the construction of an incredible new soccer complex for our soccer players and families. WBSA is an amazing community and the Wells Branch Soccer Association board would like to thank every one of you for all that you do on and off the fields! We couldn't do it without you. We wish you all a wonderful summer and look forward to seeing everyone back this fall.

Don't forget, WBSA Fall 2017 registration is already open! A walk-up registration will be held at the new Wells Branch Soccer Complex at a date to be announced this summer. Don't miss the opportunity to save a little and get signed up by the early bird deadline, which ends at midnight on July 30. Visit www.wellsbranchsoccer.com to learn more.

KWBB Volunteer Days

by Katie Hutcheson

KWBB is taking the hot summer months off, but we'll be back in September! Check wellsbranchmud.com for updates. We encourage everyone to help keep our parks and trails clean. It's as simple as picking up trash when out walking or letting the MUD know if an area needs attention. We're all in this together so let's continue to keep Wells Branch beautiful over the summer even though there won't be any organized work days. Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers. We'll see you this fall!

For further information, please email Katie at khutcheson@wellsbranchmud.com.

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How to Begin Birding?

by Wanda Holcombe

According to Nicholas Lund in his article on *How to Begin Birding* at Audubon.org:

"I'm biased, but in my opinion, birding is the Greatest Pursuit Available It's basically a lifelong scavenger hunt played across the entire earth. It's equal parts science and poetry, hoots of triumph and quiet reflection, adventures to far-flung corners of the world and discoveries in your own back yard..."

WHERE TO BEGIN:

- *In your own back yard or apartment window/or balcony
- *In the beautiful park around you in Wells Branch
- *At the Nature Viewing Station near Mills Pond

1. Get Excited — and Read Up: Start by visiting the WBNA website for a list of the *Top 20 Birds of Wells Branch* found under the Community Tab for Birding in WB. You can also visit the WB Community Library to check out field guides and other books on Birds in Central Texas, or purchase a simple fold out of Birds of Central Texas OR download a Birding App.

2. Gear Up: You need very little equipment to get started, just something to hold to the eye to make those far-away birds a bit bigger. In the beginning, you don't need to worry about what kind of binoculars you're using. Use whatever you have or can borrow and start watching. Binoculars and some form of field guide are plenty to get started.

3. Get Out There: The time has come to actually get outside. There are a lots of resources you can use to determine what birds have been seen nearby, like the "explore data" section of eBird or postings on the WBNA website.

And that's it, you're a birder! Attend one of the hosted Bird Walks in Wells Branch or free bird walks with Travis Audubon Society which are listed on their website: travisaudubon.org

Hosted Bird Walks by Sharon Richardson will continue on the 2nd Monday of each month during the Summer at 8:00 am at the Mills Pond Gazebo: July 10 & August 14. There will be NO Hosted Bird Walks on Saturday this summer, but they will resume in September.

Congratulations on being a birder!

See you at the Bird Walks or along the trail!

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

Connally HS News

Message From the Principal

EVERY day is a GREAT day to be a CONNALLY COUGAR!

I am Sheila Reed, the proud Principal of John B. Connally High School. I am extremely blessed and honored to be the new principal of John B. Connally High School. After nine years at Connally and 20 plus years in education, I will continue my role as a servant leader of an amazing faculty and staff.

The bridge between home and school is a proven hallmark of student success. I look forward to continuing to work with each of you to carry on the proud Connally tradition of making our school an excellent place for students to learn and grow into college ready, workplace ready, and future ready responsible global citizens who exhibit "Integrity, Loyalty and Honor".

Listed below are events worth celebrating that occurred at the end of the 2016 – 2017 school year.

Esther Lovato, UIL State Tennis Tournament – In only her sophomore year, Ester finished 3rd in the State Tennis Tournament. We are so super proud of Esther and look forward to many more years of successful tennis from her.

PfISD recognized the contributions of longtime band director and fine arts coordinator Luis "Chico" Portillo by renaming the Connally High School Performing Arts Center in his honor in conjunction with a celebration the 20th Anniversary Celebration of CHS.

The Class of 2017 graduating seniors went to three of our feeder schools – Northwest, Parmer Lane, and Westview. Seniors, Connally Drum Line and Connally Stars Dance Team paraded in the halls dressed in their caps and gowns. The First Annual Cougar Pride Parade inspired our future Cougars and instilled pride in our graduating Cougars.

On June 3rd at the University of Texas Frank Erwin Center, 412 Connally seniors graduated. The CHS Class of 2017 earned 2.6 million dollars in scholarship money. Congratulations Connally Cougar Class of 2017!

We cannot wait until 2017 – 2018 begins. Keep these key dates in mind; call 512-594-0800 for times.

New Student Registration: July 27 and August 7 - 9

Freshman "Cougar Camp" & Course Selection Verification:
August 15

Course Selection pick up: August 14 and 16

First Day of School: August 28

CHS Open House: September 13

Ways to stay informed about Connally:

Become a PTA member-- www.chspta.org; connallyhspta@gmail.com

Connally Website—www.pfisd.net/Page/450

Facebook – www.facebook.com/Connally-High-School-1458721827756675/

Twitter - @JBConnallyHS

Last but not least, ask your student about their day.

Thank you,
Sheila Reed, Principal

Joe Lee Johnson STEAM Academy News

Message From the Principal

As we have wrapped up our inaugural year at Joe Lee Johnson Elementary STEAM Academy, I would like to express extreme gratitude to The Wells Branch Community. What a wonderful welcome we received this year, into a beautiful neighborhood rich in COMMUNITY! We accomplished many firsts this year, beginning the traditions and a legacy that will grow through the years.

As we look to the future, we are thrilled to continue offering unique educational experiences under the umbrella of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics at Joe Lee Johnson Elementary STEAM Academy. Learning will continue to be designed to engage students in an integrated learning process that will maximize opportunities to think critically, collaborate, communicate and create. Our interdisciplinary instructional practices provide students with a problem based common lens, through which children master knowledge and are able to make important and long lasting connections across content areas. In addition to the interdisciplinary approach to learning, students are offered a wide range of stimulating enrichment experiences that increase their exposure and access to the STEAM fields.

I hope that you enjoy your summer with children. Please make sure to stop by and enjoy books in our library. We ask that you continue to Dream Big for your community, as our students are the future here. Your partnership is paramount in the success of our children.

The first day of the 2017-2018 school year is August 22nd, and the Joe Lee Johnson STEAM Academy Back-to-School Night is August 18th 5:30-7:00pm.

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

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

Sincerely,
Gabrielle Niño, Principal

JLJ STEAM Garden News

by Heather Johnson, Garden Program Coordinator

The Joe Lee Johnson Outdoor learning space is wrapping up our first year, and we're very excited for next year.

Ms. Smith's art class painted practical and attractive plant markers. (Pictured)

Our first produce: tomatoes, kale, lettuce and okra, was shared with the food pantry the first graders started this year.

What an exciting first year!



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Wells Branch Elementary Arts Integration Academy (WBE AIA) News

Message from the Principal

Dear WBE AIA Community,

What a fabulous year of innovation and learning it has been at WBE AIA! Our premier year as an arts integration academy has been an overwhelming success. I look back with delight at the enhanced arts opportunities that have been made available to all students, including fine arts specials daily and extended-day arts enrichment. If you have never stopped in at the front office to watch the weekly video spotlight, I encourage you to do so in the future, as you can not help but smile watching the students' faces as they have such fun dancing, singing, acting, and creating arts throughout the curriculum. The positive impact on student attendance and achievement that was hoped for has been evident in our attendance and performance data...mission accomplished! We look forward to continued innovation in teaching and learning, along with increases in student achievement, as we grow our arts integration programming in the upcoming year through further integrated arts interdisciplinary units and projects, partnerships with the Paramount Theater, community arts presentations and field trips, increased arts enrichment offerings after school, and arts integration professional development for the faculty.

In looking forward to a successful 2017-2018 school year at WBE AIA, please make note of the following dates and events:

WBE AIA Welcome Walk • August 16th, 5:00-7:30pm

Your child's new teacher will come to your home to meet their student and family.

WBE AIA Back-to-School Night • August 17th, 5:30-7:00pm

Bring your school supplies to your child's classroom.

First Day of School in RRISD • August 22nd

School hours are 7:40am-2:55pm and doors open at 7:20am.

I hope you and your family are enjoying an awesome summer! I look forward to seeing you all in August.

Sincerely,
Belinda Cini, Principal



WBE AIA Garden News Dianne Koehler, Garden Curriculum Coordinator

It was a great year in the garden at WBE AIA! With over 30 volunteers, we were able to extend the program to all grades. We had a very enthusiastic group working to raise their plants from seed which gave them a better grasp on the entire process of food from "seed to table." Our kids really embraced the "science" in the garden with soil and plant experiments, worms and compost. They ATE in the garden: our first apple party, herb tea parties, Thanksgiving herb bundles, Salad in the Garden, weekly tastings of strawberries. They even learned about some medicinal plants we grow and how pollinators interact with plants.

The farmers market at Wells Branch Elementary was not without its challenges but we persevered and were able to raise enough \$\$ to support the entire garden program. They also staffed a booth at Spring Fest raising money for the school at large by selling plants and compost. This year's class purchased two self-composting planters for our strawberry crop. The garden is really inspirational. If you have time to lend a hand, just let us know.

Get to Know Your Neighbors at the Library!

by Brittany Hecker, Adult Program & Service Librarian, WBCL

Strong communities start with strong relationships. The people of Wells Branch are a close-knit community, with a wealth of talent and a friendliness that can't be beat!

To celebrate and enrich this sense of community, the library is hosting a Community Meet & Greet Event on July 9th from 3:00-5:00pm. Get to know your neighbors and develop new friendships! Adults, families, and kids of all ages are invited to drop by to talk, play, and create with other Wells Branch residents. We'll have board games, ice-breakers, crafts, and a face-painter for the kids! It's a fun way to beat the heat and meet other wonderful neighbors in our community. Refreshments will be served. Whether you're new to the area or have been here for years, come by to make some new friends this summer!

No registration needed. For more information, email brittany@wblibrary.org or call the library at 512-989-3188.

McNeil High School News

What a great year we had at McNeil. Congratulations to the Class of 2017 and good luck on your next journey. A special congratulations to our two McNeil PTSA scholarship winners; Emma Mokhtar and Wells Branch's own Brianna Wren. We had many amazing scholarship applications but these two ladies really stood out!

For all you super planners out there, here are some important Maverick dates and information.

If you are enrolled next year in Pre-AP World Geography, AP World History, or AP Human Geography, the summer reading assignments are on the schools website - links can be found on the calendar and the scrolling pictures at the top of the home page.

Thursday, August 17 - Junior/Senior Round-up

12:00-1:30 Last Names A-N • 1:30-3:00 Last Names O-Z

Friday, August 18 - 5:30 Colt Camp

Friday, August 18 - 7:00 Meet the Mavs

Tuesday, August 22 - First Day of School

Sophomore schedule pick-up is not on the calendar yet. Be sure to check the McNeil website for updates on times as they may change with the impending construction.

We can't wait to see you all back in August. Have a safe and fun summer.

Go Mavs!

Amy Weir, McNeil PTSA President

Wells Branch Garden Guild by Dianne Koehler

May 20, our annual Wells Branch Garden Tour saw a spectacular turnout in spite of the rainy weather. A good time was had by all! Thanks go out to our coordinator, Susan Gillespie.



On June 10, we met for tomato tasting. We had several varieties on hand to taste along with delicious salsas, homemade relishes, bread and cheese and even some fresh figs. Yum!

For our July 15 meeting, we'll discuss and possibly have a demonstration on creating stone garden walls. With August being the month most likely to inspire water conservation, we'll learn about xeriscape gardening and maintenance. On August 19, we will learn what plants to use, how to install them and how to care for the garden once you have it in place. On September 16, join us for our annual potluck and planning session.

We are a friendly group who meets once a month to discuss gardening. We normally meet every third Saturday of the month at 10:30am for a plant/seed swap and then at 11:00am for the presentation at the Wells Branch Rec. Center, 3000 Shoreline Drive. All are welcome!

Watch for updates at wbna.us or find us on Facebook under Wells Branch Garden Guild.

Northwest Elementary News

Message From the Principal

We have reached the end of the school year and our teachers and students have left for summer break. With that said, I want to take the time to say thank you for making my first year as a principal a memorable one. As I told my staff the other day, coming to work is my happy place and interacting with your children has been a complete joy. They are all wonderful!

Take the time to spend some time with your children this summer. Go on vacation, play outside, and, of course, keep reading with them. Reading, as I have stated over and over, is one of the single most important things our students can do this summer.

Northwest Elementary will be receiving a makeover over the summer. Check out our NES website, Facebook page, and Twitter for construction updates!

Important 2017-2018 Dates

Meet the Teacher: Thursday, August 24th (Time TBD)

First Day of School: Monday, August 28th

Keep Up-To-Date

NES Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/PISDNorthwest/>

NES Twitter: <https://twitter.com/NorthwestES>

NES Webpage: <http://www.pfisd.net/site/Default.aspx?PageID=41>

Have a great summer! Seen you all soon.

Nathan Steenport

Principal Northwest Elementary, Pflugerville ISD

Office: 512-594-4400, Follow me on Twitter @PrincipalSteen

Board Gaming in WB by Matt Valentgas

Did you know that the hobby of board gaming has exploded in the past five years? There are board game shops popping up all around Austin, and even a couple of bars and restaurants that cater to board gamers! While games like Monopoly and Sorry are still sold, there are hundreds of newer games just waiting to be discovered! The Wells Branch Board Game Group invites you to come learn some fun new games—and meet your neighbors!

Most people find the newer games generally more fun to play than older board games. They are designed to keep players engaged in the action for the entire game. Games range from extremely easy to learn with quick game play (no more than 30 minutes) to difficult to learn with hours of game play. There is a game for everyone! If you are new to board games, we will have you playing in minutes!

Our group has a great time—meeting Wells Branch neighbors and playing fun, interesting games—all in a casual, relaxed setting. We welcome you to join us anytime! We meet on the third Sunday of each month from 1 to 5pm at the Wells Branch Community Center.

Save the Date! Day of Disc Golf for Veterans October 28!

by Brian Litke

The 4th Annual Day of Disc Golf for Veterans will take place on October 28, 2017. Last year we had 65 veterans and supporters come out to enjoy playing a round of disc golf together.

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 participants after the round. All money will go to support the disc purchase and food for the participants.

To sign up or for more information, check the Facebook page for the event at <https://www.facebook.com/events/117695708827597/>

Mr. PC's Computer Corner



by Dave DeVore

Ransomware. What is it? I learned firsthand about 6 years ago when I turned on my main business computer only to see a screen divided into quadrants. One had a live picture of me on my webcam, another contained a message saying that Homeland Security had determined that I had done something illegal and needed to pay a \$300 "fine" to regain access to my pc. The next part detailed how I could purchase a MoneyPak (untraceable money) and send it in within 72 hours to get a password or say goodbye to my machine. The last section featured an ominous clock counting down from 72 hours. I knew of such attacks and dove for the wall, pulling the plug. This is not the recommended way to shut down, but I am a trained professional! I restored the computer to its previous state, since the early forms of ransomware merely locked you out of your computer.

Fast forward to today, when these attackers rapidly encrypt (scramble) your files BEFORE they demand the ransom and 99% of the time you can't get your precious documents, pictures of the grandbabies, etc. back unless you pay up. The price has gone up to \$500-\$1000 or more. Besides individuals, businesses are targets. The May attacks against FedEx, the UK's National Health System and 200,000 other businesses and governmental units in 150 countries by WannaCry ransomware highlighted the need for education and more robust protection products. The bad guys don't need to be brilliant hackers anymore. In fact, there are "ransomware kits" for sale on the dark web now that any kid can use.

How can the average person protect themselves? Purchase a good online backup plan from Carbonite, IDrive or a similar solution that maintains a rolling 30 previous days of your files so your data is kept off site and secure. Make sure you have an up to date antivirus package and run it automatically daily. I use the built-in Windows Defender program. Run Windows updates and application updates, since most fixes are security patches. Don't click on pop-ups or email attachments, two of the more common ways these viruses are spread. Don't pay the ransom, unless there are critical files involved. I hope these pointers help keep my WB neighbors from the heartache of ransomware!

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



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Jul. 13 • 10:30 a.m. • RSVP by Jul. 11
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Aug. 10 • 10:30 a.m. • RSVP by Aug 8
Pakistan



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
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Community Calendar

June 30, 7pm: LFL Scavenger Hunt Ends, see page 12

June 30, 8pm: FOL Calendar Contest Ends, see page 13

JULY 4 • FOURTHFEST 2016 • ALL DAY, KF Park • Fireworks at night!

July 8: Extreme Clean, 13905 Thermal

8am-1pm: Habitat for Humanity Collection

8am-4pm: Easter Seals Collection, Homeless Helpings, Pet Supply Donations

8am-5pm: Paint, Batteries & Anti-freeze, Metal & Bulk Trash Collection, Limited Electronics Recycling, Styrofoam Collection

July 9, 3-5pm: Library Community Meet & Greet, WBCL

July 9, 6-8pm: DIY Club, WBRC

July 10, 8am: Guided Birding, Mills Pond Gazebo

July 11, 6:30pm: Photography Club, Camera Basics, WBRC

July 15, 11am: Garden Guild - *Stone Garden Walls*, WBRC

July 15, Dusk: Movie in the Park - **Monster Trucks**, KF Park

July 16, 1-5pm: Board Gaming, WBRC

July 21, 9pm-12am: Teen Pool Party, KF Pool

Aug. 3, 1pm: Silver Branchers Ice Cream Social, WBRC

Aug. 6, 6-8pm: DIY Club, WBRC

Aug. 8, 6:30pm: Photography Club, WBRC

Aug. 11, 9pm-12am: Teen Pool Party, KF Pool

Aug. 12, 8am-5pm: Bulk Trash Day for In-District residents only, 13905 Thermal

Aug. 14, 8am: Guided Birding, Mills Pond Gazebo

Aug. 19, 11am: Garden Guild - *Xeriscape Gardening*, WBRC

Aug. 19, Dusk: Movie in the Park - **Sing**, KF Park

Aug. 20, 1-5pm: Board Gaming, WBRC

Sept. 2, 6-9pm: Labor Day Casino Night, WBCC

Sept. 9, 8am-5pm: Bulk Trash Day for In-District residents only, 13905 Thermal

Sept. 12, 6:30pm: Photography Club, WBRC

Sept. 16, 11am: Garden Guild - *Potluck & Planning Session*, WBRC

Sept. 23, 7:30am-Noon: FOL Community Garage Sale, WBCL

Sept. 24, 1-5pm: WB Cultural Diversity Fair, KF Park

See recurring events at WBNA.us

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MY WELLS BRANCH LISTINGS:

· **COMING SOON—YELLOWLEAF TRAIL:** Upgraded silestone kitchen counters, soaring ceilings, laminate floors, large backyard, ideal location walking distance to park, library, hike/bike & pool, 3 beds, 2 baths

· **JUST LISTED—2201 BIG HOLLOW:** Prime location walking distance to park, library, hike/bike & pool, fantastic open floorplan, high ceilings, laminate floors, adorable curb appeal, 3 beds, 2 baths—\$248,000

· **PENDING—2302 BIG HOLLOW:** Granite counters, upgraded cabinets, gleaming hardwood floors, custom backyard stone waterfall, great location walking distance to park, pool & hike/bike, 3 beds, 2 baths—\$242,500



Want info on Wells Branch new construction? Coming soon Wells Branch listings? Quarterly sold stats?

Follow **Wells Branch Real Estate** on Facebook.



Tammy DeWitt Le, Realtor®

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www.HomeSalesAustinTexas.com

Chaparral Star Academy by Amy Mowrer

Thanks to some wonderful parent volunteers, and a BSA Eagle Project, CSA will now have a garden, and students will have the opportunity to work in and visit the garden throughout the school year.

The CSA Speech team is headed to Birmingham, AL the end of June to compete at the MS & HS NSDA National Tournament. Last year we had 4 national finalists...good luck to all of our speaking sharks this year!

Important Dates:

July 25 – Mandatory Round-up for anyone planning to attend CSA in the 17/18 school year.

August 21 – Meet the teacher

August 22 – First Day of School

September 4 – Labor Day Break

September 14 – General PTSSO Meeting

For more information, please visit our website at chaparral-staracademy.com/.

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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

Summer 2017

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