



# Neighborhood News

News and information for the residents of Wells Branch.  
Vol. 26, Issue 6, Holiday 2018

## Happy Holidays from the WBNA!

by Debby Thompson, President, WBNA

The holidays are HERE! We hope you'll join us in celebrating these wonderful Wells Branch traditions. Take time to re-connect with family, friends and neighbors. We look forward to seeing each of you at the festivities!

## Light Up the Night at Luminary Fest

Friday & Saturday, December 14 & 15 • 6:00-9:00pm

*Sponsored by WB MUD Parks & Rec. Dept.*

Experience the glow of the holidays as our trails light up with luminaries around Katherine Fleischer Park on December 14 & 15. Santa will be visiting the Homestead Cabin both nights from 6-9pm with FREE photos provided by WB Community Church and digital copies available the next day on the WBNA Facebook page.

Warm up inside the Community Center with hot cocoa and cookies provided by the WB MUD Parks & Rec. Dept. WBNA sponsored craft tables will be set up both nights and children will have the opportunity to create ornaments and keepsakes. Volunteers will be on hand to assist with crafts and MUD staff will keep the refreshments flowing.

Join us outdoors for a caroling hayride or a trip around the trails on the Holiday Express Train to see the luminaries up close. We're changing up the route this year for the hayride. On Friday night, we'll be traveling up Klattenhoff to Alpha Collier and all the way down to Wells Port, then Cervin to Fronia Woodward and back up Alpha Collier to the park. This should give us an amazing view of the luminaries! Saturday night, we'll be doing our original route and visiting the beautifully decorated homes on Oceanna, Sandy Side, and Crystal Shore. We'll be starting the hayride around 5:30pm both nights so bring the little ones and come early.

St. Andrew's Chorale and the McNeil Choir will be caroling throughout the park Friday night and the Wells Branch Community Church Band will perform outside the Buffalo House on Saturday. Visit Scout Troop 1409 around the campfire for toasted marshmallows. Jessica Shepherd will host the kids' karaoke inside the Community Center on Saturday night with continued crafts and refreshments for all to enjoy.

Join in helping to light the luminary candles on Friday and Saturday at 3:30pm. The MUD will have lighters on hand but feel free to bring your own long lighter and meet in the courtyard at the Community Center. Wagons are encouraged Saturday to help carry the replacement candles along the trail. **We hope to see you there!**

## Polar Express Pajamarama

Saturday, December 15 • 6:00 & 7:00pm

All aboard, for Wells Branch Community Library's yearly Polar Express Pajamarama! Enjoy holiday crafts, hot cocoa and cookies, a bedtime reading of The Polar Express and a special visit from Santa Saturday, December 15 at 6:00pm & 7:00pm! Register at [wblibrary.eventbrite.com](http://wblibrary.eventbrite.com).

## Holiday Home Decorating Contest

Judging begins Sunday, December 16!

Break out the tinsel and holly! Deck the halls, yard, trees, cars, dogs, cats... Let's show some good ole WB spirit! The WBNA is sponsoring the Holiday Home Decorating Contest again this year! Judging will begin on Sunday, December 16 with winners announced on Saturday, December 22 so you still have time to decorate! For more details, please visit our website at [wbna.us](http://wbna.us). If you'd like to help judge or nominate a home, email [lights@wbna.us](mailto:lights@wbna.us). Be sure and watch for the "Winners" as we post signs in their yards and feature the homes on Facebook and [wbna.us](http://wbna.us)! Categories include: Most Original, Most Traditional, Most Elaborate, Best Use of Lights, Most Energy Efficient, Visible from Space and Most Patriotic.

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**Next issue due out Jan. 26.**  
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## BRANCH BAR-B-Q & CATERING

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Wells Branch—THANK YOU!**



**Happy Holidays!**

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## St. Andrews Presents an Evening of Holiday Music with The Austin Handbell Ensemble

**Monday, December 17 • 7:30-8:30pm**

Join friends and neighbors for a holiday handbell concert at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 14311 Wells Port Drive as they present "We Need a Little Christmas!"

For ticket information, please visit their website at [austinhandbells.org/events/](http://austinhandbells.org/events/).

## Christmas Eve Services • December 24

**Shoreline Church • 15201 Burnet Road**

**2pm, 4pm, & 6pm**

Join us for a special 1-hour family service! This amazing illustrated sermon is filled with Christmas spirit, Jesus' miraculous birth story, and a few surprises!!!

**St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church • 14311 Wells Port  
4:30pm Family Oriented & 7:00pm Candlelight Service**

Join the St. Andrew's congregation in a joyous celebration full of music and love this Christmas Eve. Their 4:30pm service is child and family oriented and at 7:00pm, they'll hold a candlelight service. From WB neighbor and St. A's member, Yvette Shelton, "Singing 'Silent Night' while the church is darkened and each person holds a candle is a truly a blessed way to celebrate Christmas." Visit St. A's Christmas Eve and find out for yourself.

**WB Community Church • 2113 Wells Branch Pkwy  
3:00pm & 4:30pm Services**

On Monday, December 24, Wells Branch Community Church invites you to their new location on Wells Branch Parkway for a Christmas Eve candle light service that the whole family can enjoy. There will be two services this year that are open for anyone to attend, one at 3:00pm and the other at 4:30pm. Come join WBCC in the celebration of the true meaning of Christmas as they sing Carols and Creatively remember the Christmas story. For more information about Wells Branch Community Church or their Christmas Eve service, please visit [wellsbranchchurch.com](http://wellsbranchchurch.com). Childcare available for Pre-K and under.



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## Give the Gift of Holiday Fire Safety

As you prepare to celebrate the upcoming holidays, Travis County Emergency Services District #2 (the Pflugerville Fire Department) encourages everyone in Wells Branch to put safety at the top of the gift list! Thanksgiving is the #1 day of the year for home cooking fires, followed by Christmas Day and Christmas Eve. Here's what you can do to help keep your home a place of joy this holiday season:

**Use a Timer**—It's easy to forget you have the stove or oven on, especially once you sit down to enjoy your feast. Always use a timer to remind you to turn things off.

**Stay with the Stove**—Never leave your house unattended when you have food cooking in the oven – not even a ham or turkey! And always stay in the kitchen whenever you are cooking on the stovetop. Keep the handles of your pots and pans turned back away from the edge of the stove so they aren't knocked or pulled down. Even when the stove is off but especially when it's on, keep the area around the stove clear of flammable items such as hot pads, paper towels, cookbooks, decorations, and notes/cards.

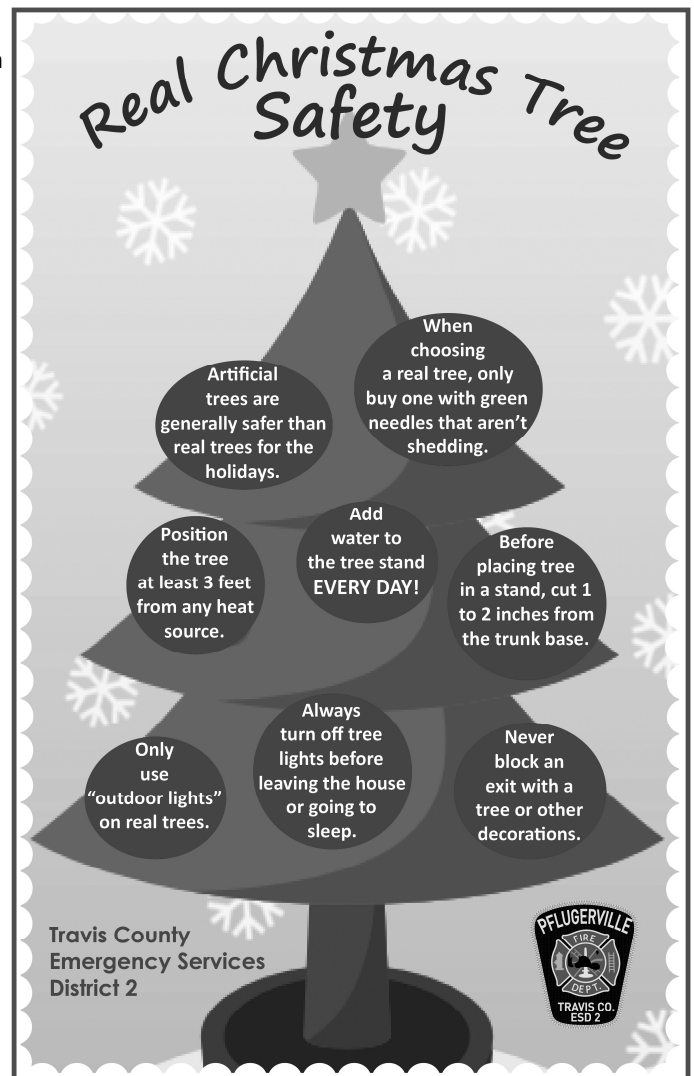
**Keep Kids Back**—Always keep children at least 3 feet away from a hot stovetop. Move regular and electric knives well out of their reach. Don't let them too close to hot dishes or liquids such as gravy and coffee.

**Caution with Cords**—Be sure cords from electric knives, coffee makers, plate warmers, and mixers are not dangling off of the counter. Adults may accidentally snag these dangerous items, and children may be tempted to pull them down.

**Avoid Turkey Fryers**—The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) warns that turkey fryers using cooking oil are not safe even for well-informed and careful home cooks. Turkey fryers use a lot of cooking oil at high temperatures, and there's a significant danger that hot oil will be released during cooking. Additionally, the burners that heat the oil can ignite spilled oil.

**Light it Right**—Some holiday lights are only safe for indoor or outdoor use, but NOT both. When hanging holiday lights, use clips – not nails – to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged. If you need to use a ladder, work with a partner on the ground. Replace any string of lights that has worn or broken cords or any loose bulb connections. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for the maximum number of light strands to connect.

**Take Care with Candles**—Keep lit candles away from centerpieces, decorations, curtains, and other things that can burn. Locate them away from windows and doors so your emergency exits are not blocked if objects catch fire. Always blow out candles when you leave the room or go to bed. Try using battery-operated candles instead!





### **FOL General Membership Meeting:**

All members are invited for "Crafts, Cocoa and Cookies" at our Members Only General Membership Meeting on December 9<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm in the LAB (Learn And Build) for an introduction to the Library's LAB facilities. Members will have an opportunity to try their hand at a variety of crafts using new equipment.

Not a member? Join at our December 9<sup>th</sup> meeting by paying our low annual membership fee! In doing so, you will help foster and support programs at our wonderful Wells Branch Community Library. We are a non-profit group which supports the library by advocating, volunteering, and fundraising for the library's needs. We especially focus on raising funds for the Summer and Winter Reading Programs and First Friday events as well as other activities at the WBCL. An active and growing membership can be an important criteria when the library solicits grants and donations. Please consider joining the **FOL**; With a tax deductible membership, you can become involved with your library.

### **Election of Officers:**

Election of officers to the **FOL** Board of Directors will take place during the December 9<sup>th</sup> General Membership meeting. If you are interested in becoming a board mem-

ber, please send an email to [FOL.wblibrary@gmail.com](mailto:FOL.wblibrary@gmail.com). You'll not only help the library and meet new people, but you'll also feel good inside!

### **Port Arthur Public Library:**

A big thank you to **FOL** members Christine and Charles Bloemsma who drove a U-Haul truck filled with 100 cases of donated books to Port Arthur, Texas on October 20<sup>th</sup>!

The Port Arthur library lost its entire collection in Hurricane Harvey. Wells Branch Friends of the Library paid for the U-Haul rental and a storage space to store the books, but Wells Branch neighbors (and a few of their friends) really came through when we hosted six book drives over the spring and summer. Thanks also to those who loaded the book boxes on the truck in between the raindrops!

**THANK YOU TO ALL!**

### **Huge Community Garage Sale! Save the Date—March 30, 2019**

The (giant, fantastic, neighborly, impatiently-awaited) Friends of the Library Community Garage Sale returns this Spring. Save March 30<sup>th</sup> on your calendars; watch the **FOL** website at <https://wbfriends.org>, Facebook, Library e-blasts, and other neighborhood communications for details.



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## Pioneer Pals

by Gwendolyn Johnson, Curator, WB Homestead

Do you think it was lonely on the Frontier? In the 1850s, Texas settlers were quite isolated. The reality was each family lived a solitary existence. If you are a stay-at-home parent of young children, it can feel like that now at times. But it doesn't have to be that way! Come join a community of parents and caregivers at Pioneer Pals. It's a great way to get out and meet others with young children right in your own neighborhood.

Pioneer Pals is a storytime program hosted by the Homestead Curator, Gwendolyn Johnson. Each week, she leads preschool-age children on adventurous travels back in time, all while they learn about Texas Pioneer life and nature through picture books, crafts, and imaginative play. The program begins with stories on the porch. Afterwards, children are invited to explore the Homestead area and all the fun Ms. Gwendolyn has prepared for them. Weekly-changing activities may include a play kitchen, pioneer chores like sweeping and washing clothes, sensory bins, and crafts.

Pioneer Pals meets every Wednesday during the school year at 9:30 am at the Homestead, 2106 Klattenhoff Drive. (There will be no Pioneer Pals Dec. 26 and Jan. 2.) Follow us on Facebook to learn more. We hope to see you there for the fun and fellowship!

Visit: [www.facebook.com/wellsbranchhomestead](http://www.facebook.com/wellsbranchhomestead)

## WB Soccer Association Update

by Steve Wilson, President, WBSA



Another great season at WBSA has concluded and we are very thankful to all those who played, coached, refereed, and volunteered. As usual, we could not have achieved the successes we had on and off the field without the great interaction we have with WB MUD, TexaScapes and the Wells Branch community.

The Fall season saw unprecedented growth among registered players, more licensed coaches, more certified referees, and multiple tournament winners. We have successfully launched our Soccer Kidz program for ages 2-4 and now have established programs for youth referees and coaches. WBSA continues to be innovative and a thought leader in the Central Texas soccer community. We also continue to have on-field success against the bigger and more expensive clubs while keeping our "neighborhood feel."

Registration is now open for the Spring season. Come out and see why WBSA is the best soccer value in Central Texas!

Visit [www.wellsbranchsoccer.com](http://www.wellsbranchsoccer.com) to learn more.

**Don't forget to renew  
your WBNA Membership!  
See page 16 for details.**

## Holiday Safety Tips

by Debby Thompson, WBNA President  
& WB Neighborhood Watch Coordinator

With the bustle of the holidays just around the corner, make sure you're taking every precaution possible to keep your home and family safe and secure. We usually see an increase in opportunistic crime this time of year; please remain vigilant.



Keep your blinds and drapes closed when away, even if only for a short period of time.

Keep your house well lit at night (backyard included). A motion sensor activated light is an inexpensive deterrent.

If your Christmas tree is displayed in front of a window, don't pile the presents around it. Store the gifts in another area away from view when the blinds or drapes are open.

Do NOT put the empty boxes for the new computer, TV, stereo system, etc. on the curb for the trash. Take the time to break down every box and put it inside your trashcan/recycling bin so that it is concealed, even if you have to hold it over to the next week. People start cruising our neighborhood on Sunday afternoons to see what has been put out. The less they know about what you have inside, the better.

Door-to-door solicitations increase tremendously this time of year. Always look out the window or peephole before opening the door or answering a knock. Never open the door all the way, especially if you have a Christmas tree and/or presents in plain view.

**Always lock your car.** Never leave your car running unattended or leave your keys in the car or ignition. If you usually keep a garage door remote control in your car and don't park it in the garage each and every time you return home, hide the remote or take it inside. Thieves check visors and this gives them instant protected access to your home.

Keep your garage door closed at all times and keep the inside door from your home to the garage **LOCKED**.

Don't leave valuables in plain view, even if your car is locked. Take them in the house or put them in the trunk out of sight **BEFORE** arriving at your destination.

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



### *If you plan to be away:*

Let a neighbor and/or block captain know you'll be out of town and when you'll return. They should have the following: your emergency contact information; contact information for anyone with access to your house (pet sitter, etc.); when they should be expected; what they look like and a description of their vehicle(s).

**Let only those who NEED to know**, know when you are going out of town.

**Don't share vacation plans on social media.**

Arrange to have your lawn cared for if you are going to be away.

Don't hide keys under doormats or flowerpots or in similar places.

Put your lights, stereo or TV on timers.

Keep your house well lit at night (backyard included)

Leave a car in the driveway or ask a neighbor to park in it.

Don't cancel your paper or mail deliveries; ask that your neighbor pick them up every day.

Leave a key with a friend or neighbor; ask that the house be checked at regular intervals.

**Store all your valuables.**

Consider asking friends or relatives to live in your home while you are away.

Ask your neighbor to put trash in your trashcan and to put it out for collection and away when they put theirs away.

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

A comprehensive list of Safety Tips as well as numerous articles by the Travis County Sheriff Deputies are posted on our website, <http://wbna.us> under the Safety tab. There's also a wealth of information available at <https://www.tcsheriff.org/community/outreach-unit>.

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

Join the community listserv aka 'The Google Group' by sending your name, physical address and email to [wbneighbors@gmail.com](mailto:wbneighbors@gmail.com).

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

We live in a **GREAT** community **AND** a **SECURE** neighborhood. Let's all do our part to keep it that way.

**Here's to a safe and happy holiday season!**

## WB New Business Spotlight by Gus Kohn

*This is an update to the series of articles about the many shopping centers in our neighborhood. Remember that sales tax paid within Wells Branch from your purchases benefits both the Library and the Fire Department (ESD#2). The continuing successes of the businesses in the district directly influence our property values. When we "Shop WB" we all benefit.*

### Cafe CHOWTOWN

*A Modern Twist on Country Cuisine*

**Chow Town Foods** opened September 2016 in the Bratton Square Shopping Center. Founder Stephanie Cardenas' catering company offers catering to businesses; corporate meetings, retreats, board meetings and other gatherings. Stephanie says, "Imagine breakfast, lunch or dinner like your mother, grandmother or favorite aunt used to make, brought to your company lunch room." Your fond childhood memories or a new variation on a theme can be made to order. They have now started **Café Chow Town**, a dining and social destination with a modern twist on country cuisine. The grilled cheese is a big hit with Brie, Sage, Bacon and Spicy jam. A great gathering place for a fast casual meal or to enjoy neighborly community, Stephanie intends the Cafe menu to evolve, so come in often for the daily specials. Now open Tues. - Sat. 7am-3pm with the intent to extend hours very soon.

**Malone Specialty Coffee** has been at **Café Chow Town** for the past three weeks and is now serving a full espresso bar, single origin drip brewed coffees, butter coffee, nitro cold brew and hot chocolate & steamers for the kids. Owner Paul Malone began the business 5 years ago in his home and now has three coffee trailers located in the HEB parking lot in Pflugerville, on 5<sup>th</sup> Street, and at S. Lamar at Barton Springs as well as the Café Chow Town location. Paul will have his onsite roaster at Café Chow Town operating soon. Visit **Malone Specialty Coffee** at **Café Chow Town** for Austin roasted coffee with Austin style.

**Paraná Yerba Mate** is also now in Café Chow Town; owner Joel McMillian is very passionate about his cold brewed Argentine tea with the first Yerba Mate tea bar in Austin. The energizing properties offer a milder form of coffee delivered with one of the ingredients of chocolate providing mood elevating properties, antioxidant properties of green tea, vitamins, essential amino acids & minerals provide a nutritious drink overall. Joel blends in citrus & herbs in each flavor (a Paraguayan tradition) which aids digestion. With three teas made to order on the menu come in and experience the flavor creativity. **Paraná Yerba Mate** will offer seasonal flavors as well introducing a "small batch Saturday". Drop in and visit with Joel and learn more about this special tea.

For more information & for all your company's catering needs please email [cafe@chowtownfoods.com](mailto:cafe@chowtownfoods.com) or call Chow Town Foods at 512-373-8724. See their ad on page 16.



### EL HUARACHE

**El Huarache Restaurant** – Now open under new management in the Wells Branch Plaza center. Owner Mario explains they offer authentic Mexican culture food made with care and dedication. They slow cook everything from scratch and treat customers like family. Their signature specialty entree is the Huarache with your choice of chicken, beef, carnitas or al Pastor. They also provide the **El Huarache** experience for your office or home, please contact them for catering details. Visit them at 2113 Wells Branch Pkwy #1000, 512-366-5066 or [www.elhuarache.live](http://www.elhuarache.live). They are open 8am-8pm weekdays, 10am-9pm Saturday and 10am-3pm Sunday. They serve breakfast all day! Drop in & experience it for yourself. See their ad on page 8.



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## Ways to Give Back this Holiday Season



### Meals on Wheels

It is a gift to serve, and a rare chance to directly help individuals in your community one meal at a time. The holiday season is when Meals on Wheels has their greatest need, since many of their regular volunteers go out of town on vacation.

The training video is short and after that, you can pick up meals for delivery at a convenient location. 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 you're not available, just let them know! It's that simple!

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



### Drive a Senior

Thinking about helping others? Have a little extra time this holiday season?

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](mailto:nc@driveasenior.org) or call 512-302-5980.



### Travis County Brown Santa

Help spread the joy of Christmas by donating or volunteering with Brown Santa. Visit their website for more information and donation suggestions by age at [traviscountytx.gov/brown-santa](http://traviscountytx.gov/brown-santa). You can also call 512-24-SANTA (512-247-2682), or email [traviscountybrown-santa@gmail.com](mailto:traviscountybrown-santa@gmail.com) to volunteer or donate.

Donation barrels are available at the Wells Branch Recreation Center on Shoreline through December 14 when they move to the Community Center for Luminary Fest. Pick up will be Monday, December 17 at the Rec. Center. Unopened non-perishable foods and new toys are appreciated!

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## St. Andrew's Holiday Ministries

### Children's Giving Tree

'Tis the season for giving. Brighten a child's world with an unexpected gift! St. Andrew's partners with Workers Defense Project to provide holiday gifts to children who would otherwise receive nothing.

Simply bring your children/grandchildren to St. Andrew's any Sunday morning (8am-noon) through **DECEMBER 9**. Take a "tag" from the Giving Tree in the foyer; shop for the items; then return them to St. Andrew's, wrapped, with the "tag" attached by **DECEMBER 16**. The Giving Tree elves deliver gifts before December 25.

### Cold Weather Shelter

St. Andrew's offers a Cold Weather Shelter on nights designated as Cold Weather Shelter nights by Front Steps (when the temperature dips below 32°). Beginning at 5:30pm, those needing shelter are offered an evening meal, showers, light laundry, a safe place to sleep for the night, and a light breakfast before departing the next morning. To volunteer or for information contact Ed Kopas at [edwardkopas@yahoo.com](mailto:edwardkopas@yahoo.com).



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## Newer Investors:

### Don't Panic if Bear Market Returns

submitted by Nicole Viator, Financial Advisor & WB Neighbor

If you're in your twenties or thirties, you might be starting to focus more on investing to reach your financial goals. Because of this, you also may be more attuned to moves in the financial markets. Depending on your age, you may have only experienced the bull market of the past nine years, so you might not know what to expect – or how to respond – whenever the next bear market strikes.

Of course, just recently, you've witnessed a market correction – a drop of at least 10 percent in the major stock market indices, such as the S&P 500. This sudden plunge made big news and reminded many investors of how volatile the financial markets can be. But a full-fledged bear market usually isn't identified until the markets are down 20 percent from their recent highs. Plus, bear markets, unlike corrections, tend to linger for a while.

The last "bear" emerged from hibernation in October 2007 and stayed on the prowl until early March 2009. During that time, the S&P 500 declined by about 50 percent. Clearly, investors were not happy – but the market recovered and moved to new heights. This long and strong run-up may have obliterated your bear market memories, if you ever had them at all. And that's why you might want to familiarize yourself with some of the bare facts about bear markets:

**Bear markets may provide good buying opportunities.** When gas is expensive, you may just buy a few gallons at a time – but when the price falls, you're probably more likely to fill up your tank. The same principle can apply to investing – when stock prices are down, your investment dollars will buy more shares. And the more shares you own, the greater your ability to build wealth once the share price rises. In short, a bear market may provide you with a chance to buy quality investments at good prices.

**Bear markets don't last forever.** No one can predict precisely how long bear markets will run, but they've typically been much shorter than bull markets. So, while you might not particularly like looking at your investment statement during a decline, you can take some comfort in knowing such downturns are a normal feature of the investment landscape.

**Bear markets don't affect all investments equally.** If you only own U.S. stocks, your portfolio may well take a sizable hit during a bear market. But other types of investment vehicles may not be as directly affected – and some may even show positive results. Consequently, you could reduce the bear's "bite" if you also own a variety of other investments, such as international stocks, bonds, government securities, certificates of deposit (CDs) and so on. However, while owning this type of diversified portfolio can help reduce the impact of market volatility, it does not guarantee profits or protect against losses.

A bear market can be challenging. But by making the right moves, such as staying patient, looking for buying opportunities and maintaining a diversified portfolio, you may be able to prevent a market decline from becoming unbearable.

*Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors cannot provide tax or legal advice. You should consult your attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation. This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor*



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# SCOUT ME IN™

## Come Join the Fun - Cub Scout Pack 728

by Deanna Johnson

While Cub Scouts are doing new things, they discover and master new skills, gain self-confidence, and develop strong friendships. So far this year, some of our Scouts have slept overnight at NASA, enjoyed camping and outdoor adventures, launched rockets, raced in our Raingutter Regatta, and helped clean our neighborhood park. This spring we are gearing up for our Pinewood Derby race, STEM activities, more service projects, outdoor adventures and lots of fun.

Pack 728 is open to boys and girls in Kindergarten through fifth grades. Many of our Scouts come from schools in Wells Branch, as well as schools outside the neighborhood. During the school year we meet on Wednesday nights at 6:30 in Wells Branch.

For more information on Cub Scout Pack 728, please contact us at 512-524-9095 or [wbpack728@gmail.com](mailto:wbpack728@gmail.com). Check us out at [www.facebook.com/WellsBranchPack728](http://www.facebook.com/WellsBranchPack728).

## BSA Cub Scout Pack 140 by Tonya Riley

Camping, community service, leadership development, friends, new experiences, fun for the entire family – do these sound good to you? Then Cub Scout Pack 140 is for you!

Pack 140 has served the Wells Branch community for over 30 years. We are sponsored by the Wells Branch Home-stead and support many of the activities hosted by the Wells Branch MUD. We welcome all students, boys AND girls, in grades K-5. New Scouts receive a free uniform! Cub Scouts is a family oriented organization, so family members are always welcome at meetings and events. The Pack meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of the month at 7:00pm at the Wells Branch Annex, affectionately called the Scout House, located at 14611 Wells Port Drive. For more information visit [www.pack140.org](http://www.pack140.org) or call 512-627-9741.

## Silver Branchers by Darlene Bauhs and Glen Garey

The Silver Branchers would like to extend an invitation to any and everyone, age 55 and up, who might be interested in making new friends. Meetings are held Thursdays of each month from 1-3pm at the WB Rec. Center, 3000 Shoreline Drive, to visit and play games. We also have socials and take day trips to local places of interest each month. Membership is free.

Look for an updated list of daytrips for 2019 beginning January 1 at <http://wbna.us/community/silver-branchers/> or for more information call Glen at 512-461-1665.

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## BSA Venture Crew 1409 by Jill Douglass, Advisor

The crew's first fall camp out is in December at Buescher State Park. We will hit Hill Country State Natural Area in January followed by Lost Maples State Park in February. In the meantime the crew has kept busy with shorter fun events like knot tying relays, Halloween parties, and first aid training. The crew is also excited to volunteer at the Trail of Lights at Zilker Park this year.

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

## BSA Troop 1409 News

by Rich Michelson, Scoutmaster

Andrew Michelson, Troop 1409's newest Eagle Scout is staying active in the Troop and giving back by stepping up to be an Assistant Scoutmaster. He and the Troop's other Eagle, Evan Jewett, have both aged out of the youth program but are continuing as Adult Leaders.

In November, the Troop volunteered at the Well Branch MUD Family Campout by tending the fire and roasting marshmallows for the campers.

For WEBELOS Woods, Troop 1409 camped out and worked on Scout Skills for surviving in the outdoors with Webelos from all over the district. Webelos are the older Cub Scouts who will be transitioning to Boy Scouts in the Spring.

Stop by the campfire at Luminary Fest where we'll be helping out and roasting marshmallows.



## Family Place Opens at Wells Branch Library

by Kristin Johnson, Children's Librarian

The Wells Branch Community Library has joined the Family Place Libraries™ network offering an array of enjoyable and essential free programs and services for babies, toddlers, pre-schoolers, parents and caregivers. The research is clear—foundations for learning are built during the first three years of life. Come visit our Family Place and help spread the word about our new research-based programs and services that support early brain development and parents/caregivers in their role as their children's first teachers. The Family Place Libraries™ model is now in over 400 libraries in 30 states serving thousands of young children and their parents/caregivers. The Wells Branch Community Library is proud to be among them.

The Wells Branch Community Library Family Place is a community destination providing:

- A specially designed welcoming space in the children's area for families with young children to explore, play, share books and learn together.
- 1, 2, 3 Play with Me: a five-week program in the Spring and Fall for toddlers and their parents and caregivers. The workshops are fun and play-based providing an environment rich with toys, books and art activities and an opportunity for families to spend time together, make friends and talk one-on-one with specialists on various aspects of child development, parenting and early literacy.
- Collections of books, toys, music and multimedia materials for babies, toddlers, parents and service providers.
- Library staff specially trained in early literacy, child development and family support.

The Family Place at the Wells Branch Community Library is open during the hours below. Come visit!

Mondays and Thursdays: noon to 7:30pm  
Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays:  
noon to 5:30pm  
Sundays: 1:00 to 5:30pm

## Thanks from the Wells Branch Library

by the Staff and Volunteers of the WB Community Library

The Wells Branch Community Library recognizes friend and former Board member Jill Traffanstedt for her many years of service to the library and the community. A long-time resident of Wells Branch, Jill joined the library as a member in 2005 and began serving on the Board of Trustees in May of 2010. Since that time, Jill has served on numerous committees, attended and assisted with the library's monthly romance book club, and has been a part of the tremendous growth the library has experienced in the past eight years. Most recently, she served as treasurer for the library district until the end of her term in November 2018. Please join us in thanking Jill for all that she's done for the library and our neighborhood!

## Earn Free Books during Winter Reading

by Jeremy Selvidge, Outreach and Technology Librarian

There's no place like the library for the holidays! The Wells Branch Community Library is hosting our annual winter reading challenge through Thursday, January 17<sup>th</sup>. To participate, pick up a reading challenge sheet at the front desk or the kids desk. Complete three challenges in a row on the sheet and bring it back to the library to get a free book!

Some of this year's challenges:

- Read a book with a one-word title
- Visit a Little Free Library
- Read a classic you never read in school
- Attend a library program

With an all-ages challenge and another just for little ones, everyone can join in the fun. Plus, there's no limit to how many challenge sheets you can complete—and how many free books you can earn! Visit the library today to pick up your sheets and get started. Season's readings!

## Snow Day!

January 19 • 1:00-5:00pm • WB Pool Parking Lot on Sauls

The WB MUD Parks & Rec. Dept. is hosting their Annual Snow Day event on Saturday January 19, from 1-5pm. This fun filled family occasion has quickly become one of the District's most well attended events. Don't miss out and make plans to join your friends and neighbors. Throw on your rain boots and prepare to tube down one of 3 snow lane hills. We'll even have a kiddie lane for our youngest community members. Concessions will be available for purchase.

If you plan on bringing your 4-legged family member, please remember they must be on a leash and under your control AT ALL TIMES. Aggressive dogs and/or overly rambunctious dogs are not allowed and will be asked to leave immediately.

## Valentine's Day Family Dance

February 14 • 6:30-8:30pm • WB Rec. Ctr. • 3000 Shoreline

Hosted by the Wells Branch Recreation Dept., this fun family event is free and open to all ages. Everyone is invited to come mingle with neighbors and dance the night away to live music on an open dance floor. Snacks, drinks, and roses for the ladies will be provided. Bring the family out and share the love!

## Wells Branch Cultural Diversity Fair

February 24 • 1:00-4:00pm • WB Rec. Ctr. • 3000 Shoreline

Come out and experience the vast number of ethnic groups, races and cultures found in the Wells Branch community. At the Cultural Diversity Fair, you will have an opportunity to listen to music, taste food, play games and see different garments from around the world. Celebrate our diverse community first hand at this annual event. Community volunteers host the various booths and lend their own cultural experience. This event will be held at the Rec. Ctr. Gym, is family friendly, and free to attend. If you would like to volunteer or have a booth please visit: [wb-cultural-diversity@googlegroups.com](mailto:wb-cultural-diversity@googlegroups.com)  
Sponsored by the WB MUD Rec. Dept.

All programs are free and open to the public.

Programs with \*\* require advance registration at [wblibrary.eventbrite.com](http://wblibrary.eventbrite.com).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Walking Book Club

Thursday, December 13 at 8:30 a.m. at KF Park  
Meet at the Homestead to walk the trails and discuss  
*Rudy's Rules for Travel* by Mary K. Jensen.

To see everything happening soon at the library,  
check out our website and event calendar at  
**WBLIBRARY.ORG.**

### UPCOMING CLOSURES

**Monday through Wednesday, December 24–26**  
Library closed for Christmas

**Monday, December 31**  
Library closes early at 4 p.m.

**Tuesday, January 1, 2019**  
Library closed for New Year's Day

## KIDS & TEENS

### Storytimes

Mondays at 10:30 (Baby) and 11:15 a.m. (Toddler)  
Fridays at 10:30 (Toddler) and 11:15 a.m. (Preschool)  
Enjoy fun stories and songs at the library!

### LEGO Lab (Ages 5+)

Mondays from 4 to 5 p.m.  
Robotics and free build. Robotics registration at 3:30.

### Spanish Circle Time (Ages 0-3)

Tuesdays at 10:30  
Learn Spanish vocabulary and early concepts.

### Circle Time (Ages 0-3)

Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.  
Learn basic concepts through songs and repetition.

### STEAM Studio (Ages 4-12)

Wednesdays at 6 p.m.  
Complete science-, technology-, engineering-, art-, and  
math-themed activities with a creative twist.

### Sign Language Storytime (All Ages)

Thursdays at 11:15 a.m.  
Enjoy stories and songs in American Sign Language!

### Storytime & Craft (All Ages)

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

## HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

### Sue Young Holiday Concert\*\*

Saturday, December 8 at 10 a.m.  
Local singer/songwriter Sue Young will  
share holiday music from around the  
world in a fun and interactive  
concert for kids of all ages.

### Family Craft Night: Winter Crafts\*\*

Wednesday, December 12 at 6 p.m.  
Join us for a special all-ages DIY  
Wednesday to complete a winter craft together!

### Polar Express Pajamarama\*\*

Saturday, December 15 at 6 and 7 p.m.  
All aboard! Join us for our annual celebration of the  
book, *The Polar Express*, with cookies, crafts, and a visit  
from Santa. Register for one of the two sessions, at  
either 6 or 7 p.m.

### How the Grinch Stole Christmas Movie Screening\*\*

Tuesday, December 18 at 6:30 p.m.  
Enjoy a free screening of Dr. Seuss's animated classic,  
*How the Grinch Stole Christmas* (1966), followed by  
crafts and a visit from the Grinch!

## ADULTS

### Open LAB Hours

Wednesdays, 4-8 p.m. | Saturdays and Sundays, 1-4 p.m.  
Learn to use library-supplied tools to complete DIY projects.

### Computer and Career Workshops \*\*

Explore topics like Microsoft Word and Excel, résumé help,  
and more! See all class offerings on our calendar.

### Spanish Conversation Group

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.  
Connect with the Guild on Meetup:  
[meetup.com/Wells-Branch-Fiction-Writers-Guild](http://meetup.com/Wells-Branch-Fiction-Writers-Guild)

### Morning and Evening Yoga

First and third Thursdays of each month at 10:30 a.m.  
Second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.  
Please bring your own yoga mat.

### Knit & Crochet for a Cause

First Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m.  
Knit and crochet items benefitting the Austin Scarf Project.



## We are swimming across Texas again!

by Katie Hutcheson, WB MUD Aquatics Supervisor



We began collecting lap swim mileage on November 1, 2018 and will continue through February 28, 2019. Together we'll calculate and track your mileage. For example: Wells Branch to Wimberley is 55 miles, Wells Branch to Fredericksburg is 67 miles and 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](mailto:khutcheson@wellsbranchmud.com) and let me know you are interested. After you finish your daily lap swim at Willow Bend, let the guards know your total for the day. On March 1, 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! Any questions, please contact me at the above email. *Sponsored by the WB MUD Rec. Dept.*



## Clip -n- Save Pool Hours

**Katherine Fleischer Pool**  
**September 4, 2018 - March 31, 2019**

**Pool Closed - Swim Team Use Only**

**Willow Bend Pool**  
**512-310-1833**

**November 3, 2018 - March 31, 2019**

Open/Lap	M-F	4-8pm
	S-S	1-6pm
Lap Swim	MWF	12-2pm

*Please note: These are general guidelines. Hours are subject to change. Visit: [wellsbranchmud.com/pools](http://wellsbranchmud.com/pools) for current information and specific exceptions. Pools will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. Pools may be closed due to inclement weather. During heavy storms or below freezing temperatures, check the website or call the pools to confirm if they are open. If you have any questions about pool operation, please feel free to contact the Aquatics Supervisor Katie Hutcheson ([khutcheson@wellsbranchmud.com](mailto:khutcheson@wellsbranchmud.com) or 512-251-9814 x 111).*

## Aquafit Classes

by Katie Hutcheson, WB MUD Aquatics Supervisor

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](http://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! For more information, contact Katie Hutcheson at 512-516-2621 or [khutcheson@wellsbranchmud.com](mailto:khutcheson@wellsbranchmud.com).



**Keep Texas Beautiful** KWBB Volunteer Day  
by Katie Hutcheson  
WB MUD Aquatics Supervisor

Keep Wells Branch Beautiful volunteer events will resume this coming Spring. Visit [wellsbranchmud.com](http://wellsbranchmud.com) for updates.

KWBB is a volunteer program dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for Wells Branch MUD residents through green initiatives and beautification projects. The group meets periodically to take on a different project each time.

## WB Walking Club by Katie Hutcheson

Take advantage of our crisp, cool mornings and join us! The trails are beautiful and wildlife abundant. 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, contact Katie Hutcheson at 512-516-2621 or [khutcheson@wellsbranchmud.com](mailto:khutcheson@wellsbranchmud.com).

## 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. We also do weekend runs, usually on Saturday mornings. If you have a particular event that you're training for, let us know and we can be sure to help you meet your goals. Come join the fun!

We are now on Twitter @wellsbranch\_run and Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/wellsbranchrunclub/>. Call, Text, or E-mail : [karamyers@austin.rr.com](mailto:karamyers@austin.rr.com) | (512) 470-9782

## European Dance Guild by Daniel White

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. For more info, call 512-413-0097.

# Happy Holidays & Thank You Wells Branch

The 2018 Pumpkin Patch was so much fun and it's such an honor to see how much your children have grown since we took pictures last year!

We wish you the very best of the season and for a happy, healthy and prosperous 2019!

*Cheers!*

Your Wells Branch Real Estate Team,

*Pam, Jay, Marley*



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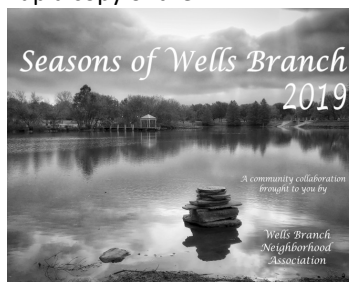
## WB Photo Club by Margaret McGhee-Sufke

We kicked off the fall classroom sessions with a great refresher course on color and contrast, followed by an excellent travel journal presented by Dave DeVore. In November, we held another hands-on event to expand on the color and contrast topics including several "still life" photo shoot stations with a variety of equipment. The December session has not been finalized yet, but stay focused and watch [wbna.us](http://wbna.us) for our next announcement.

Remember, everyone is welcome and you do not need expensive equipment, any camera will do—even cell phones. It's all about the practice, while learning and sharing the hobby.

Our group has also been requested to help out by photographing several of the upcoming events, which include: random shots of the new state park, WB Luminary Fest, and Snow Day in January. Many of these events will offer great practice for special low lighting techniques or action shots.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** Remember to pick up a copy of the WBNA Seasons of Wells Branch 2019 Calendar. They are only \$10 and make a great present or hostess gift at your next holiday party. Calendars will be on sale both Friday and Saturday nights inside the Community Center at Luminary Fest.



## WB Garden Guild by Yvette Shelton & Dianne Koehler

December's outing is scheduled! The Garden Guild is visiting Community First Village for a tour of this innovative neighborhood on Wednesday, December 12. We will meet in the Rec. Center parking lot, 3000 Shoreline Drive at 9:15am; the caravan departs at 9:30am. They would like a headcount, so please RSVP on the Wells Branch Garden Guild Facebook page. The tour begins at 10:00am.

Each month, we focus on a theme for discussion, host a speaker, or take a field trip. In May, we'll be having a local garden tour of 8-9 gardens "behind the fence" to visit and enjoy. We discuss all kinds of gardening from organic vegetables to lawn and tree care and normally meet every third Saturday of the month inside the Wells Branch Rec. Center, 3000 Shoreline Drive. Come early at 10:30am for a plant/seed swap or just to chat and then at 11:00am for the presentation. All are welcome! We will post our calendar on our FB page: Wells Branch Garden Guild and the WBNA website.

## WBE AIA Farmer's Market

by Dianne Koehler, Garden Curriculum Coordinator

Do you want fresh hand grown organic food for a low price? Buy from the Wells Branch Elementary AIA farmers market gardens! We have tons of winter crops and sell on Fridays after school from 2:50pm until we run out, when we advertise it. Watch the WB Google Group and WB Facebook pages for updates!

## Wells Branch MUD Holiday Hours

In observance of the Holidays, the District Office, Recreation Center and Willow Bend Pool will be closed all day Mon. Dec. 24, Tues. Dec. 25, Mon. Dec. 31, and Tues. Jan. 1. Contact WB MUD Customer Service with questions at 512-251-9814 or info@wellsbranchmud.com.

## Solid Waste and Recycling Pickup

There will be no curbside trash and recycling collection on Tues. Dec. 25 and Tues. Jan. 1. Service will roll forward one day for the rest of each week. See wellsbranchmud.com for details.

## Curbside Community Compost and Christmas Tree Collection

There will be no curbside community compost collection on Mon., Dec. 24. Regular collection will resume Mon., Dec. 31. Natural Christmas trees may be placed curbside for pick up during the regular weekly collection or dropped off at designated locations in the Katherine Fleischer Park and Recreation Center parking lots. Please REMOVE ALL LIGHTS and DECORATIONS.

## Winter Wastewater Averaging | Dec. 11-Mar. 12

## Extreme Clean Winter | Jan. 12 | wbna.us

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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

