



Neighborhood News

News and information for the residents of Wells Branch.
Vol. 27, Issue 1, March/April 2019

WBNA Elections & Informational

Safety Meeting on Coyotes

Thursday, March 28 • 7pm

WB Community Center • 2106 Klattenhoff

Visit wbna.us for more info on our Wells Branch Coyotes!



HUGE Community Garage Sale

Saturday, March 30 • 7am-1pm

Library Parking Lot • 15001 Wells Port

For more information, please see page 12.

WB Pioneer Festival

Saturday, April 6 • 12-5pm

Wells Branch Homestead • 2106 Klattenhoff

Details, page 16.

EXTREME Clean Spring!

Saturday, April 13 • 8am-2pm

WB MUD Maintenance Yard • 13905 Thermal

Make sure your unwanted items are Repurposed, Reused, or Recycled—Bring them to Extreme Clean! We'll have Drug Take-Back, FREE Shredding, Collections for Easter Seals and Austin Creative Reuse. We'll also be accepting donations for those experiencing homelessness, Austin Wildlife Rescue, and various animal rescue groups. Recycle your metal, electronics, water-based paint, batteries, anti-freeze, cardboard, and Styrofoam with us! And of course, bulk trash disposal will be available. For links to individual websites and more information, visit wbna.us.

Need help transporting items to EXTREME Clean? Venture Crew 1409 will be offering their services once again as a fundraiser to be used for Venturing activities. Minimum \$20 pick-up fee. Please tip accordingly! To schedule a pick-up, please call 512-413-0097 or email danwhitewb@gmail.com.

Yard Chemical Repurposing

Saturday, April 13 • 8am-2pm • 2602 Tracy Trail

Bring your leftover or unwanted fertilizers, pesticides, and fungicides here for repurposing. WBNA volunteers will be posting throughout the day for free pick-up of donated chemicals. Items must be clearly labeled and in closed containers (it's okay to duct tape the bags closed.) Anything remaining will be transported to the Household Hazardous Waste Center the following week. Visit wbna.us for more info.



WBNA Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 20 • 10:30am

Homestead at KF Park • 2106 Klattenhoff

Details, page 3.

WBE AIA Springfest 2019

Saturday, May 4 • 2-6pm

WB Elementary AIA

14650 Merriltown

Wells Branch Elementary AIA PTA is excited to invite you the 14th Annual Springfest and Silent Auction on May 4, 2019 from 2pm-6pm! The auction will be open from 2pm-5:30pm. The event is held on the WBE AIA campus, and tickets go on sale online April 22. On campus sales begin April 29. Tickets will be available on site May 4, day of the fest.



The fun includes:

The Millennium Falcon Photobooth • The Wrecking Ball Inflatable obstacle course • Laser Tag • Dunk Tank Painting Wall • Drum Circle • Hot Shot Basketball Noodle Toss • Skee Ball • Pringles Toss • Cake Walk ...and so much more!

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WBNA Membership Renewal on Page 16.
Envelope Inside. Please Join!

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Keep your kids safe - Don't wait until summer to start swim lessons!

While swimming is one of the greatest things about summer in Central Texas, water also presents one of the most dangerous settings for kids.

Drowning is the #1 accidental killer of infants and toddlers, and for older kids it's the second leading cause, so take action NOW to keep your kids and neighbors safe! Please follow these important yet simple steps from Travis County ESD #2 to help protect Wells Branch children around water:

TEACH KIDS TO SWIM. Swimming is not only fun, it is literally a life-saving skill. While we recommend starting swim lessons at a young age, it is never too late to enroll your kids, or yourself, in swim lessons. ***Don't wait until summer to start swim lessons!*** ENROLL TODAY and be ready to swim when summer hits. There are many low-cost options available in the area.

WATCH THE WATER. If you can't swim or your kids can't swim, stay away from the water! Every time kids are around pools – or hot tubs, lakes, creeks, rivers, or the ocean – at least one adult who is a strong swimmer should be designated as the official "Water Watcher." This person has a very important job! The Water Watcher is responsible for staying focused on the kids the whole time. Do not become distracted by texts, phone calls, ear-phones/music, reading, or napping. If you use babysitters, confirm that they are strong swimmers, and insist that they closely supervise your kids every moment.

LEARN CPR. Travis County ESD #2 (the Pflugerville Fire Department) provides free, compression-only CPR training to groups age 13 and older. Call ESD#2 at (512) 251-2801 and ask for the Risk Reduction Division to learn more about basic CPR. Remember the 3 C's: CHECK for signs of life. CALL 9-1-1 for help. COMPRESS the center of the chest hard and fast until help arrives.

FENCE ALL POOLS. Many of the nearly 300 kids under 5 years old who drown each year in backyard pools in the U.S. could be SAVED if homeowners completely fenced in pools. It's also very important to install self-closing, self-latching devices on gates. Anyone who has cared for young kids knows how fast they can move, so install pool and gate alarms to alert you when kids go near the water.

STAY AWAY FROM DRAINS. Ensure all pools and spas – both on your property and any public or hotel pool you may visit – have compliant drain covers. By law, all public pools and spas must have drain grates/covers that meet safety standards to avoid fatal accidents. Teach kids to avoid drains. Powerful suction from a pool or spa drain can even trap an adult.



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WBNA Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 20, 10:30am • Come Early!
Homestead at KF Park

Join your friends, neighbors and **The Easter Bunny**, himself, as Wells Branch welcomes Spring with the annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Homestead. **"Hunts" will be by age group and begin at 10:30am.** Come early and visit with the Easter Bunny or have fun at our craft table. ***If you plan on attending, please take a moment to read this article in its entirety.***

Two years ago, a web source picked up our event and shared it with 133,000 followers. As many of you observed first hand, the results were overwhelming. Last year, we were back to Wells Branch neighbors! ***ALL Wells Branch residents and their invited guests are welcome.*** We know past problems weren't with our neighbors, but more likely, those who just aren't used to how we do things in Wells Branch. Still, we ask that everyone be on their best behavior, volunteers included. No yelling, stealing eggs, reaching under the tape and filling baskets before we start, or busting down the tape and charging ahead before your age group is called. We need parents to set the example. We've added a second group for the little guys as that was an issue two years ago. It seemed to work well last year. ***ONE parent will be allowed in to help with the two youngest age groups (0-18mos & 18mos-3yrs).*** We ask that you respect this restriction. ***All other age groups must hunt on their own. Feel free to coach ahead of time.*** There will be 7 minutes between "hunts" to allow parents of multiple children to navigate the crowds. Please, only allow your children to hunt with their respective age group. Last, but not least, please remember that this event is put on by volunteers. We spend weeks getting ready and usually stuff 8,000-10,000 eggs. It's no small feat. So, if a volunteer asks something of you, please be respectful of their requests. If for some reason, your child ends up without many eggs, any of our volunteers in bunny ears will have extra goodies. Just let one of us know.

We love our neighbors and our community. We're asking for everyone's help in advance in creating a joyful experience for all involved.

We need volunteers to help things run more smoothly. Anyone whose kids have aged out of the hunt, or older teens who need service hours, we would be so appreciative of your time! Please contact us for more information at info@wbna.us or call 512-656-0654.

Easter Egg Hunt RULES:

Those of you who've attended our hunts in the past know we have very few rules, but we do ask parents to follow those rules and be courteous and respectful of your neighbors so that all of our children may enjoy the hunt.

Age Groups:

0-18mos & 18mos-3yrs

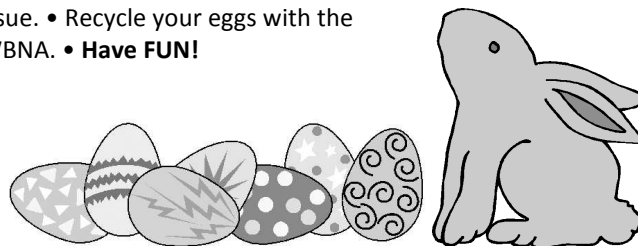
- *Only 1 parent per child in egg hunting area
- *Watch out for potential choking hazards

4-6yrs • 7-9yrs • 10-12yrs

- * No parents allowed in egg hunting area

BE ON TIME (early is better) AS THE "HUNTS" GO QUICKLY.

Check all eggs for prizes. • Let a volunteer know if there's an issue. • Recycle your eggs with the WBNA. • **Have FUN!**



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Proud to call Wells Branch home since 1993

Calling all Seniors! Retired? Bored? Ready to meet some new friends?

Join the Silver Branchers! by Glen Garey

The Silver Branchers began in 1988 as a group of seniors interested in meeting for fun and fellowship. The current group has continued this tradition and would like to extend an invitation to any and everyone who might be interested in making new friends. Meetings are held Thursdays from 1- 3 PM at the Wells Branch Rec. Center, 3000 Shoreline Drive to visit and play games. We also have socials and take day trips to local places of interest from time-to-time (list below). Membership is free. There are no age requirements; everyone is welcome.

2019 Day Trip Schedule

Thursday, April 18 – Picnic in the K.F. Park Gazebo catered by Branch Bar B Que. We will meet at the gazebo at 1:00pm. Cost is \$17. **Cut off for registration and payment is April 5.** Advanced collection of fees is done by cash or check with Glen 512-461-1665. No refunds after cut off date. This event may be rescheduled to a later date in case of inclement weather.

Thursday, July 18 – Museum trio: Bullock (<https://www.thestoryoftexas.com/>), **Blanton Museum of Art** (<https://blantonmuseum.org/>) and the **Harry Ransom Center** (<http://www.hrc.utexas.edu/>) are all in close proximity so you can choose which you wish to visit. Cut off for registration is July 11. We will leave the Rec. Center at 10:00am and return at 2:00pm (back at the Rec. Center by 2:30pm).

Wednesday, October 16 – Vanishing Texas River Cruise, 11:00am Cruise, <http://www.vtrc.com/scenic-wilderness-cruises/>. We will leave the Rec. Center at 9:15 and return following the cruise. Please make your reservation directly with the cruise operator (512) 756-6986 as early as possible after August 1 since these cruises sell out in advance. Cost is \$22.50. Remember to sign up with the staff at the Rec. Center as well; that cut off date is October 10.

Thursday, December 5 – Christmas Luncheon, 1pm at Mesa Rosa, 15515 FM 620, near the intersection with TX 45, <http://www.mesarosa.com/>. We will leave the Rec. Center at 12:30pm and return following lunch. Cut off for registration is November 27.

You may sign up for events with the Wells Branch MUD's customer service at 512-251-9814 or at the customer service desk at the Wells Branch Recreation Center. Please note that if we are not collecting fees in advance of an event, you will be responsible for making reservations if needed and paying any fees. Transportation may be limited, so please insure that you have secured a ride as we are not responsible for forfeited event fees. If private cars are used for transportation, you may be asked to contribute for the driver's expenses.

For more information, call Glen at 512-461-1665 or see our information on the Wells Branch Neighborhood Association website: <http://wbna.us/community/silver-branchers/>



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WB Soccer Association Update by Steve Wilson, President, WBSA

Excitement is in the air as the 2019 Wells Branch Soccer Association (WBSA) season has started. Close to 500 players have registered and are practicing and playing at our Wells Branch Soccer Complex. Every season our referees are getting better, our coaches are becoming more experienced, and our players are improving. WBSA continually is competitive against many of the bigger clubs in Austin, while maintaining our low cost and neighborly image.

With our impending collaborations with CTX Flash, Soccer Hub, and the new MLS franchise (Austin FC), WBSA continues to innovate to become a greater part of the Central Texas youth soccer scene.

Our SoccerKidz Program (2-4 years old) continues to be a fun and interactive atmosphere for the little ones. Please email: vp@wellsbranchsoccer.com for more information on this program.

During the winter break, WBSA had numerous players participating in the South Texas Olympic Development Program (ODP), which consisted of multiple weekends of specialized training with many of the best soccer players in South Texas. These players

trained in Austin, San Marcos, College Station, and Houston. We are proud to announce that two of our players have made the next round of training, making the South Texas ODP State team. We want to congratulate Kara Weaver and Bella Herold for their achievement. Their next step is to train and play with the team in Alabama during the summer.

WBSA is also excited that their Youth Referee Program keeps expanding. WBSA is a leader in the local youth soccer scene by offering referees a young as 11 years old opportunities to work games (and get paid!) while being mentored by older and seasoned referees. If you are interested in becoming a soccer referee, please email: referee@wellsbranchsoccer.com

If anyone is interested in signing up for the Spring season, we are still adding players for 2007-2008 girls (Rec/lower Select Division) and 2006 Boys (Rec/Lower Select). Please email registrar@wellsbranchsoccer.com for more information.

If there are any other questions feel free to email me at: prez@wellsbranchsoccer.com.

Thank you for your continued support of this longstanding WB community program.



Bella Herold and Kara Weaver

Summer Art Camp 2019

by Dianne Koehler, Art Teacher

Summer Art Enrichment camp is again available this summer with lots of great projects and a chance for each kid to customize their art. No cookie cutter projects here. Camp is open to kids 7-11. A fee of \$45 includes camp and all materials. All camps are held at the WB MUD Rec. Center, 3000 Shoreline Drive. Call 512-251-9814 or register online at wellsbranchmud.com.

Junior Artists | Limit 16

Ages: 7 -11 (**must** have completed 1st grade)

Mon-Tue-Wed Hours: 12:30-3:30pm

June 10 | Painting & Drawing Wild Animals: From lions and tigers, to giraffes and mustangs we will use all kinds of ways to produce drawings and paintings.

June 24 | Make It with Clay: Using a variety of clays to make our projects, we'll learn how to make and use clay, carve clay and more.

July 1 | Stars & Stripes: We will work on lots of patriotic themed projects including dress up items for the WB parade on July 4th.

July 22 | Wacky Science Art Projects: We will work on colorful applications of science from catapults to crystal experiments to exploding color bombs and more.

Aug 5 | Painting & Drawing - Traditional & Modern: We'll spend some time exploring use of colors then explore landscapes, faces, street art and more.

Joe Lee Johnson STEAM Academy News

by Cristina Hanus, Secretary, JLJ PTA

We have had an amazing start to the New Year filled with fun and community events. Thank you to all of our students, families, JLJ staff and Trailblazer community members for joining us at our recent movie nights and our amazing Glow Party and Lettuce Turnip the Beet Garden Party. These events would not have been possible without the amazing volunteers that are driving the dream!

Upcoming Events

April 18 – PTA and Trailblazer Community Meeting

April 19 – No School

May 6-10 – Teacher Appreciation Week

May 16 – PTA and Trailblazer Community Meeting

May 17 – Field Day (during school)

Special DIY Club Meeting by Daniel White

The DIY Club will meet on Sunday April 7 from 4:00 to 6:00pm at the WB Rec. Center, 3000 Shoreline Drive. We will be discussing things to protect your home, cut your expenses, and make life better for you. If you use a walker or wheelchair or have mobility problems, I will be talking about things that can make life better for you. There will be hand-outs for the attendees.



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It's My Park Day Volunteers

Keep WB Beautiful by Brian Litke

There were two It's My Park Day projects at Wells Branch. On March 2, 2019, groups of volunteers headed to the WB Butterfly Garden and WB Disc Golf Course to spread mulch and tend to the trees and plants. Volunteers at the disc golf course picked up litter and planted several new trees, including a Texas Redbud, Texas Cedar Elm, Monterrey Oak, Mexican Plum, two Crepe Myrtles, two Evergreen Sumacs, and Flame-leaf Sumac. For several volunteers it was the first time they had planted a tree, and many good memories were made as participants learned to identify and maintain the trees in our greenbelt. Thank you to Cub Scout Pack 728 for lending many hands! Thank you to Wells Branch MUD staff Katie Hutcheson and resident Brian Litke for organizing the projects, and thank you to MUD Board Director Janet Maxey for assisting with the workday.

Upcoming Disc Golf Events in Wells Branch

by Brian Litke

2nd Annual Youth Disc Golf Tournament at Wells Branch, Ages 1-18 • Sunday, April 14 • 1:00 - 5:30pm • \$10 Entry
Participants receive two custom-art discs with their entry fee. Trophies for winners of boys and girls age-based divisions. Sign up by contacting the WB MUD Rec. Center at 512-251-9814. Limited to 60 players.

7th Annual WB Disc Golf Tournament
Saturday, May 11 • 9am - 12:30pm • \$15 Entry
Participants receive one deluxe custom-art disc with their entry fee. Trophies for winners of men and women age-based divisions. Door prize drawings for merchandise, including a portable disc golf target. Sign up by contacting the WB MUD Rec. Center at 512-251-9814. Limited to 100 players.

Mixed Doubles: Every Tuesday at 5:30pm

A regular meetup of friendly mixed doubles (man/woman) teams. Meet by the kiosk at the start of the disc golf course. Coordinator: Krissie Fountain



4th Annual WB Kite Festival

Sunday, March 31 • 10am-5pm
Retention Pond/Dog Park northeast of the WB MUD Annex • 14611 Wells Port Drive

Come early and stay late! Join us for a kite flying, picnicking, community led event. Absolutely FAMILY FRIENDLY! Bring your blankets and lawn chairs. Pack your own goodies and please bring a trash bag as we're required to pack our rubbish out.

For questions, or to help with the planning, please contact Mark Johnson at jonnojohnson@gmail.com. Look for our event on Facebook and share with your friends and neighbors.



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Mr. PC's Computer Corner by Dave DeVore

Even if your friends or family don't seem to be listening to you, chances are that someone is always listening. They have cute names like Siri or Alexa. Google isn't very original in this regard, you just say "OK Google" to search on your phone, although you can customize your magic words for Google. Regardless of their warm, fuzzy, anthropomorphic names, these services need to be listening constantly so that they can be summoned when needed to check the weather, a sports score, give directions or perhaps shop for you. So, what's the big deal, isn't the convenience of instant answers to our questions as they occur worth a little privacy? Maybe so, if the motivation of Amazon, Apple, Facebook, Google, Microsoft, Yahoo and others was to serve your needs. Each of these have done a very good job of disguising their reasons for existing. For example, Google originally came to the fore by being perceived as the fastest and most accurate search engine. The company would love for you to continue to think just that. They are in fact the world's largest advertising company. Their business model depends on glean- ing ever more information about every man, woman and child on the planet so that they can monetize it in one way or another, either themselves or by selling it to the highest bidder. The illusion is out there that you are their customer when in fact you are the product they are sell- ing.

I can imagine all kinds of scary scenarios in which this could be a bad thing. Nothing ever disappears from the Internet, at least not in our country. Europe is already waking up to this threat and is well on the way to giving citizens the right to challenge and edit or maybe even erase anything from their digital past. A recent news story said that Amazon believes that the artificial intelli- gence behind Alexa will soon be able to detect problems within marriages and other relationships based on the way we talk to each other. Will Alexa tell you one day soon that you need an attack dog divorce lawyer? Or about your spouse's affair based on their spending pat- terns and location information? Brave New World pre- dicted an all-seeing Big Brother. Even George Orwell couldn't foresee that perhaps mega-companies would become the bigger danger.

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

Birding in Wells Branch by Sharon Richardson

The Wells Branch birders meet every second Monday at 8:00am at Mills Pond pavilion. We walk along the trail and almost always find interesting birds. Spring is a particularly active time for seeing cool birds in Wells Branch as they seem to love the bugs and berries along the riparian areas near the Pond. The Purple Martins are back from their wintering grounds in the Amazon basin and are quickly filling up the gourd sta- tion in the meadow just south of the pond. This is also the time to put up your hummingbird feeders (one part sugar to four parts wa- ter). Happy springtime birding!

If anyone is interested in being a Purple Martin steward (cleaning and checking the gourds and counting eggs and babies) please contact Karen Hagemann at khall- hagemann@hotmail.com.





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Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING Member SIPC

Care & Feeding of Gasoline

Motorized Power Tools by Daniel White

I call it care and feeding because most people are feeding there lawnmowers and other power equipment with the wrong food. Many grew up going to a local store and buying gas to put in their power equipment. All that changed in 2001 when the EPA approved ethanol to be added to gasoline for use in *cars only* but not in motorized power equipment. Ethanol has inherent properties that can cause corrosion of metal parts, including carburetors, degradation of plastic and rubber parts which can cause harder starting and shorter engine life. Ethanol causes condensation in the gas tank and carburetor bowl which settles to the bottom and prevents starting; gas engines will not run on water.

You have two choices to prevent this problem. The first is to buy ethanol free gas, which is more expensive than current gas and hard to find or to buy a fuel stabilizer and add it to the ethanol fuel. Some other hints that will help are to get a one gallon container and only buy as much gas as you will use in a month, and make sure to add a fuel stabilizer. After each use refill the tank to about 95 % full with stabilized gas. At the end of the season make sure you use all the fuel out of the tank and carburetor and buy new fuel and stabilizer at the beginning of the new season.

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Time for Some Financial Spring Cleaning

submitted by Nicole Viator, Financial Advisor & WB Neighbor

Spring is here – and for many of us, that means it's time for some spring cleaning. This year, in addition to tidying up your home, why not try brightening your financial environment? Some of the same moves you make to clean your surroundings may apply to your finances. Consider these suggestions:

Get rid of clutter. When you go through your closets, attic, basement or other areas, you may find many items you no longer need. You might be able to sell some of these things or find other ways of disposing of them. And as you review your portfolio, you might also encounter "clutter" in the form of investments that may be redundant to others you own. If so, you might consider selling these investments and using the proceeds to purchase new ones, which may help you broaden your portfolio.

Protect yourself from hazards. As you go about your spring cleaning, you may well encounter hazardous substances, such as cleaning agents, paints, batteries, pesticides and so on, which you don't need anymore and which may pose potential health risks. You can reduce the possible danger from these materials by recycling or disposing of them in an environmentally safe way. Your overall financial situation has hazards, too, in the form of illness or injury preventing you from working, or, in your later years, the need for some type of long-term care, such as an extended stay in a nursing home. To protect yourself, you may need appropriate insurance, including disability and long-term care.

Find new uses for existing possessions. When you are sprucing up your home, you may rediscover uses for things you already have. Who knows – perhaps that treadmill that's been gathering dust in your garage could actually be employed again as part of your re-dedicated exercise regimen. And you might be able to get more mileage out of some of your existing investments, too. Suppose, for instance, that some of your stocks are paying you dividends, which you take as cash. If you don't really need this income to support your lifestyle, you might consider reinvesting the dividends so that you can own more shares of the dividend-paying stocks. Over the long run, increased share ownership is a key to helping build your portfolio.

Establish new habits. Spring cleaning doesn't have to be just about physical activities – it can also involve a new set of habits on your part. For example, instead of placing your unread magazines in an ever-expanding pile, try to read and recycle them quickly. You can also develop some positive habits as an investor, such as "paying yourself first" by regularly putting some money in an investment account each month, even before paying all your bills. You can also avoid some bad habits, such as overreacting to market downturns by selling investments to "cut your losses," even though those same investments may still have strong growth potential and may still be suitable for your needs.

Doing some spring cleaning can make you feel better about your living space today. And applying some of these techniques to your financial situation can help you gain a more positive outlook for tomorrow.

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.



SCOUT ME IN™

Cub Scout Pack 728 Donates to Popcorn to Military Service Men & Women

by Deanna Johnson

The Cub Scouts in Pack 728 were excited to donate over \$750 in popcorn to the men and women serving in the military. While our local Cub Scout pack was selling Popcorn last fall, they also collected popcorn to go to the men and women serving in the military. They got to present the popcorn in person to a few of the troops last month, and loved getting a thank you pictures back from the helicopter team and other troops.

If you have kids going into Kindergarten up through fifth grade this fall, they can join Cub Scout Pack 728 now. Boys and girls who join will start participating in activities and earning advancements this Spring and get a chance to enjoy a handful of fun summer activities.

While Cub Scouts are doing new things, they discover and master new skills, gain self-confidence, develop strong friendships, and give to the community thru service projects. Pack 728 gets kids outdoors for camping trips, field trips like overnight on USS Lexington this fall, rocket launches, hiking and more. They're also learning STEM skills and enjoying fun activities like Pinewood Derby races, rain gutter regattas, skits and more.

Who: Boys and Girls in Kindergarten through 5th Grade

When: Wednesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 – Follows RRISD school year plus a few summer activities

Where: Wells Branch Community Church, 2113 Wells Branch Pkwy, Austin TX 78728

We are the official Cub Scout Pack for Joe Lee Johnson, Wells Branch AIA and Jubilee Academy, but we also welcome kids from any school--- outside the neighborhood. For more info, contact **Wells Branch Pack 728** at WBpack728@gmail.com, or check us out at www.facebook.com/WellsBranchPack728.



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Wells Branch Armada Swim Team News

by Soonee Wright, President, WBA

Registration for the 2019 season has already begun for returning swimmers! Information can be found on our website at: <https://wellsbranch.swimtopia.com/>. Registration for NEW SWIMMERS will open both online and in person on March 30 at 2pm at the WB Recreation Center, 3000 Shoreline Drive. In person registration and swim suit fittings will be from 2-4pm on Saturday, March 30. Please stop by with any questions or concerns or feel free to email soonee-wright@austin.rr.com. Our season will begin with afternoon practices on Monday, April 29 and we will switch to morning practices beginning Friday, May, 31. The Wells Branch Armada would like to thank the WB MUD for their continued support as we enter our 30th swim season.

Additionally, the WBA is currently seeking sponsors for our 2019 season. Typically, we have over 200 swimmers from over 100 families from the Wells Branch area and surrounding neighborhoods. If you're interested in sponsoring the team, or donating in some other way, please access our website for more information. The WBA is a 501(c)(3) organization.

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.



Drop Everything and Read!

by Brittany Patrick, Adult Program & Service Librarian

Mark your calendar for Drop Everything and Read (D.E.A.R.) Day at the Wells Branch Community Library on Friday, April 12! D.E.A.R. Day is a nation-wide event celebrating the love of reading and takes place each year on the birthday of the beloved children's author Beverly Cleary, whose characters Ramona and Beezus have delighted readers since 1955. Come share your love of reading with us during storytimes at 10:30 a.m. (Toddlers) and 11:15 a.m. (Preschoolers). Then, at 4 p.m., visit and read with some adorable miniature therapy horses from Northwind Farms (online registration required at www.wblibrary.eventbrite.com). For grown-ups, there will be a free "Tea Library" with a selection of hot teas to enjoy as you read in the library's book sale area, along with coupons for a free book. So put reading at the top of your to-do list on April 12! For more information, visit www.wblibrary.org or call the library at 512-989-3188.

New Book Club at Wells Branch Library

by Brittany Patrick, Adult Program & Service Librarian

Love talking about books but don't want to commit to a specific book each month? Try the new Novel Ideas Book Club at Wells Branch Community Library! It's not your traditional book club – instead of a monthly book selection, this club is all about coming together to share your love of reading and swap book recommendations with other readers. Come prepared to talk about your favorite book or your current great read, and build up your to-read list with others' suggestions as well! **The club meets on the second Thursday of each month at 6pm at the library.** For more information, visit www.wblibrary.org or call 512-989-3188.

Senior Fall Prevention at the Library

by Brittany Patrick, Adult Program & Service Librarian

Have you stopped doing things you enjoy because of concerns about falling? Join us at the Wells Branch Community Library for the free, 8-week program ***A Matter of Balance: Managing Concerns about Falling***, provided by the Area Agency on Aging. In this award-winning program developed by Boston University, older adults will learn practical strategies to reduce the fear of falling, manage their environment to minimize the risk of falling, and increase daily exercise to remain active and independent. The program consists of eight 2-hour sessions led by a trained facilitator and is recommended for anyone age 60 or older who is concerned about falls and has restricted their activities because of these concerns. **Classes meet on Tuesdays at 9:30am from April 23 to June 11. Class size is limited and registration is required. To sign up, call the library at 512-989-3188.**

Board Game Group at the Library

by Max Kaye, Library Assistant

Meeting every 2nd and 4th Sunday from 4:00-5:30pm, the Wells Branch Board Game Group is a *free* and *inclusive* activity for players of **all ages**. Twice a month, for ninety minutes we gather in the L.A.B. at Wells Branch Library to make new friends, learn new games and share our favorites. The library provides snacks and more than a dozen games, and you are invited to bring your favorite board, card or strategy game to share with the group.

Upcoming meetings: March 24, April 14, April 28

For more info, contact Max@wblibrary.org or call 512-989-3188 during library hours.

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

All programs are free and open to the public.

Programs with ** require advance registration at wblibrary.eventbrite.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FOL Community Garage Sale

Saturday, March 30 from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.

D.E.A.R. Day Miniature Horse Visit**

Friday, April 12 at 4 p.m.

Celebrate Drop Everything And Read day with miniature horses at the library!

Senior Fall Prevention Program

8-week course beginning Tuesday, April 23 at 9:30 a.m.

Register by calling the library at 512-989-3188.

Inclusive Board Game Group

Second and fourth Sundays of each month, 4 to 5:30 p.m.

Enjoy board and card games with an all-ages group!

Novel Ideas Book Club

Second Thursday of each month at 6 p.m.

Get new recommendations from other book lovers!

DIY Wednesdays (Ages 18+)**

Wednesdays at 6 p.m. in the LAB

Learn a new DIY skill each week in the library's Learn and Build area. Registration is limited and required.

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 a.m.

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 10:30 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!

FIRST FRIDAYS

Terrence Taps**

Friday, April 5 at 6:30 p.m.

Join local tap dancer Terrence Taps for an all-ages performance the whole family will enjoy!

Flamenco Dance Performance**

Friday, May 3 at 6:30 p.m.

Enjoy a Cinco de Mayo performance by Austin Flamenco Academy and live music at the library.

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

WBLIBRARY.ORG.

UPCOMING CLOSURES

Saturday, March 30

Library closed for Community Garage Sale

Sunday, April 21

Library closed for Easter

Thursday, April 25

Library closed for inventory

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

Morning and Evening Yoga

First and third Thursdays of each month at 10:30 a.m.

Second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 6:30 p.m.

Please bring your own yoga mat.

Knit & Crochet Group

Second Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m.

Knit and crochet items benefitting the Austin Scarf Project.

Swim Across Texas Winners!

by Katie Hutcheson, WB MUD Aquatics Supervisor



Swim Across Texas 2018/19 has ended. Lap swim mileage from Willow Bend Pool was collected from November 1, 2018 to February 28, 2019. The top three swimmers with the most mileage on February 28 received an individual Recreation Tag for the upcoming year. The results in miles are:

Alison 103.3 • Kevin 94.9 • Larry 91.8 • Rick 57.7 • Anne 51.7 • Kurt 40.4 • Virgil 29.4 • Ralph 17.5 • Satomi 14 Colton 12.4 • Karen 11.1 • Winston 9.2 • Brady 8.8 Rebecca 6.6 • Dan 0.6



Congratulations to all the swimmers!



Wells Branch MUD is HIRING Seasonal Lifeguards and Day Camp Counselors!

Please visit the District's employment page at <http://wellsbranchmud.com/community-resources/employment-opportunities> for details and for information on how to apply. For questions contact the MUD office at 512-251-9814.

WB Community Garden Plots Available!

- Located at Single Trace and Town Hill Drive
- 10 X 20 ft plots
- **ALL ORGANIC**
- Rent up to 2 plots
- \$50 refundable deposit per plot, and \$50 rental fee (in District residents), \$100 rental fee (out of District residents)

If interested please visit the Recreation Center at 3000 Shoreline Drive to fill out the rental contract and make your payment. For more info, visit <http://wellsbranchmud.com/parks-a-recreation/community-gardens>. For questions, please call 512-251-9814.

Covenants Corner

During the spring and summer months, many homeowners begin planning new projects for improving or modifying their property. **Please keep in mind, all exterior changes, modifications, improvements or additions need to be approved by the Architectural Control Committee (ACC) prior to starting construction.** Some of the projects needing approval include sheds, pools, patio covers, sunrooms, fencing, solar panels, rain barrels, playhouses, exterior painting, roof replacements, etc. In-District residents can find the form needed for submittal on the MUD website at <http://www.wellsbranchmud.com/community-resources/architectural-control-committee>. Once completed, please return to Kellie Reed, the District's Property Coordinator at kreed@wellsbranchmud.com. She may be reached at 512-251-9814 for any questions regarding the approval process. Rain collection, metal roof installation, solar equipment, and xeriscaping guidelines are also available at the above mentioned site.

For In-District Wells Branch residents living in an HOA/POA (Brookside, Stoneridge, The Lake at Wells Branch), your association may require a separate filing in addition to the form filed with the WB MUD. Out-of-District residents (Brattonwood, Bratton Glen, Bratton Hill) please contact your HOAs directly. You can find the appropriate links at wbna.us (scroll ALL the way to the bottom).

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.

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.



Keep Texas Beautiful KWBB Volunteer Day

by Katie Hutcheson

WB MUD Aquatics Supervisor

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.

The **Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off** is the single largest one-day cleanup event in the state and serves as Texas' signature event for the Great American Cleanup, the nation's largest community improvement program.

We will meet at Mills Pond, 15108 Wells Port Drive, Sunday, **April 7 from 2-4pm**, and pick up litter out of the pond and the trails. Please wear closed toed shoes and long sleeves.

No event is planned for the month of May.

WB Walking Club

by Katie Hutcheson, WB MUD Aquatics Supervisor

Spring is here! Take advantage of our crisp, cool mornings and join us! The trails are beautiful; trees are budding out and wildlife is 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.

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 | (512) 470-9782



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WB Photo Club by Margaret McGhee-Sufke

We kicked off 2019 with January and February classroom sessions. Each session had a short slide deck with tips/tricks from featured expert articles. The presentations were followed by several members sharing their photos, focusing on the topics covered in the lectures. This format made for a great learning environment through lively discussion and some amazing photos.

Along with the techniques and critiques, we threw around the idea of taking several local excursions to expand our horizons. We are asking active members, if interested or able, to lead these sessions. Dave Devore, Sherrie Lindig and Margaret Sufke have offered to lead the first few off site sessions. The exact locations and timings will be posted soon. Expect places like Lady Bird Wild Gardens, Murphy Park, Brushy Creek and more.

Our March meeting will be the first "outdoor" venue for 2019 practicing our techniques in Wells Branch trying for the Butterfly Garden, if the weather, plants, birds, etc. all cooperate. Please consider volunteering to help host a session. Not too much is required to lead a session, generally just make a phone call or two if needed, then give me the information and I will get it out to the group.

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 community events, which include: Pioneer Festival, the Easter Egg Hunt, WB Garden Guild Garden Tour, etc. Many of these events will offer great practice for special photographic techniques. Please help out if you can.

WB Garden Guild Tour & Landscaping Contest— \$100 prize!

The WBNA is sponsoring a yard landscaping contest for the Spring of 2019. A one hundred dollar prize will be awarded to the yard voted best landscaped during the Wells Branch Garden Tour on May 18, 2019. You may nominate your yard for inclusion in the tour by sending photos of your landscaping with your name, physical address, email and phone number to glennoe@att.net by April 20, 2019. Nine yards will be selected for viewing, with an emphasis on including yards new to the tour, and tour participants will vote to name one yard "Best Landscape of the Tour".



Pioneer Festival

Saturday, April 6 • 12-5pm • Wells Branch Homestead

Hosted by WB MUD Parks Dept. & WB Homestead

Come experience a day in old Texas! We hope you will join us at our annual Pioneer Festival at the Wells Branch Homestead on April 6. -This is always a special event where Wells Branch comes together to celebrate our history and learn about daily life for the Texas pioneers. It will be a day featuring lively music and games as well as informative booths and demonstrations of period skills and crafts. Come learn about blacksmithing, weaving, historical weaponry, and food preservation just to name a few. You can try your hand at making butter or a corn husk doll to take home. There will also be pony rides and a petting zoo for the kids. Bring your family and enjoy spending the day back in time, all the way back to 1850.

If you would like to volunteer, or have a collection, craft, or activity from that period for demonstration, contact Gwendolyn Johnson at GJohnson@wellsbranchmud.com.

Pioneer Pals by Gwendolyn Johnson, Homestead Curator

Wednesdays at 9:30am on the Homestead lawn

Preschoolers and their caregivers are invited to join Ms. Gwendolyn on the Homestead lawn every Wednesday at 9:30am for Pioneer Pals. This is a fun, interactive program featuring stories, crafts, activities, and plenty of playtime for the kids (as well as some often much-needed social time for the grown-ups!) This program is free and requires no registration. Come enjoy Wednesday mornings at the Homestead and make some new friends too! Connect with us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/wellsbranchhomestead.

Come Celebrate Earth Day in Wells Branch!

Sunday, May 5 • 9:30am-1:00pm • 14311 Wells Port Drive

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, 14311 Wells Port Drive, is celebrating Earth Day on Sunday, May 5 from 9:30am-1pm.

Obtain information about home energy conservation, recycling, best shopping choices for health and the environment, solar panel systems, progressive climate change legislation, electric vehicles and much more.

Please join us, all are welcome!

We sell out fast!

OFFICE USE ONLY

Support your Neighborhood Association

Date: _____ by joining the WBNA and continue to make Wells Branch great!

Check: _____ Here is my check (made out to WBNA) for \$20 annual dues for 2019

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

Tammy DeWitt Le

December 28, 1970 - February 16, 2019

*Thank you, Tammy, for always being here for your community.
Your kindness and generosity helped shape Wells Branch.
You will be missed.*

If you would like to bring food for the Les, please visit this link to MealTrain:
<https://tinyurl.com/y3jv5nzu>

If you would like to donate in lieu of flowers in honor of Tammy, the family would like to request a donation to their children's college fund, as they believe the most important cause for Tammy would have been that her children are able to attend college without extreme debt. Donations are not expected or requested, but if you would like to give something in remembrance of Tammy, please consider contributing to GoFundMe:
<https://tinyurl.com/y3czojot>



Announcing!!! All Organic Farmers Market on Fridays!

by Dianne Koehler, Garden Curriculum Coordinator

Do you want fresh hand grown organic food for a low price? Then you can buy from the Wells Branch Elementary AIA farmers market gardens! We sell on Friday after school when we advertise it on the Google Group and Community Facebook pages. We have been seeding lots of plants in our LADYBUG cups. Our preK-2nd have been busy painting pots and planting seeds.

This spring we will have cherry tomatoes, jalapeños, serene peppers, Tabasco peppers, corn, cucumbers, okra, chocolate mint, and lettuce seedlings for sale. Only \$1 per pot. Friday beginning at 2:50pm until we run out.

Come to the bike area at the corner of Merriltown and Town Hill (14650 Merriltown Rd). This market is run by the 5th grade students who grow the plants (with help from all the garden students!), harvest the produce, and work the stand.

