

Informational Tax Protest Meeting

Thursday, May 30 • 7pm

WB Community Center • 2106 Klattenhoff

See page 3 for guidelines and visit our Facebook page for informative videos on appealing your tax assessment. We hope to see you on Thursday!

NEW! Pet Chip Scanner in Wells Branch

With the help of our wonderful neighbors, Wells Branch has a new Pet Chip Scanner! We'd like to thank Daniel Barnekow and Mikella Maughan for being the driving forces behind acquiring the scanner and Sunbury Vet Clinic for ordering a top of the line scanner for us.

A special thank you to all the WB residents who contributed to its purchase. You're one of the many reasons Wells Branch is such an incredible place to live.

Austin Artist | Daniel Barnekow | Kate Barnekow

Jill Bekaert-Lubitz | Meaghan Bellande | Lora Bielfeldt

Linda Bilstein | Heather Cooke | Donna Dorsey | Delian Filip

Mitch Fincher | Randy & Jackie Gabbart | Michelle Gadush

Cynthia Hannon | Gus Kohn | Sherrie Lindig | Nancy Loomis

Mikella Maughan | Kathy McCaston | Gay McLaughlin

Abi P. | Shelley Palmer | Katherine Preble | Davika Reid

Ralph Simon | Mark & Tamara Talarico | Debby Thompson

Rudy Valenti | Allison Wren

and those who contributed anonymously.

Mikella has graciously volunteered to be the resident possessor of the chip reader. The number to call or text for scanning needs is **(512) 270-1026**. This is a Google number which can be transferred to anyone who may be filling-in in order to keep things simple. Please keep in mind that she is a regular person with a life - a business, some kids, and pets of her own - so she can't be available 24/7, however she does work from home and will be available from approximately 7am to 9pm most days. Please call or text if you have an animal in Wells Branch who needs to be scanned. **She is happy to help!**

YOUR Membership COUNTS!

WBNA is literally a labor of love. It was created by and is run by VOLUNTEERS. All of our activities are funded through membership, advertising in the newsletter and the 4th Fest Silent Auction. While you receive all the benefits of having an active neighborhood association for free, your \$20 annual membership really does make a difference in what we can provide. There's a membership form on the back page of every newsletter and a printable version on the website. Please join! We depend on you!

Silent Auction Items Needed

Each year, the WBNA hosts a Silent Auction during the Fourth-Fest celebration on July 4th.

This is our BIG fundraiser for the year - how we pay for the Easter Egg Hunt, National Night Out, our participation at Hal-loween and Luminary Fest, as well as the meetings, candidate forums and safety demonstrations we host throughout the year.

In addition to giving back to our community, donating to the WBNA Silent Auction is a **GREAT way to promote your business!** We are seeking donations of merchandise, gift cards/certificates, theme baskets, and services to auction. In return, you receive exposure for your business at the auction, through flyers, a special "Thank You" section in the September issue of the WBNA Neighborhood News and on our website and Facebook page with links to your site.

If you have items or services to donate or if you would like to help solicit items or volunteer to work the auction, please email us at silentauction@wbna.us.



Thank YOU for making (and keeping) Wells Branch GREAT!

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WBNA Membership Renewal Form on Page 16.
Please JOIN or RENEW YOUR Membership TODAY!
Next Issue due out June 29, 2019.

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Travis County Transportation Blueprint Survey - What You Need to Know YOUR RESPONSE is NEEDED!

The *Travis County Transportation Blueprint* is filled with projects to improve mobility in our community; so many projects that, given their current financial projections, they won't be able to build them all. Too many projects are chasing too few dollars. Before they finalize the *Blueprint*, they want to hear from you: Which of these projects are most important to you? Are there some you don't like? Are there some that are not a high priority for you?

Many factors will influence project prioritization; public opinion is one of them. Hearing from the community ensures that the public's voice is well represented in the decision-making process.

Take a look at the *Blueprint Overview* (second link below), then start exploring the maps below (first link). Click for more information on projects that interest you; let Travis County know what you think. In each project's pop-up box you can express support or opposition, and identify your priority projects. Scroll down in each box to complete the short survey.

<https://cdandp.mysocialpinpoint.com/tcblueprintsurvey>

<https://www.traviscountytexas.gov/images/tnr/lwtp/transportation/docs/tctb-brochure.pdf>



FOL News

by Tracy Simon, President, FOL

Another year, another successful FOL Community Garage Sale. Despite the cold front that brought rain, wind, and falling temperatures, the show went on.

Thank you to everyone who participated in any way. Thank you to our vendors, our volunteers, the Boy Scouts, our intrepid board of directors, and our shoppers! I wish I could find my list of volunteers to list you individually. Thank you to Malone's Coffee, Fresh Donuts, Papa John's Pizza and Kona Ice for their contributions to our concession stand.

All proceeds support library programs. The FOL is happy to announce we are providing the adult prizes for the Summer Reading Program and are underwriting the Library's First Friday series this year. Your support truly impacts our Wells Branch community. Thank you, once again!



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Tax Rate? Appraisal Amount? What am I Supposed to Protest?

by Pam Wachholz - GRI Realtor® Better Homes & Gardens Real Estate - Home City

Hi neighbors! We've all been affected by rising property values, whether we are homeowners or renters. As property owners, we do have the ability to try and reign in the year-over-year increases in appraised value and total property tax bill, and I hope this article helps you navigate, or at least gain a better understanding of the property tax appraisal process!

First, a few clarifications:

The CAD (Central Appraisal District for the county in which your property is located) establishes their opinion of the value of your property.

The Tax Rate is established by the various entities (school district, city/county/MUD, hospital district, ACC...and whatever other jurisdictions your property lies in.)

The Tax Bill is calculated by multiplying the total tax rate by every \$100 of valuation. (Divide your appraised value by 100 and multiply that by the Tax Rate.)

You are only protesting the appraised value to the CAD, the CAD has nothing to do with the tax rate!

There are four stages to the property tax appraisal "Season".

Appraisal or Value Stage – January through mid-May

Values are set and notices mailed to property owners.

Equalization or Protest Stage—through July 20

The deadline to protest your value was May 15, many people filed their protests as soon as they received their notice (not good). Hearings have already started!

Assessment or Rate Setting Stage—July through October

Final values are set based on evidence presented by property owners.

Collection Stage—October through January 31

Time to pay the piper! Pay your taxes prior to December 31 in order to deduct allowable portion from income taxes for the current year – but, they aren't considered late until after January 31.

During Stage 1, the CAD is looking for all it can use to come up with your property's valuation – they watch for deed transfers, look for permits that indicate improvements, use the info from prior protests, they inspect your property (exterior only) and yes, they use Google Earth and other online resources. According to the TX Property Code, the value established by the appraiser is correct – the property owner has to prove it's wrong!

Every property owner should have received their Notice of Assessed Value in April. **May 15 was the official deadline to protest. In the future, be sure to mail or hand-deliver your**

Notice of Protest on the 15th! If you didn't do this prior to May 15th, go ahead and do it now – it *may* be accepted, but there is also a very good chance that any concessions you may earn will be reduced because the protest request was filed late. Go to the WBNA Facebook page and watch the video for specifics on completing the protest form.

Since we are past the official protest filing deadline of May 15th, let's jump ahead to Stage 2 and assume you filed a protest and requested the evidence packet & field card. You will be receiving your notice of hearing, so be sure you check your mail regularly! When you receive that, you want to make an **Open Records Request** about 17 days prior to your hearing date. Here is some suggested verbiage:

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please forward me the results of all informal meetings, E-file decisions and formal hearings in my tax neighborhood of Wells Branch, #W6000. Please forward this information prior to my informal hearing on <DATE>.*

With the results of the open records request, the Evidence Packet and Field Card in hand, you will be able to begin building your case for a lower appraised value. Take a look at your property with a critical eye, are there faults in the property that the CAD doesn't know about (ie: major cracks in slab or walls, increase in crime or noise...); check the measurements on the appraisal that was done when you purchased the property in case the measured square footage is less than what the CAD shows (the CAD does NOT typically measure your house; is your house still sporting original everything while your neighbors have gone in and updated everything? Is your cost per SF higher than identically built homes on your street? That's where the inequality argument comes in. But, be careful if you have an improvement the tax district doesn't know about!

Remember, the burden of proof is on you! Go into your informal hearing with your evidence, organized so that you can clearly state your case. Use the evidence that the CAD sent you, including the results from recent hearings. If you cannot make your informal hearing, reschedule it!

Join us at the WB Community Center, 2106 Klattenhoff on Thursday, May 30, at 7pm, as we will go more in depth on the appraisal protest process, including the formal hearing and the 18 Steps to a Successful Protest Hearing.

Credit for much of this information goes to Gordon Gorychka, GRI/CRB/ABR/MBA and the Austin Board of Realtors® Property Tax Appraisal Education Task Force.



Host an exchange student and bring the world to your family!

by Skipper McWithey

Mariell from Germany is planning to attend McNeil High School for the 2019-2020 school year. She describes herself as a kind and dedicated person. She's an avid saxophone player and also plays tennis and enjoys reading. Help make her dream of being an American High School student and seeing a football game come true.

Host families come in all varieties, sizes and shapes! Singles, empty nesters, families with or without children, all make great families for students coming to the US. Learn about another culture, share your everyday life and form a relationship that will stay with you and your family forever.

Contact me to find out how to become Mariell's host family and make memories for a lifetime.

skippermcwithey@efexchangeyear.org | 512.964.4103
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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.

WB Business Update—

Chowtown & Malone Coffee by Donna Malone

Many of you have been asking about the temporary closure at Cafe ChowTown so we wanted to post a quick update. Stephanie, the owner of Cafe Chowtown, has temporarily closed the cafe until summer to work on the strategy for the cafe. She has shared some of the ideas with us and we are very excited and can't wait until the cafe reopens.

Also, when it reopens, they will still be serving Malone Specialty Coffee drinks and expanding Malone Coffee offerings to include Nitro Cold Brew and Blended Iced Drinks! We still have our roaster at Cafe Chowtown and Paul is roasting lots of coffee for the three coffee trailers which are all still open for business.

We are actually expanding our fresh roasted coffee delivery service to Wells Branch residents and businesses.

Our current single origin offerings are Brazil, Colombian, Sumatra, and a Costa Rican Decaf! To kickoff our expanded coffee bean delivery service we are offering a limited amount of free 6oz bags of fresh roasted coffee beans to residents and businesses. If you, your business, or someone you know likes awesome fresh locally roasted coffee and would like a sample, please send us an email to info@malonecoffee.com and we will bring you a 6oz bag or have one ready for pickup at our HEB trailer. If you would prefer a full size 12oz bag, we sell those for \$9.99 or a 5 lb. bag for \$50. Thank you for supporting your local Wells Branch Coffee Company.



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Father's Day: Tools Are Great for Father's Day – and for Investors

by Nicole Viator, Financial Advisor & WB Neighbor

It's almost Father's Day – time for dads everywhere to receive new tools as gifts. But you don't have to be a father to benefit from the skills used for home repairs. These same abilities could be applied to other parts of your life – such as investing.

For example, when you're starting a home-improvement task, you need to assemble the right tools and materials. The same is true when you're launching a financial project, such as saving for retirement – except, in this case, the tools and materials you need are the right investments and long-term strategy to meet your goals and risk tolerance.

Also, when you build things, you'll want to analyze your finished project periodically, to make sure it's holding up well. As an investor, you should review your financial strategy at least once a year to ensure it still meets your needs. And you may need to adjust it to accommodate changes in your life.

The same type of skills you use for home improvements can be especially valuable – because they can also help you work toward a solid financial structure.

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.

Tammy's List Lives On

by Debby Thompson, President, WBNA

As many of you know, our friend and neighbor, Tammy DeWitt Le, passed away in February. She will be missed for her kindness, willingness to help, and the many ways she supported the Wells Branch community. The WBNA has agreed to host **Tammy's Wells Branch Recommended Vendor List** on the WBNA website. Here, it will always remain "Tammy's List". You may find it at: <http://wbna.us/community/tammys-recommended-vendor-list/>.

Please continue to post reviews and recommendations to the Wells Branch Google Group as this has always been our resource for Tammy's List. If you're not yet a member and would like to join, email the admin team at wbneighbors@gmail.com to request membership. For questions regarding the administration of Tammy's List, please contact us at info@wbna.us.

Wells Branch Neighborhood Association (WBNA), Wells Branch Google Group, Tammy DeWitt Le and Horizon Realty make no representation about the quality or performance of the vendors listed here. All information is subject to change. We recommend you thoroughly research any home repair vendor before hiring. The list was last updated on 5/22/19.



WB Photo Club by Margaret McGhee-Sufke

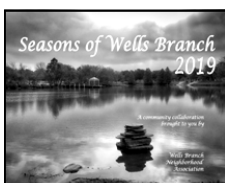
We've had a VERY wet spring. Our March session was postponed 3 times. We finally got out for a nature walk led by Dave DeVore and Rob White and were able to capture images of some awesome birds, including "Millie" the owl and her two owlets. This has been a great year for birds, kudos to Rob and Dave for sharing. In April we spent time at the WB Butterfly Garden and the adjacent hillside and got some great wildflower shots. A few club members went on excursions between the rain drops.

For our June meeting, we've had requests for another session of technique and critique. We are planning to show the new spring images and we will work on another excursion. We are also going to preview the images collected during the WB Garden Tour. Several members turned out for the tour, the weather held and it was a perfect session for showcasing botanical skills, be it "planting or snapping". There are some amazing secret gardens out there.

June and July will offer some great events for action shots, a concert, and of course fireworks. We'll keep posting updates on the WB Google Group and the WBNA website. 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.

As a reminder, our group has a standing monthly meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, from 6:30-8:30pm at the Rec. Center on Shoreline unless otherwise noted. WB Photo Club includes some part-time professionals, keen amateurs, general hobbyists and several beginners. Everyone is welcome. Please feel free to reach out to Margaret Sufke, mmsufke@gmail.com or 512-341-0428 for updates.

As always, we will continue to take our photographic skills into the community to help capture all the great local events. Many of these events will offer great practice for special photographic techniques. Please be mindful, the facilities we use are at no charge because we are a community service group.



Calling all WB photographers!

The WBNA is hosting the Wells Branch Calendar Contest again this year. Our tentative theme is Wells Branch Flora and Fauna. Once again, voting will take place at 4th Fest and throughout the month of July at the Wells Branch Rec. Center, 3000 Shoreline Drive. For entry details, visit wbna.us/community/calendar-contest/. Questions? Contact Margaret Sufke, Calendar Contest Coordinator, at mmsufke@gmail.com or 512-341-0428.

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Keepin' it Chill at the Grill

Whether during Memorial Day weekend or the high heat of summer, grilling is a popular way to celebrate the season in Central Texas. But before you light it up, be sure you know how to keep your family and guests safe around a grill!



ALL AROUND SAFETY — Follow these basics for all gas, charcoal, and wood-burning grills:

- Never grill under a covered patio, pavilion, tent, or inside a garage.
- Keep your grill clean. Remove grease or fat drippings from the grate and the trays below.
- Only use grills at least 10 feet from anything that can burn, including deck railing, fences, tree branches, bushes, homes, and eaves.
- Don't leave a grill unattended. Set a timer so you don't forget the grill is lit. If you ever have to briefly walk away, take something with you like a spatula as a reminder to return quickly.
- Keep any children and pets at least 3 feet away from the grill. Restrict any horseplay.
- Always keep all types of lighter fluid well out of reach of children and away from heat sources.
- If you live in an apartment complex in the Travis County ESD #2 community including Wells Branch, open-flame grills are strictly forbidden in and around the units; they cannot be stored or used within 10 feet of any apartment building.

CHARCOAL GRILLS

- If you use a starter fluid, only use CHARCOAL starter fluid. Once the fire is going, never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquid to the fire.
- When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before removing them or throwing them away. They must cool in a metal container.

GAS GRILLS

- Make sure the lid is open before lighting a gas grill, to prevent gas buildup.
- If the flame goes out while cooking, turn the grill and the gas off. Wait at least 15 minutes before re-lighting it.
- If it's been a few months since you used your grill, check the gas tank hose for leaks. Apply a light soap and water solution to the hose; a propane leak will release bubbles. If you find a leak either by a smell or the soapy bubble test, and there is no flame, turn off both the gas tank and the grill. If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional. If the leak doesn't stop, call 9-1-1. If you smell gas while cooking with a grill, immediately get away from the grill, and call 9-1-1. Do not try to move the grill.

Article courtesy of Travis County ESD #2
www.PflugervilleFire.org



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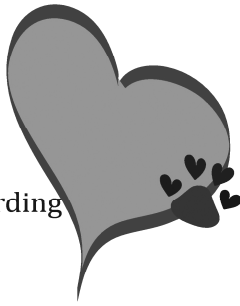
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Not sure what to do with the kids this summer?

Wells Branch MUD offers a wide variety of Summer

Camps. Visit their website at wellsbranchmud.com to learn more about: **Stuff-2-Do Summer Day Camp, Volleyball Clinics, Basketball Clinics, Art Mini-Camps and Swim Lessons.** Don't wait! Registration starts early and fills fast! Questions? Call 512-251-9814.

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 trails and almost always find interesting birds. Summertime is upon us and our WB birds are active early in the mornings while it's still pleasant outside. They seem to love the bugs and berries along the riparian areas near the Pond. Watch the WBNA Facebook page for photos of our walks or join us for a stroll around the pond. Happy birding, Wells Branch!

Wells Branch Garden Guild by Dianne Koehler

We are a friendly group who meets once a month to discuss gardening! All are welcome!

May 18, we held our **Wells Branch Garden Tour** where we annually seek inspiration from the wonderful gardens hiding behind our neighbor's fences. Thanks go out to our coordinator, Susan Gillespie and Glen Garey and Noe Gonzalez for their efforts in making the tour so successful and hosting a terrific after-party. Our **Best Landscape of the Tour** award went to **Eleanor Brooks** on Donald Drive. Watch for photos on the WBNA Facebook page.



Joan Mead is organizing a **Farmer's Market Field Trip** for **June 15** and Christine Bloemsma is planning a **No Cook Garden Feast Potluck** for our **July 20** meeting. Join us!

Watch for updates on the Wells Branch Garden Guild Facebook Group and WBNA website, wbna.us.

Summer Art Enrichment Camps 2019

Let your kids do it THEIR way!

by Dianne Koehler, Art Teacher

Join us for the art mini-camp program. We pack lots of projects into each week of three 1/2 day sessions: painting, drawing, 3-D art, fabric painting, mosaics, clay sculpture, murals, and art discussions. Each week has its own theme. Enroll for one or several. All sessions are \$45 for the 3 days. Register in person at the WB MUD Rec. Center, 3000 Shoreline Drive, by phone at 512-251-9814 or visit them online at https://apm.activecommunities.com/wellsbranchmud/Activity_Search

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. We will use Monet, Picasso, and many more artists and themes.



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Vacation Safety Tips

- 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 OR photos on social media.**
- Arrange to have your lawn cared for if you are going to be away.
- Don't hide keys under doormats, flowerpots or in similar places.
- Put your lights, stereo and/or TV on timers.
- 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.
- Keep your house well lit at night (backyard included) with a motion sensor or photocell activated light.
- 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 512-854-9721. 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.



Register for Central Texas Emergency Warnings

by Lisa Block, Travis County PIO

Register your cell phone, phone landline or email address to receive emergency alerts for your specific neighborhood at WarnCentralTexas.org. Contact information, including phone numbers and email addresses, is only used for emergency and major incident notification. WarnCentralTexas.org serves Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays, Lee, Llano, Travis and Williamson Counties. A nice feature of the emergency notification system, **WarnCentralTexas.org**, is that people can register several addresses for warnings, so if you have loved ones at a location separate from your home, you can also receive emergency notification for their location.



Nicole A Viator

Financial Advisor

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Edward Jones

MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING Member SIPC

DIY Backflow Prevention Device by Daniel White

Over the next few months, I will be sharing articles in the newsletter to help the homeowner protect their house, save money, and to make life better.

If you have a white sewer line cleanout cap, then you are in **DANGER** of having raw sewage back up into your house. You can replace your standard clean out cap with a BPD (Backflow Prevention Device) by unscrewing the white cap and replacing with a new BPD. This will prevent raw sewage from backing up into the house if the sewer line becomes blocked between the BPD and the main sewer line, which is usually in the street. If a blockage occurs, the raw sewage will exit from the sewer line through the BPD, not into your home.

The sewer line cleanout is normally located near one front corner of the house or somewhere along the front of the house. In some cases you have a second cleanout on the house-side of the front sidewalk, we are not referring to this one. The most common cause of sewer line blockage are trees and/or shrubs planted on or near the sewer line. The BPD must be kept uncovered in order to work. 4-inch BPDs are only available at plumbing supply stores, NOT big box stores and cost around \$5. If you have any question, please contact Daniel at 512-413-0097.

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Mr. PC's Computer Corner by Dave DeVore

Should you buy a new smartphone this year? What kind of question is that? A very good one, since there are big changes coming to cell phone networks soon. AT&T and Verizon are rolling out next generation 5G service in select cities and Samsung announced its first 5G handset due in the first half of 2019. Apple is waiting until 2020 to introduce 5G. This new wireless service promises blazing speeds capable of downloading full-length movies in several seconds with almost no lag time for communications between devices connected to 5G networks. This will transform our world as connected devices like cars and homes will be able to share massive amounts of data with each other. Self-driving cars or apps in your phone will nimbly avoid traffic backups while your connected refrigerator could add items to your shopping list as you pull up to HEB. The possibilities are endless. The drawing boards for app developers will be as big as their imaginations. Based on recent history, this quantum leap in the speed and reliability of communications and in computational power will lead to innovations and new businesses that will surprise us.

The best estimates that I have seen suggest that the new class of smartphones will be approximately \$300 more expensive with 5G technology, at least for the early adopters. Since 5G coverage will be spotty initially, these phones will also have current technology built-in to allow for using the existing 3G and 4G LTE networks. Over time, these older networks will fade away, just as earlier forms of the cell phone network have.

I have a Samsung S7 that has the most recent Android update and cost \$600 new. My service provider, Straighttalk, sells phones or you can bring your own. No subsidized prices, you buy the phone at market value, like the rest of the world. We fall for \$100 iPhones continually, but end up in long term contracts for very expensive service, spending far more in the long run. I'm waiting until at least 2020 to upgrade to the 2nd generation of the 5G devices, since early adopters usually get to pay for the privilege of testing buggy technology for the manufacturers. Don't buy a fancy phone if yours dies soon, better to get a cheap burner phone since the future is almost here.

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

After Hours Emergency Care for Wildlife

by Debby Thompson

We see lots of injured critters this time of year. Austin Wildlife Rescue is great, but has limited hours of availability. When you need after hours care for injured wild animals, Emergency Animal Hospital of Northwest Austin, near 183/ Oak Knoll, takes in wildlife in need of urgent care, free of charge. They are open 24-7 and Austin Wildlife Rescue picks up animals from them daily.

Close to Wells Branch, this clinic is a great resource.
12034 Research Blvd #8 | 512-331-6121 | eahnwa.com

Wells Branch Armada Swim Team News

by Soonee Wright, President, WBA

The Wells Branch Armada officially kicked off our 30th season on Monday, April 29. While mother nature hasn't exactly been cooperative, we are hoping for clearer skies and warmer weather by the time we switch to morning practices on Friday, May 31.



Armada will host 5 home meets this season. Scheduled dates are May 18, May 25, June 8, June 22, and July 6 at the Willow Bend Pool. Many of you with kids on the team will already be there, but if you're not, feel free to come by in the mornings and cheer on the team. As always, our wonderful concessions team will be out providing hot, fresh breakfast tacos, burgers, sausage wraps, hot dogs and more! WBA's concessions team are all volunteers, and have gained a reputation over the past few years as providing the best value – quality food at a low price – in the league. All concession proceeds benefit the WBA swim team.

If you have a child interested in joining the team, please visit our website at <https://wellsbranch.swimtopia.com/>. We still have a few spots open!

Thank you to the Wells Branch Community and MUD for your continued support of the WBA. We are looking forward to another amazing season!

BSA Venture Crew 1409 by Jill Douglass

Crew 1409 conquered the Eagle Rock Loop in the Ouachita National Forest in Arkansas. This 27-mile loop boasted 6 mountain passes, at least 100 creek crossings, lush forests, and spacious primitive campsites. Our contingent of 10 backpackers completed the hike in a leisurely 5 days including a zero-day. While in Arkansas we took advantage of our proximity to Hot Springs National Park to enjoy its sites and also managed a fun round of Pirate Cove putt-putt golf. In June the crew is conducting its annual canoe trip down the Colorado River (weather permitting). If the river is too rough, our backup plan is canoeing to Garret Island on Lake Buchanan.

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



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Cub Scout Pack 728—Is Your Son or Daughter Ready for Adventure?

by Deanna Johnson

If you have kids going into Kindergarten up through fifth grade this fall, they can join Cub Scout Pack 728 starting this summer. Boys and girls who join now will enjoy our casual and fun summer program. Learning what a lifeguard does while working at the pool, or marching in the Wells Branch 4th of July Parade, just to name a few. The summer program is a great way to get your kids outdoors, having fun, and making friends.

While Cub Scouts are doing new things, they discover and master new skills, gain self-confidence, develop strong friendships, and give to the Wells Branch 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

Pack 728 is 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.

Clip & Save Summer Pool Hours

Katherine Fleischer (KF) Pool 2106 Klattenhoff • 512-251-9932

April 29 - May 23, 2019

Open Swim	M-F	3-9pm
	S-S	1-9pm
Lap Swim*	M-F	3-4pm
	M-F	7:30-9:30pm

**Texas Gold uses four lanes from 4:00-7:30pm M-F*

May 24 - August 1, 2019*

Open Swim	M-Th, Sa	10am-9pm
	F	4-9pm
	Su	1-9pm

**No Lap Lanes will be available at KF Pool,
please use the Willow Bend Pool*

**KF Pool will be open from 1-9pm on Memorial Day,
Monday, May 27*

**KF Pool will close at 8:30pm on 6/21 and 8/9
for Dive-In Movie Nights*

Willow Bend Pool 2801 Sauls • 512-310-1833

April 29 - May 30, 2019*

Open/Lap	S-S	1-9pm
Lap Swim	M-F	5:30-7:30am
	M-F	12-2pm*

**Closed after 2pm due to Armada swim team practice*

**WB Pool will be open for open/lap swim from 2-9pm
on Memorial Day, Monday, May 27*

May 31 - August 14, 2019*

Open/Lap	M-F	2-9pm
	S-S	2-9pm
Lap Swim	M-F	5:30-7:30am
	M-F	12-2pm

**WB Pool will close at 5pm on Tuesday, June 11
(Rain Date: June 18)*

**WB Pool may open late on these dates due to Armada
home swim meets: 5/18, 5/25, 6/8, 6/22, 7/6*

Please note: These are general guidelines. Hours are subject to change. Visit: wellsbranchmud.com/pools for current information and specific exceptions. If you have any questions about pool operations, please feel free to contact the Aquatics Supervisor, Katie Hutcheson, at 512-251-9814 x111 or khutcheson@wellsbranchmud.com.

"Give a Kid a Summer" & "Water Safe" are BACK! by Debby Thompson, President, WBNA

Kids NEED a place to "be" in the summertime. Staying at home by themselves is only good for so long before boredom sets in and they go in search of entertainment. If you give a kid someplace to be, something to do, they're far less likely to get into trouble on their own. We have wonderful facilities available in Wells Branch: two pools and a recreation center – safe, clean environments with adult supervision.

In the past, the WBNA has asked for donations for a program we lovingly called "Give a Kid a Summer" to help fund Rec. Tags for neighbor kids who otherwise would not be able to afford it. From there, we transitioned to "Water Safe" and funded swim lessons for children in need. A few years ago, we saw a decline in interest and discontinued both programs.

We thank all of you who've contributed over the last several years. Please KNOW that your efforts have made a tremendous impact.

Unfortunately, we've seen the need to re-activate this program as many families are strapped for funds and a Wells Branch Rec. Pass or swimming lessons are the last thing in their budget. That said, the WBNA would like to ask for your help. It only costs \$25-\$35 for an individual quarterly rec. pass and just \$40-\$75 for an annual membership for a child in need. Unfortunately, many families in Wells Branch are unable to afford formal swim lessons for their children. Just \$40 can help to make a child WATER SAFE.

We'd love to tell you that your donation is tax deductible, but unfortunately, it isn't. Think about it, a portion of \$5, \$10, \$20, even \$35 isn't going to make that big a difference on your tax return and you can make a HUGE difference in a child's life. For questions, or if you know of a child, age 10-16, in need, contact Debby Thompson at info@wbna.us. Requests will be met on a first come, first serve basis.

Give a Kid a Summer or help a child become Water Safe. Mail your check (in any amount) made out to WBNA with "Rec. Tag Donation" or "Swim Lessons" in the memo box to: WBNA, 2104 Klattenhoff, Austin, TX 78728.

We've already had two requests and school isn't even out yet. We hope that you'll help us out. All money received will go directly to pay for rec. tags or swim lessons. Mail your check (in any amount) made out to WBNA with "Rec. Tag Donation" or "Swim Lessons" in the memo box to: WBNA, 2104 Klattenhoff, Austin, TX 78728.

You all have been so generous in the past; we thank you! Now this summer, let's help a few more kids! Donors will be recognized in the September issue of the WBNA News and throughout the summer via our Facebook page. Thank you in advance for taking this opportunity to help a child have a safer summer and learn skills they can use for the rest of their lives.

All programs are free and open to the public.

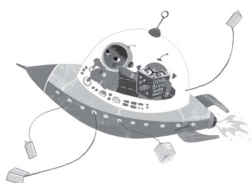
Programs with ** require advance registration at wblibrary.eventbrite.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Summer Reading

June 1 through July 31

We're exploring a Universe of Stories this summer at the library! Join us for lots of fun events and participate in our reading challenge. Keep track of your reading at wblibrary.readsquared.com!



Donuts with Dads**

Saturday, June 22 at 10 a.m.

Celebrate Father's Day with crafts, books, and donuts!

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!

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

Planetarium Shows**

Friday, June 7 at 6:30 p.m.

Learn about the night sky in an interactive show in a mobile planetarium dome!

Percussion Show with Mark Shelton**

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

Enjoy a high-energy performance by Mark Shelton as he presents his show, Music from My Galaxy.

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

UPCOMING CLOSURES

Monday, May 27

Library closed for Memorial Day

Thursday, July 4

Library closed for Independence Day

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.



Wells Branch MUD is HIRING Seasonal Lifeguards!

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.

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 WB Beautiful Volunteer Events

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.

After a very busy Spring, the group will go on hiatus until Fall when the temps cool again. Watch for event info in the September newsletter and join us for "It's My Park Day" in November.

WB Walking Club

by Katie Hutcheson, WB MUD Aquatics Supervisor

Summertime is HERE! Take advantage of our crisp, cool mornings and join us! The trails are beautiful; trees are green 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

Couch to 5K Running!

by Jill Douglass

The Wells Branch Running Club is sponsoring a Couch to 5K running program this summer. The program aims to help non-runners (couch potatoes!) achieve running a 5K in 9 weeks. Aspiring runners will meet at the gazebo at KF Park at 6am Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays beginning June 5. The program is free. We will be using the "C25K" phone app. Questions? Contact Jill Douglass at: jdzurenko@gmail.com.

Summer Yoga Series at KF Park

Sundays this summer, join Liz Range-Pendell, RYT 200, for Yoga in the Park! Liz will lead classes every Sunday morning from 9:00am to 10:00am at Katherine Fleischer Park in front of the Gazebo (weather permitting). Classes are \$8, kids are free, and payments accepted include cash, check, credit card, Venmo, or Cash App.

Liz is a registered 200-hour yoga teacher, and has two children who attend Wells Branch Elementary. Liz combines elements of Hatha and Vinyasa yoga for classes that are suitable for all levels.

Please text (512) 507-5065 to be added to a "rain-out" list. Texts will only be sent if yoga is rained out on Sunday mornings.



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 1-3pm 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. Membership is free. There are no age requirements; everyone is welcome.

Save the Date for our 2019 Summer Day Trip

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).

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/>

WB MUD Summertime Events

WB MUD Memorial Day Casino Night

Saturday, May 25 | 6-9pm

WB Rec. Center | 3000 Shoreline Drive

Test your luck and beat the odds at the Memorial Day Casino Night event! No need to go to Vegas, the WB MUD is bringing the games to YOU! From 6-9pm, the WB MUD Recreation Dept. presents an adults-only evening of gaming for residents ages 21 and up ONLY; IDs will be checked at the door. Join your neighbors at 3000 Shoreline Drive as the Rec. Center is transformed into a casino using professional tables and dealers. Stick around following the gaming for more fun and the opportunity to "spend" your winnings on a variety of prizes. Beer and wine tickets, sodas, and snacks are FREE. No alcohol allowed outside of the gym.

Splash Day!

Sunday, May 26 | 1-4pm

KF Pool | 2106 Klattenhoff Drive

Wells Branch MUD Aquatics Dept. is kicking off the summer with its Annual Splash Day event at KF Pool! Learn about safety in and around water by participating in the various interactive educational stations. Entry to the pool and the event is FREE, so splash on in for an exciting fun filled afternoon!

Juneteenth Celebration

Jazz on the Green with Pamela Hart

Sunday, June 16 | 6-8pm

WB Homestead | 2106 Klattenhoff Drive

Juneteenth, a combination of June and Nineteenth, is the oldest known celebration commemorating the end of slavery. Since 1865, Juneteenth was celebrated informally each year on June 19. In 1980, Juneteenth became an official state holiday in Texas. Juneteenth is a day to celebrate freedom and cultural diversity. Please join us as we celebrate on the lawn of the Homestead at KF Park. This is a free family event, featuring Pamela Hart, Austin's First Lady of Jazz.

Parking is limited, so carpool, walk or ride your bike over. Bring your blankets, lawn chairs, and neighbors and enjoy this year's celebration of Juneteenth. The event will begin from 6-8 pm at 2106 Klattenhoff Drive. Hosted by the WB MUD Recreation Dept.

Movies in the Park

Friday, June 15 | *Ralph Breaks the Internet*

Friday, July 20 | *The House with a Clock in its Walls*

Saturday, August 17 | *Dumbo*

KF Park | 2106 Klattenhoff Drive

Bring your blankets and chairs and enjoy a fun-filled night with your family and neighbors. Admission is free. Movies are PG. Parking is limited so residents are encouraged to walk or ride a bike. **Concession sales begin at 8pm with the movie starting at dusk.** Hosted by WB MUD Recreation Dept.

Food Truck Fridays!

This summer, from Memorial Day Weekend to Labor Day Weekend, enjoy Food Truck Fridays at KF Park, 2106 Klattenhoff! Bring the whole family and enjoy your dinner outside. Each week will feature popular local food trucks. From lobster rolls to BBQ to tacos, there is something for everyone!

Dive-In Movies!

Friday, June 21 | *The Meg* | 8:30pm

Friday, August 9 | *Aquaman* | 8:30pm

KF Pool | 2106 Klattenhoff Drive

Wells Branch MUD will host Dive-In movies at the Katherine Fleischer Pool this summer! On June 21, we will show *Aquaman* and on August 9, we will show *The Meg*, both of the movies are PG-13. Food trucks will stay later on these Fridays.

Regular pool admission rules and fees apply. Admission starts at 8:30pm, the movie will start at 9pm. Only noodles are allowed as floatation devices. The capacity will be 80 guests so arrive early to gain entry!

WB Fourth Fest

Thursday, July 4 | 10am-5pm

KF Park | 2106 Klattenhoff Drive

Wells Branch is famous for its Fourth Fest celebration. The day begins with a short parade starting at KF Park at 10am. Spectators are welcome to line the street to watch. Please contact the WB MUD Programs and Events Coordinator at 512-251-9814 if you would like to have a float in the parade. When the parade returns, there'll be an afternoon of entertainment under the big tent, concessions from local restaurants and community service groups offering a variety of items to enjoy, and activities for the kids around Katherine Fleischer Park. KF pool will be open and free to the public as well.

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

WB Fourth Fest Fireworks!

Wrap up the day's festivities with a fireworks spectacular launched from the field adjacent to the Recreation Center on Shoreline Drive beginning around 9:30pm.

For more details, visit wellsbranchmud.com or follow on Facebook. Fourth Fest is a WB MUD Recreation Dept. event.

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WBE AIA Garden News by Dianne Koehler, Garden Curriculum Coordinator

It's been an interesting spring at school. We have had so much rain that we, like all farmers, are behind in our crops. One of the 5th grade classes did a garden design map and the other grades planted it. We are going to have produce well into the summer and fall from this great plan. We have submitted a grant application to greatly increase our Farmers Market offerings, greatly increase our fruit selection, our herb selection, and make it easier for kids of all ages to tend their seedlings for transplant. Wish us luck. We closed out the year with many garden parties including our celebrated Apple parties from our two apple trees.

If you ever wanted to get a feel for gardening without tearing out your yard, we need garden assistants this summer to help us plant, weed, water and harvest. You could go home with eggplant, jalapeños, summer spinach, green beans, black eyed peas, okra and of course tomatoes, basil, oregano and parsley. Imagine making your own salsa as your bonus. Obligation of 1 session or more every 2 weeks for about 1 1/2 hours. Older children very welcome, creativity required to bring smaller kids. AM/PM/ Week-ends available. To volunteer, contact Maribel at maribel.valls@yahoo.com.

Pioneer Pals by Gwendolyn Johnson, Curator, WB Homestead

The Pioneer Pals have had fun this year, but we will break for the summer. Our last storytime before our break will be on Wednesday, May 29 at 9:30am. We will start back up again in September. Have a wonderful summer!

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

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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			

