



Neighborhood News

News and information for the residents of Wells Branch.
Vol. 27, Issue 5, Holiday 2019



Happy Holidays from the WBNA!

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

Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner

Saturday, November 23 • 6:00-8:00pm

Sponsored by WB MUD Recreation Dept.

Wells Branch neighbors, you're invited to bring a prepared covered dish or dessert to share and spend the evening among family and friends. Share a Thanksgiving meal and exchange memories while creating new ones. It's a long-standing tradition in Wells Branch you won't want to miss. Turkey, ham, dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy, rolls, and beverages will be provided by the WB MUD.

Youth Fowl Shot Contest

Tuesday, November 26 • 6:00-8:00pm

Sponsored by WB MUD Parks & Rec. Dept.

Hoop it up and put your basketball skills to the test! Various games will be held for Wells Branch Youth to take their shot at taking home a grand prize! The contest starts at 6:00pm in the WB MUD Rec. Center Gym. Participants accumulate points by competing in a variety of basketball activities. Age groups will be split into three groups: 8-10, 11-13, and 14-17. Grand-prize winners from each age group will receive a turkey. Registration is free and you can register in-person at the Recreation Center.

Holiday Home Decorating Contest

Judging begins Sunday, December 8!

Break out the tinsel and holly! Deck the halls, yard, trees, cars, dogs, cats... Let's show some good ole WB spirit! The WBNA is sponsoring the Holiday Home Decorating Contest again this year! Judging will begin on Sunday, December 8 with winners announced on Saturday, December 21. For more details, please visit our website at wbna.us. If you'd like to help judge or nominate a home, email lights@wbna.us. Be sure and watch for the "Winners" as we post signs in their yards and feature the homes on Facebook and wbna.us! Categories include: Most Original, Most Traditional, Most Elaborate, Best Use of Lights, Most Energy Efficient, Visible from Space, and Most Patriotic.

Polar Express Pajamarama

Saturday, December 14 • 6:00 & 7:00pm

All aboard, for Wells Branch Community Library's yearly Polar Express Pajamarama! Enjoy holiday crafts, hot cocoa and cookies, a bedtime reading of The Polar Express and a special visit from Santa Saturday, December 14 at 6:00pm & 7:00pm! Register at wblibrary.eventbrite.com.

Light Up the Night at Luminary Fest

Friday & Saturday, December 13 & 14 • 6:00-9:00pm

Sponsored by WB MUD Parks & Rec. Dept.

Experience the glow of the holidays as our trails light up with luminaries around Katherine Fleischer Park on December 13 & 14. Santa will be visiting the Homestead Cabin both nights from 6-9pm with FREE photos provided by WB Community Church and digital copies available the next day on the WBNA Facebook page.

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

Join us outdoors for a caroling hayride or a trip around the trails on the Holiday Express Train to see the luminaries up close. Jessica Shepherd will host the kids' karaoke inside the Community Center on Saturday night with continued crafts and refreshments for all to enjoy.

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

We hope to see you there!



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SAVE THE DATE!

TXDOT Meeting Thursday, November 21 • 7pm
WB Community Center • 2106 Klattenhoff

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Wells Branch—THANK YOU!**



Happy Holidays!

**1779 Wells Branch Pkwy, Austin, TX 78728
(512) 990-5282 • branchbbq.com**

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

Monday, December 16 • 7:30-8:30pm

Join friends and neighbors for a holiday handbell concert at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 14311 Wells Port Drive.

Tickets may be purchased online or at the door. For more information, please visit their website at austinhandbells.org/.

Christmas Eve Services • December 24

Shoreline Church • 15201 Burnet Road

2:00pm, 4:00pm, & 6:00pm

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

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

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

WB Community Church • 2113 Wells Branch Pkwy 11:00am Family Service

On Tuesday, December 24, Wells Branch Community Church invites you to a candlelight Christmas Eve service that the whole family can enjoy. Come join WBCC in the celebration of the true meaning of Christmas as they sing Carols and Creatively remember the Christmas story. For more information about Wells Branch Community Church or their Christmas Eve service, please visit wellsbranchchurch.com. Childcare available for Pre-K and under.

Silent Auction Thank You—Continued from Fall

In my rush to get the Fall Issue out, I inadvertently left off some very important people. Thank you, David Malish of Murfee Engineering, for making the "Free Beer" possible. Many thanks to Katherine LaPierre for volunteering your face painting skills, not just at 4th Fest, but at Luminary Fest last year as well. We're excited to see you again this year at Luminary Fest!

And thank you, Peter & Julie Regan, owners of MACO Hardwood, macohardwood.com, for your generous donation to the Silent Auction.



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Give the Gift of Holiday Fire Safety

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Branch BBQ & Catering Celebrates 25 Years in Wells Branch by Gus Kohn

After managing a Texas Tumbleweed Steak House and later working as a salesman for Sysco Foods, Chris Carby wanted to be his own boss. On December 1, 1994, Chris and Catherine bought and began running Branch BBQ which for two years had been operating in Wells Branch but not having great success. With hard work and persistent dedication, they resurrected the business. Offering good food at reasonable prices, the Carbys began what has become a successful restaurant and catering business. With 12 employees now and 25 years behind them, I asked Chris what made Branch BBQ such a sensation.

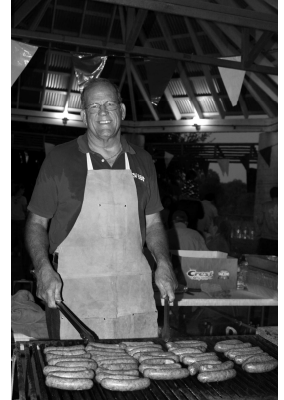
They got their first catering job in their first week of business; cooking for 700 people each day for two days for the Grand Opening of Ropers nightclub. Imagine, catering 1400 meals the first week in the restaurant business! Chris says the kitchen was inadequately equipped to store the prepared food for the big event and he called everyone he knew with refrigerator space to handle it, but handle it he did and thus began the catering champion that Branch BBQ & Catering is today.

As tribute to Dot of Dot's Place ("his other mother"), Chris offers his Friday specials; Chicken & Dumplings, Turnip Greens and Candied Yams with rolls. Chris' many specialty recipes have evolved over time to become what they are today. Recipes like Collard Greens, Green Bean Casserole, Chris' Meatloaf (Thursdays only), Smoked Catfish & Peach Cobbler have become local favorites. Get there by 1pm on Fridays or don't

expect there to be any Green Bean Casserole left; he makes a limited amount. Be sure and stop by and try out their new menu item, Pork Belly. Tender and moist, it's a great addition to an already superb menu.

The secret to Branch BBQ & Catering's success is hard work, quality offerings, doing the right thing by people and very importantly, being a member of the community. They are present at every FourthFest, they cook the turkey, ham, potatoes, stuffing, gravy, and rolls we all enjoy at the MUD hosted Thanksgiving Potluck dinner, they support a number of community service groups like Northwest Elementary, WB Disc Golf Club, Friends of the Library and WBNA among others. Chris is the voice of Connally Cougar Football, and you will see him behind an apron doing what he loves best at National Night Out.

Long time WB resident, Mary Hale, put it this way, "If you've ever wondered what a **TRUE** neighborhood restaurant looks like, this is it! Chris **IS** community." If you haven't sampled Branch BBQ, stop in and see what all the buzz is about, you will not regret it, and wave at Chris in the back as he follows his heart.



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6th Annual Day of Disc Golf for Veterans

by Brian Litke

19 veterans and 16 supporters came out to enjoy a round of disc golf together at Wells Branch and honor the service of veterans. Each participant received an event disc and pizza lunch with their registration. Veterans played for free, and supporters paid \$15 to play.

There were trophies for the division winners and lots of random door prizes for participants. Jeff Cooper won the Veterans Men's division and Dee McGillivray won the Veterans Women's division. Manuel Menacho won the supporters division.

Thank you to Michael Burton of Burton Industry for sponsoring the pizza lunch for the 35 players. Thanks to WB Disc Golf Club and Shane Linney for sponsoring the event discs and the prizes. Thanks to Tony Dorsett and Caliber Collision for sponsoring reusable drink tumblers for participants.

This event was inspired years ago by the mission of the Team Red, White, and Blue organization, whose mission is to help integrate veterans back into society through physical and social activity. Disc golf is a great way to do that and make new friends.



It's My Park Day at WB Disc Golf Course - Nov. 2, 2019 by Brian Litke

30 volunteers lent their energy during a park workday by spreading mulch around trees, planting 12 new trees, and picking up litter. We had a lot of fun and helped keep Wells Branch Beautiful. Volunteers planted 2 Shumard oak trees, 2 Chinkapin oak trees, 3 Texas sage bushes, 3 Crepe myrtle trees, and 2 Chitalpa trees. Thank you to the WB Disc Golf Club for buying the trees and Austin Parks Foundation for the 12 cubic yards of mulch. Thanks to KIND bars for the snacks!



2019 Extreme Clean Fall Recap

Once again, WBNA & Wells Branch MUD had an excellent turnout for our Extreme Clean Fall Roundup! 269 residents participated at the Thermal location while 23 donated yard chemicals to be repurposed at the collection point on Tracy Trail!

Thanks go out to the Wells Branch MUD and Staff for providing the site, assistance, and transportation of the household waste, electronics, and Styrofoam to South Austin: Rafael, Gloria, Kellie, Vanessa, and the maintenance crew continue to help the event grow and thrive. Quarterly Extreme Clean is a collaborative event hosted by WBNA and WB MUD.

Thank you Donna Howe, RPh. for organizing the Drug Take Back program and all of the UT pharmacy students who volunteered their time, and of course, our wonderful WBNA volunteers who gave up their Saturday to help their neighbors: Janet Maxey, Marie Streusand, Ed & Kay Peterson, Mark & Margaret Sufke, Steve & Donna Lyons, Tracy Simon, Debby Thompson, and Shelley Palmer. A special THANK YOU to Pamela Woodward who has taken on the repurposing of yard chemicals and Travers Hough who safely delivers the leftovers to the Hazardous Waste Facility.

Bulk Trash Disposal & Metal Recycling is available at the MUD Maintenance Yard, 13905 Thermal Drive, the second Saturday of EACH month from 8am-2pm. Dumpsters sometimes fill fast, so come early!

Household Waste, Habitat for Humanity, Easter Seals, Austin Creative Reuse, Homeless Helpings, and Pet Supply collections occur quarterly on the second Saturday of the following months to coincide with Bulk Trash Disposal: January, April, July, October. This includes **Electronics & Styrofoam Recycling**. *Our next Extreme Clean is scheduled for January 11 from 8am- 2pm.*

Drug Take Back & Shredding are twice a year, occurring the second Saturday of April and October from 8am-2pm. Our April 11, 2020 Extreme Clean has been rescheduled for the first Saturday, April 4 this coming year so as not to conflict with the Easter Egg Hunt.



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Giving Thanks to Wells Branch

Community Volunteers! by Margaret Sufke

As the year winds down and the holidays gear up, it is worth pausing to reflect on just how wonderful the Wells Branch community really is. What makes our community great is the effort put forth by the various community groups and individuals alike, pulling together to contribute to community projects and programs, sports teams and all those amazing seasonal events.

Without the volunteers, much of what happens quite simply wouldn't or couldn't take place. As with most community organizations, it's usually the same "core group" of folks rolling up their sleeves and pitching in the extra time, effort, and in some cases extra funds to make something awesome happen.

It is impossible to list and credit all the individual contributions here, but if you volunteered this year just know that your efforts were valued and appreciated by the entire community. No contribution is too small to be recognized—whether you delivered some newsletters on your street, helped put some library books away, supported a sports group, participated during a community event, helped with maintenance projects, or even just picked up a stray piece of litter on the trails. You made a difference. Thank you!

If you want to contribute, but are unsure who to contact, here are some great starting points: *(listed alphabetically)*

WB Community Library: 512-989-3188 | **Online:**

www.wblibrary.org | **Email:** staff@wblibrary.org
Volunteer at the desk, volunteer in the LAB, host a class, etc.

WB Friends of the Library (FOL): **Online:** wbfriends.org | **Email:** fol.wblibrary@gmail.com

Partner to volunteer with library programs, help at the annual Garage Sale and more

WB MUD Rec Center: <http://www.wellsbranchmud.com/parks-a-recreation/recreation-center> | Program & Events Manager, Tina Till | ttill@wellsbranchmud.com
(512) 251-9814: Volunteer at a MUD sponsored event or with a recreational program or sports group

WB Neighborhood Association (WBNA): <http://wbna.us> | **email:** <http://wbna.us/> | Volunteer at WBNA sponsored events, deliver newsletters, donate auction items or services

Beyond these community organizations, there are smaller groups such as WB Community Clubs hosted through the Rec Center (Garden Guild, Dance Club, Photography Club, Disc Golf and Silver Branchers), the WBSA (soccer assn), the WB Armada (swim team) and Rec Center fitness groups. Our Wells Branch schools are always looking for volunteers as well. There are also local Scout groups who welcome volunteers.

The WBNA motto says it all: ***Building Community Together.***
Volunteer today.



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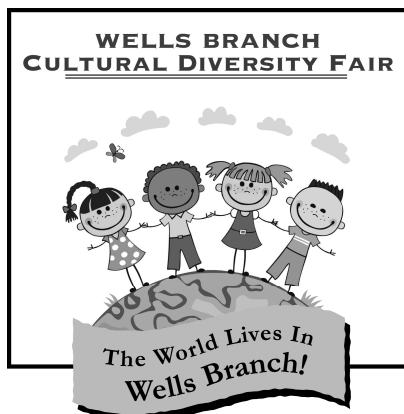
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2020 Cultural Diversity Fair:

Start Making Plans NOW! by Margaret Sufke



Get ready for the 2020 Wells Branch Cultural Diversity Fair. The last "CDF" event was in 2018 and it was a huge success. Nearly 20 countries were represented and many booths offered a tasty sample of regional cuisine. The various cultural performers provided an amazing

spectrum of song, dance, music, acrobatics and meditation techniques. There were also several learning activities, photo ops and international game demonstrations.

If you and your family attended this amazing cultural showcase in previous years, you probably came away thinking WOW!, all this fantastic cultural diversity and all right here within Wells Branch. Many folks have commented that this community event is a great way to learn about far away places without leaving the Wells Branch area and participants were provided with an excellent opportunity to meet new folks in the community.

The key to any successful event comes down to forward planning. The 2020 "CDF" is slated for February 23, from 1-4pm. It is not too early to start planning. If you or your group would like to host a country booth or provide regional entertainment, just let us know (contact info below).

The Wells Branch MUD, along with other WB community groups will help organize the event. Each country booth will have a reserved table, 2 chairs and a \$50 budget towards food preparation. Country sponsors are encouraged to have a "kid-friendly" activity, display or craft. The MUD would like to request that some sort of regional "water resource" information be available.

Great community events are successful through great community interaction. Please consider helping to host a booth or activity at the 2020 Wells Branch Cultural Diversity Fair.

Contact: Margaret Sufke, mmsufke@gmail.com or voice-mail: 512-341-0428.

Wells Branch 2020 Eco Fair: May 2nd

Save the Date! by Margaret Sufke

It's never too early to think about spring, Earth Day, the environment or the 2020 WB Eco Fair. Over the last few years the Wells Branch MUD and other Wells Branch community groups have partnered with local vendors to host an environmentally focused trade fair. Here's an update

The date for the 2020 Eco Fair event has changed. The original date was mid-March to help "kick-off" the spring season, but conflicts with the proposed date cropped up (pun intended). The new date is Saturday, May 2, from 2-5pm.

We've set up a planning crew and are starting to contact local area vendors. If you own an "eco-friendly" business in Wells Branch or if you want to host a table for an eco-friendly community group (WB Birding, Keep Wells Branch Beautiful, Garden Guild, etc.) please contact us. We would welcome your group to the event.

Some of the topics we are planning to cover are alternate energy, composting, creative reuse, water conservation, regional gardening and ways to adapt your home to be more environmentally friendly, while helping to save money and improve the value your home.

If you have a service or know of business you would like to see showcased, please contact Joe Linsalata at 512-327-5000 or Margaret Sufke at 512-341-0428 (VM msg) or mmsufke@gmail.com.

Save the Date:

Wells Branch Eco Fair

Saturday, May 2, 2020 from 2-5pm

WB Rec. Center Gym | 3000 Shoreline Drive



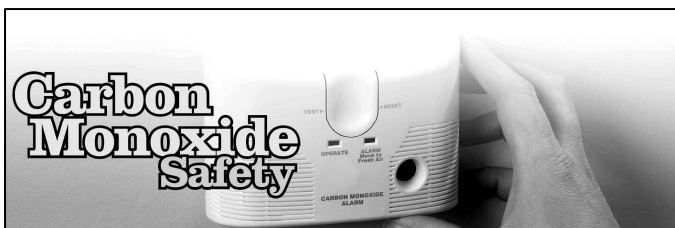
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Carbon Monoxide Safety

Travis County ESD No. 2 | info@pflugervillefire.org

Source: nfpa.org/education

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a gas. It has no odor. CO gas is poisonous. It can make a person feel sick and can be deadly. In the home, heating and cooking devices that burn fuel can be sources of carbon monoxide.

CO ALARMS

- CO alarms should be installed outside each sleeping area. Install alarms on every level of the home. It is best to use interconnected alarms. When one sounds, all CO alarms in the home sound.
- Follow the instruction on the package to properly install the CO alarm.
- Test CO alarms at least once a month.
- Replace CO alarms according to the instructions on the package.
- Know the sounds the CO alarm makes. It will sound if CO is detected. It will make a different sound if the battery is low or if it is time to get a new CO alarm.
- If the battery is low, replace it.
- If the CO alarm sounds, you must get fresh air. Move outdoors, by an open window or near an open door. Make sure everyone in the home gets to fresh air. Call the fire department from a fresh air location. Stay there until help arrives.

PREVENT CO POISONING

- When warming a vehicle, move it out of the garage. Do not run a fueled engine indoors, even if garage doors are open. Make sure the exhaust pipe of a running vehicle is not blocked. Clear snow away.
- During and after a snowstorm, make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove and fireplace are clear of snow build-up.
- Clear all debris from dryer, furnace, stove, and fireplace vents.
- A generator should be used outdoors. Use in a well-ventilated location away from windows, doors, and vent opening.
- Gas or charcoal grills can produce CO. Only use them outside.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys inspected by a professional every year before cold weather sets in.
- Open the damper when using a fireplace for adequate ventilation.
- Never use your oven or stove to heat your home.

FACT!

CO is called the invisible killer because the gas cannot be seen or smelled. Take action to stay safe from CO poisoning.

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Wells Branch MUD Holiday Hours

November Closures: ALL District facilities will be closed on Thursday, November 28. Friday, November 29, the District Office will remain closed, the Rec. Center will be open from 6am-1pm, and Willow Bend Pool will be open from 12-2pm and 4-8pm.

December/January Holiday Closures: ALL District facilities will be closed on December 24, 25, 31 and January 1. Regular hours of operation will be observed the rest of the month. Contact WB MUD Customer Service with questions at 512-251-9814 or info@wellsbranchmud.com

Solid Waste and Recycling Pickup

Thanksgiving week: There will be no curbside trash and recycling collection on Thursday, November 28. Collection for Thursday and Friday will be moved forward one day. All other days will remain the same.

December/January Holiday Schedule Changes: Curbside trash and recycling will not be picked up on Wednesday, December 25 or Wednesday, January 1. Service will shift forward one day for the rest of the week.

Curbside Community Compost and Christmas Tree Collection

Thanksgiving Week: Curbside Community Composting pickup will run as regularly scheduled on Monday, November 25.

December/January: There will be no Curbside Community Compost pickup December 23. Regular weekly collection will resume on Monday, December 30. **Reminder:** Natural Christmas trees may be placed curbside for pickup during the regular weekly collection. **Please REMOVE ALL LIGHTS and DECORATIONS.**

Winter Wastewater Averaging

You can lower your water bill all year by conserving water between **December 10, 2019** and **March 11, 2020**. Visit: wellsbranchmud.com/water for tips on water conservation.

Get There ATX!

Commuting to work – or getting to downtown Austin in general – doesn't have to be a hassle. There's a new website full of resources to let you know all your options without having to drive alone! Check out GetThereATX.com from the City of Austin Transportation Department.

One way is on the train. Capital Metro just reintroduced MetroRail service to downtown with the opening of the new (and temporary) Downtown Station. Just catch the train at the Howard Lane Park and Ride station and leave your driving worries behind as you relax on the train.

Also check out carpool and vanpool options, with resources about rideshare available at GetThereATX.com.

We can all work together to better ease congestion. Even taking a sustainable mode once a week can have a big effect. Check out your options at GetThereATX.com.

Ways to Give Back this Holiday Season

Cold Weather Shelter

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



deliver a difference

Meals on Wheels

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

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

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



Drive a Senior

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

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



Travis County Brown Santa

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

Donation barrels are available at the Wells Branch Recreation Center on Shoreline through December 13 when they move to the Community Center for Luminary Fest. Pick up will be Monday, December 17 at the Rec. Center. Unopened non-perishable foods and new toys are appreciated!

Extreme Clean Winter | Jan. 11 | wbna.us

Note: To schedule an In-District pickup via Venture Crew 1409, please contact Daniel White at 512-413-0097. This is a volunteer fundraiser; there is a minimum charge of \$20. Please tip accordingly.

Helping Your Child Stay Focused as Winter Break Approaches by Betsey Harper

As the fall colors around our neighborhood start to disappear and the winter holiday decorations start to appear, school children lose their education focus and start to

daydream. How can we blame them? I know I have a hard time too.

Here are some ways to help your child stay focused until winter break:

Get the wiggles out first. Moving the body motivates the brain. Make sure your child has had a chance to run, walk, or jump around *before* sitting down to homework.

Turn off screens and electronics. Before your kid tackles homework or does anything that takes concentration, turn off the television, and remove the cell phones and electronics.

Make a to-do list. Having a lot of chores and homework assignments can be overwhelming for kids. Help your child focus on getting things done by making a list — together — of everything she/he needs to do for the day or week. Then let her/him cross off each task as they finishes it for small successes.

Use signals. Try to avoid conversations when your child is working. To cut out distracting talk altogether, you and your child can even come up with a few basic signals. For example, when you point to his work, which means she/he needs to go back to what he was doing.

Take breathers. During homework time, make sure your child takes a few breaks. After working for 10 or 20 minutes (depending on their age), have them get up and move around, get a drink, and then go back to work. But don't let them get involved in something else during the break. Just make that time a relaxing few minutes.

WBCC Celebrates 10 Years in Wells Branch

by Chris Plekenpol, Lead Pastor

Wells Branch Community Church has been "In the community, For the community" for 10 years now. We turned 10 in September and still love playing a strong role in the community. God has graciously allowed us to get a space on Wells Branch Parkway (formerly Ropers and the Roost) from where we are able to serve and love the WB Community.

We are especially looking forward to Luminaries this year. December 13-14, WBCC will experience the joy of adding to your holiday tradition of pictures with Santa. Whether your family has 4 year olds or 40 year olds, we are excited to have members of our church who also are professional photographers donating their time and skills to serve you this Christmas with pictures which will probably end up in your children's graduation and/or wedding slideshow. We will also have opportunities to decorate picture frames to accentuate your holiday decor.

We would love to spend Christmas Eve with you. This year we decided to go with the super family friendly service at 11am at 2113 Wells Branch Parkway. Kids are welcome for the hour long experience full of singing, dancing, and the joy of the retelling of the Christmas story.

As we enter into the holiday season, we are well aware of the fact that Christmas is not jolly for everyone. In fact, it can be quite a challenge for some of our neighbors to keep the heat on, buy groceries or pay rent. Every year Wells Branch Community Church meets the needs of our neighbors in the \$10,000s of dollars as we seek to serve our neighbors in areas of need. If you or someone you know are going through hard times, don't hesitate to go to WellsBranchChurch.com or stop by our offices and ask for help.



Nicole A Viator

Financial Advisor

11211 Taylor Draper
Suite 103
Austin, TX 78759
512-345-4989

Edward Jones

MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING Member SIPC

Buy an HEB Gift Card and Help Support the McNeil Maverick Band — On-Going Fundraiser! by Sonya Shaffer

HEB Unlike other fundraising programs where the band asks you for direct donations, HEB will do the donating for you! If you buy a gift card valued at \$50 or \$100 from your Wells Branch gift card coordinator, you get the full face value of the card, and HEB gives 5% of the card value to the band. Since so many of us shop regularly at our neighborhood HEB stores, this is a great way to give to the band while spending no extra money of your own. And, HEB cards make great gifts with the holiday season just around the corner!

This is an ongoing fundraiser with cards available year round. If you are interested in purchasing cards, please email Sonya Shaffer at shaffer.s@austin.rr.com and we can arrange for you to come by our house on Spring Wagon Lane (near Wells Branch Elementary) to pick up your \$50 or \$100 card. We may be getting smaller denominations for the holidays. Checks and cash only, please. Also, cards that donate to the band are not available at HEB stores.

Thanks for your support, and Go Mavericks!

Four Seasons

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"Our appreciation for your continuous support throughout the years."

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Fine Dining or Take Out

Mon-Fri: 11:00am-9:30pm & Sat-Sun 11:30am-9:30pm

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**10% OFF
Total Bill
Dinner Only**

With coupon only.
Cannot combine with any
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Expires 1-15-20

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with minimum \$30
purchase.
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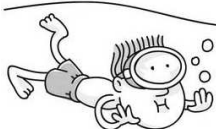
FREE

Choice of Chicken,
Beef, Pork, Shrimp or
Four Seasons Fried
Rice with minimum
\$40 purchase.

With coupon only.
Cannot combine with any
other coupon.
Expires 1-15-20

WB MUD Swim Across Texas Program

by Katie Hutcheson, WB MUD Aquatics Supervisor



We will collect lap swim mileage from November 1, 2019 to February 28, 2020. Together we'll calculate and track your mileage. For example: Wells Branch

to Wimberley is 55 miles, Wells Branch to Fredericksburg is 67 miles or Wells Branch to College Station is 88 miles. You can pick a city of your choice to swim to if you have another destination in mind. The top three swimmers with the most mileage on February 28 will receive an individual Recreation Tag for the following year.

There's no initiation fee; just email Katie at khutcheson@wellsbranchmud.com and let her know you are interested. After you finish your daily lap swim at Willow Bend, let the guards know your daily total. On March 1, 2020, the top three swimmers who have swum to the farthest city from Wells Branch (most miles) will win! There will be a map on the bulletin board at Willow Bend Pool with posted results updated weekly.

You can enter anytime but the earlier the better! Any questions, please contact Katie at 512-251-9814 ext 111 or khutcheson@wellsbranchmud.com.



WB Walking Club

by Katie Hutcheson, WB MUD Aquatics Supervisor

Come enjoy these glorious fall mornings with us! The trails are beautiful and the wildlife abundant. WB Walking Club meets in front of KF Pool at 7:30am **AND** 8:30am on Tuesdays & Thursdays and utilizes the Wells Branch MUD trails. The 7:30am group walks at a faster pace and for longer distances while the 8:30am group is best for beginners or those who'd like to take it a little more slowly and enjoy the scenery.

For more info, contact Katie Hutcheson at 512-516-2621 or khutcheson@wellsbranchmud.com.

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're on Twitter @wellsbranch_run and Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/wellsbranchrunclub/>. Call, Text, or E-mail : karamyers@austin.rr.com | (512) 470-9782

European Dance Guild

by Daniel White

Come learn something NEW (or OLD, as the case may be). The European Dance Guild meets on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, from 6 to 8pm in Room 104 of the Rec. Center, 3000 Shoreline Drive. The meeting is free and open to the public. For more info, call 512-413-0097.

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.

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. Since its inception in 2009, this program has grown to include community volunteer clean up events and education sessions. KWBB is always looking for enthusiastic community members to help with volunteer projects. Please contact Katie at khutcheson@wellsbranchmud.com for more information.

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. Watch for our 2020 Day Trip Schedule to be posted at <http://wbna.us/community/silver-branchers/>

Thursday, December 5 – Silver Branchers' Christmas Luncheon

Our last Day Trip for 2019 will be the Silver Branchers' Christmas Luncheon, Thursday, December 5 at 1:00pm at Mesa Rosa, 15515 FM 620, near the intersection with TX 45, <http://www.mesarosa.com/>. We will meet at the Rec. Center at 12:30pm and return following lunch. Cut off for registration is November 27. Sign up with the Wells Branch MUD's customer service at 512-251-9814 or in person at the customer service desk at the Wells Branch Recreation Center, 3000 Shoreline Drive. If you have questions about the lunch or the Wells Branch seniors' group "Silver Branchers", please call Glen at 512-461-1665.

Birding in Wells Branch

by Sharon Richardson

The Wells Branch birders meet every second Monday at 8:00am at Mills Pond pavilion. Watch the WBNA Facebook page for photos of our walks or join us for a stroll around the pond. Happy birding, Wells Branch!

Holiday Safety Tips

by Debby Thompson, WBNA President
& WB Neighborhood Watch Coordinator

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



If you plan to be away:

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

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

Don't share vacation plans on social media.

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

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

Put your lights, stereo or TV on timers.

Keep your house well lit at night (backyard included)

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

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

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

Store all your valuables.

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

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

File a Close Patrol Request. The filing of this form alerts patrolling officers so that they may pay close attention to one's residence. To do so: Contact the Travis County Sheriff's Office at 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.

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

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

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

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

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

Here's to a safe and happy holiday season!

The 2020 Wells Branch Community Calendar is on Sale Now! by Margaret Sufke

Get yours today! The 2020 Wells Branch Community Calendar is available for sale. As in years past, the 2020 "Nature of Wells Branch" calendar offers a truly awe-inspiring collection of images. There are sixteen awesome photographs in the 15-month calendar plus the cover image. This is the fourth annual Wells Branch calendar and it's available for \$10. An amazing price, helping to support the WBNA, an amazing community group.

Focusing on the community, all images are taken within the Wells Branch area by local photographers. You may be interested to learn that most of the photographers who participated are either enthusiastic hobbyists or relatively new to photography. The winning images are currently being showcased at Malone Coffee Roastery (in Bratton Square). Stop by grab a great cup of fresh brewed coffee and buy a calendar for yourself and one for a gift.

The WBNA partners with the Wells Branch Photo Club to host the annual photo contest. The year's contest set some new records. There were 82 entries, up from 60-or so last year. The peoples' choice votes totaled 128. There were approximately 30 top photos that stood out by public choice. The final selections were judged by a panel of WBNA board members and two representatives from the WB Rec Center staff. The only real challenge was to make the final sixteen selections, it was tough.

Sales started in early October so you can plan ahead for the holidays. The WBNA members will also be selling the calendars at several upcoming community events: WB MUD Monthly Bingo Nights (2nd Wednesdays of the month), the Thanksgiving Potluck, and both nights of the Luminary Fest.

This year we are offering a new WBNA membership incentive. If you renew your WBNA membership between October 1, 2019 and January 31, 2020, you will receive one free calendar. The calendars are produced in a limited production run, so plan to get yours early.

Here's a list of the winning photographs:

| MONTH | PC | Title | Photographer |
|-------------------|----|---|----------------|
| COVER | * | Cardinal at the Window | Sharee Darce |
| 2019 OCT | | Red and yellow and red and yellow and ... | Steve Hilchey |
| 2019 NOV | * | Millie | Dave DeVore |
| 2019 DEC | | A little bit of the white stuff | Roberto White |
| 2020 JAN | | House Finch Breakfast | Tom Hoelzer |
| 2020 FEB | * | Serene Sunset over Mills Pond | Dave DeVore |
| 2020 MAR | * | Lunchtime at WBE AIA School Garden | Debby Thompson |
| 2020 APR | * | Spring Time at The Homestead | Brad Caramagno |
| 2020 MAY | | Flower Carpet | Roberto White |
| 2020 JUN | * | Hummingbird at Flame Acanthus | Bruce Jones |
| 2020 JUL | * | Over the Rainbow | Vanessa Aviles |
| 2020 AUG | * | Wading Pool | Mark Sufke |
| 2020 SEP | * | Giant Swallowtail | Bruce Jones |
| 2020 OCT | * | Taking Flight | Dave DeVore |
| 2020 NOV | * | Mills Pond Fall Reflection | Kelly McCarty |
| 2020 DEC | * | Jogging through the morning fog | Roberto White |
| (People's Choice) | | | |



YOUR WBNA Membership COUNTS!

WBNA is literally a labor of love. It was created by and is run by VOL-UNTEERS. 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!

October 2019 November 2019 December 2019 January 2020 February 2020

March 2020 April 2020 May 2020 June 2020 July 2020

August 2020 September 2020 October 2020 November 2020 December 2020

The Wells Branch Neighborhood Association would like to thank all of the talented photographers who participated in our calendar contest. It's always great fun seeing Wells Branch through others' eyes. Our board sincerely hopes that each of you will find a new way to connect with our beautiful community through these photos.

Please remember that schedules can change when they're made over a year in advance and always confirm dates and times via wblibrary.org, wbna.us, or wellsbranchmud.com.

Special thanks to WB resident and WBNA Member, Bruce Kuemmel and Don Guilett of Austin Printing & Mailing, official publisher of the WBNA. A heartfelt thank you to WBNA Board Member Margaret Sufke for all the time and energy she put into the 2020 Calendar Photo Contest, WB Photo Club for their enthusiastic participation, and WB MUD for their support.

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Wells Branch Garden Guild by Dianne Koehler

On **November 16**, at 11am, join the Garden Guild in making garden toys from odd items around the house. Bring your old shovel or fork, large jars, broken large plates, flowerpots and more for an interactive session on how to make some of those super crafty things for your yard or gifts.

Watch our Facebook page for December/January updates!
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/WBGardenGuild/>

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

Mr. PC's Computer Corner by Dave DeVore

When I first got into the technology consulting business in 1997, networks were only found in businesses and it required a network engineer to set them up and to keep them running daily. Fast forward 22 years and EVERYONE has a network in their home, most with wifi for streaming media and for using multiple devices simultaneously such as tablets, laptops and smartphones. Most home networks were setup by the end users, most often with the default factory settings, making them easy targets for hackers or neighbors wanting to steal your bandwidth. I see this every day and the bad guys are aware of it also. Over the years, wifi networks have become more powerful, with more range, making them sitting ducks for intrusions from outside the home. If your network seems suddenly slow, it may be because a vampire neighbor is on it, doing who knows what that you may end up being responsible for. Here are some simple steps to lock things down and make it much more difficult for a break in to occur.

First, check your router login name and password. If they're still set to the factory defaults, change them using stronger standards. Use at least 10 characters for the password with a combination of upper- and lower-case letters, numbers and maybe a symbol like the @ sign. Second, make sure the router security is set to a flavor of WPA2 or WPA3, which are much stronger than the old WEP that is easily hacked. Third, see if your SSID, (your network name) such as JonesHomeNetwork, is being broadcast. There should be a checkbox by both your normal and your guest network SSID to enable or disable broadcasting them. Turn these off. This won't block determined hackers, but it will stop a large percentage of attempts to use your wifi since it is now invisible. Finally, while you are in your router's settings, look at which devices are connected to it. If you see Joe's iPad or Don's laptop and don't recognize these people, the changes to your passwords, security level and not broadcasting the SSIDs should block them out after your next router restart. Save the settings changes you have made, restart your router and when it comes up you will hopefully be much more secure. I hope this has been helpful.

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

Wells Branch Photo Club by Margaret Sufke

WB Photo Club meets the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm at the Rec. Center, 3000 Shoreline Drive.

The October meeting brought a special guest speaker, Ms. Donna Malone of Malone Coffee with a surprise announcement. Our group was offered an opportunity to showcase an image (or a selection of images) to be displayed at Malone Coffee. The images could also be made available for sale. This is a win-win-win program. Malone coffee gets to host local artwork, local photographers get to display their WB images and the community members have a chance to support area artists. Please consider sharing your work. Contact Donna Malone, 512-810-3598 after January 1, 2020. The theme is "What makes Wells Branch Special." Photos can be of places, people, sporting events, community events, and activities going on in our neighborhood.

In November, Steve Hilchey graciously volunteered to reprise his composition class with a new twist. Steve had an editing PC hooked up to a large display screen and for "instant" composition makeovers. Photo club members brought shots to share and edit. Great fun!

In February, Dave DeVore has offered to host a very special talk, originally presented to the Bastrop Audubon Society on Wildlife Photography using some of his Africa shots from recent trips. Dave offered a similar talk covering some great shots and techniques from past trips last year. This is quite a treat. We are looking forward to this session.

The December and January sessions are open right now. I'd like to defer the December session to have the group attend the annual Luminary Fest, plan on capturing some holiday snaps, and maybe we can meet in January at Malone Coffee and kick off sharing our images with the public.

Lastly, we have a "shout out" for several active club members for having their images selected for the Wells Branch 2020 Calendar. Kudos to Dave DeVore, Steve Hilchey, Tom Hoelzer, Bruce Jones, Mark Sufke, Debby Thompson and Roberto White. The lucky winners received a complementary calendar.

We'll keep posting program 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.

Our group has also been requested to help out by photographing several of the upcoming community events, which include: First Fridays at the WB Library, local soccer games and swim meets. Upcoming events include MUD Bingo nights, Thanksgiving Potluck, Youth Fowl Shot Contest, and of course Luminary Fest. 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.

*All programs are free and open to the public.
Programs with ** require advance registration
at wblibrary.eventbrite.com.*

SPECIAL HOLIDAY HOURS
Close at 4pm Nov 27 and Dec 31
Closed Nov 28-29, Dec 24-26 and Jan 1
No programs December 27-31

HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

Thanksgiving Concert with Ms Kat **

Wed, Nov 20 at 10:30am

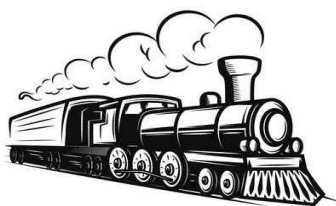
The turducken is back! This local children's author and musician will put on a fun and interactive concert.

DIY Gift Wrapping Station

Sat, December 2 at 2pm

Head to library to wrap your holiday gifts with friends and neighbors! Use library gift wrap & ribbons (while supplies last) or bring some paper and swap with others to revive your selection!

Polar Express Pajamarama



Saturday, December 14 at
6pm & 7pm

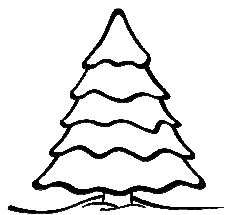
Crafts, cocoa, cookies, a visit from Santa, and a bedtime reading of *The Polar Express*. Don't miss this Wells Branch holiday tradition in its 18th

year!

Winter Kids' Concert with Amber, Johnny & Sharon**

Wed, December 18 at 10:30

Join the next generation of sing-along performers at this fun concert for little audiences.

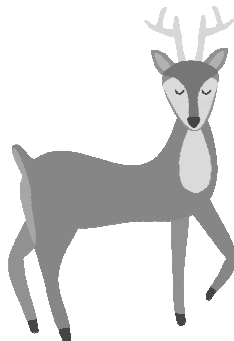


Mr. Willowby's Christmas Tree Storytime**

Mon, December 23 at 10:30am

Nancy Simpson will bring this classic to life with origami.

WINTER READING CHALLENGE



November 15th—January 15th

Download the Beanstack Tracker App to count your minutes and earn prizes. We have prize levels and raffle tickets for all ages!

SPECIAL EVENTS

NaNoWriMo Write-Ins

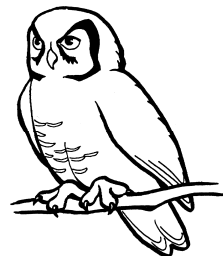
Saturdays in November from 2 to 5 p.m.

Meet your word count goals for National Novel Writing Month with dedicated writing space at the library. Visit NaNoWriMo.org for more information.

First Friday- Birds of Prey**

Friday, December 6 at 6:30 p.m.

Learn about owls and other birds of prey with a visit from Austin Area Wildlife Rehabilitation!



Try It! Drop-in Crafting

Thurs Nov. 21 & Dec 12 at 6:30pm

Come try a seasonal craft with your neighbors. Limited supplies will be available. Older children (8+) may attend with an adult.

DIY Family Craft: Decorated Candles**

Wed, December 18 at 6pm

A fun, simple craft for families to create together.

REGULAR PROGRAMS

Looking for storytimes, computer classes, Lego Lab, yoga, D&D, book clubs, Spanish or English conversation groups, circle time, ukulele club, or any of our other regular programs?

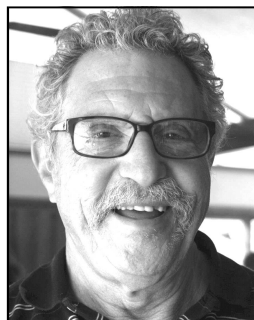
Visit wblibrary.org to see all the great things happening at your community library!

Wells Branch Community Library Board of Trustees Election

The WBNA would like to congratulate Christine Bloemsma and Ralph Simon on their re-election to the WBCL Board. We look forward to seeing your continued leadership in action!



Christine Bloemsma



Ralph Simon



Winter Reading at the Wells Branch Library

There's no place like the library for the holidays, especially when you can win prizes and gift baskets! The Wells Branch Library's Winter Reading Challenge will run from November 15th through January 15th. All ages are invited to read, write reviews, and complete activities on our new Beanstack Tracker App!

How to participate:

- Download the Beanstack Tracker App on your Android or iOS device
- Register yourself and family members for the Winter Reading Program
- Log your reading on the Beanstack Tracker App
- Earn digital badges, prizes, and raffle tickets for winter prize baskets

With programs and prizes for all ages, everyone can join in the fun. Download the Beanstack Tracker App to get started. Season's readings!

Do It Yourself at the Library!

Have a DIY project to complete? Work on it in the Wells Branch Learn And Build (LAB), our community crafting space! In the LAB, adult patrons with accounts in good standing can use the tools and equipment featured in our DIY classes to work on projects of their own, including:

- Beading
- Drawing and tracing
- Embossing and custom cutting
- Engraving and carving
- Glass etching and enameling
- Leatherworking
- Papermaking
- Sewing
- Soldering
- Weaving

The LAB is available for drop-in use twice weekly, with no appointment required. Our Open LAB Hours are Sundays between 1 and 4pm and on Wednesdays between 4 and 6pm.

Library patrons can also schedule an appointment to use the LAB and receive staff assistance with their projects. They can make a one-on-one tutorial appointment, get help with a project problem, or just use our space and tools during the week as well as on the weekends.

Appointments are generally available Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays between noon and 4pm. Appointments can be scheduled online at <https://www.wblibrary.org/lab> or by sending an email to staff@wblibrary.org.



FOL News by Tracy Simon, President

Come join the Friends of WB Community Library! Did you know your membership fee is tax deductible? Visit our website, wbfriends@wblibrary.org for more information and our membership fee scale.

FOL members are ambassadors for our Wells Branch Library. We participate in Pioneer Fest, 4th Fest, National Night Out, Trunk or Treat and Luminary Fest with the help of our volunteers.

Thanks to everyone who came out to see us at National Night Out! The custard was amazing! Special thanks to Culver's for their continued support of the FOL.

This year, the FOL sponsored the First Friday program and prizes for the Summer and Winter reading programs with the funds raised from our community garage sale and donations we received.

Did you know???

- Contributions can be made to the Friends of the Library (FOL) every time you make a purchase using Amazon Smile! Just use smile.amazon.com/ch/74-2911870. The dollars collected by the FOL support library programs.
- Every time you make a purchase or eat at a Wells Branch business or restaurant you contribute directly to the library through sales taxes collected by that business.

Join us in contributing using these easy methods.

SAVE THE DATE
for our next
FOL Community
Garage Sale!
March 28, 2020



Find us on:
facebook®

2019 National Night Out at KF Park • THANK YOU Wells Branch! by Debby Thompson

We enjoyed another wonderful turnout at National Night Out! Thank you everyone for making time to come out and join us. Our tremendous sense of community is what shapes our neighborhood most. Y'all make Wells Branch GREAT!

Special thanks go out to the Travis County Emergency Services District No. 2. You always make NNO special! We appreciate the use of the Fire Safety House, Fire Engine No. 221, and the fun activities you brought for our residents. Allison Strupeck shared games with the kiddos and answered all of their questions. We value your service to our community.

Thank you TCSO! We are always grateful for the Travis County Sheriff's presence at our events. Thanks to each of the officers who joined us, especially our Community Outreach officers Sgt. Zainab Mansaray and Deputy Chuck Roberts. You're all wonderful!

We'd also like to thank Explorer Post #711 from the Travis County Constable's Office Pct. 2, led by Deputy Kenneth Guerrero. NNO wouldn't be the same without y'all.

The Friends of Wells Branch Community Library ROCK! The FOL provided and served FREE frozen custard from Culver's (Thanks, Culver's). Thank you Tracy & Ralph Simon and Joan & Dave Mead. We can always count on your community service. The FOL is fortunate to have you!

Thank you WBCL and thank you Jeremy & Lauren for hosting the Library table. It was a great addition to the event. Jeremy, you will be missed!

Representing the Wells Branch Merchants, we had Chris & Catherine Carby of Branch BBQ and Paul Malone of Malone's Coffee & Roastery. A strong business community not only supports the library and ESD, but helps to increase property values as well. Please buy locally whenever possible.

We were fortunate to have VDRs on hand to register voters. Thank you Susan Gezana, Krista Keosheyan, and Jeaneane McNulty!

Last but not least, thank you to all the WBNA volunteers who make this event happen each year: Pit Master Chuck Walters and Guest Pit Master Extraordinaire, Chris Carby. Thank you Steve & Donna Lyons, Mark & Margaret Sufke, Janet Maxey, Lara Bennett, Dixie Putzier, Mouse Phung, and John Thompson for set up and tear down, and prepping sausage wraps and hot dogs in between, our emcee, Pam Wachholz, Pamela Woodward for manning the door prize table, and Gus Kohn and Alberta Thompson for 2020 WBNA Calendar sales. Thank you, Rob White for the photos!

We also want to recognize Shirley Ross and Tina Till, representing Wells Branch MUD. Together, they hosted a booth on water conservation and kicked off the "Imagine a Day Without Water" contest. MUD Staff went above and beyond in helping ready the pavilion (new paint!), grounds (fresh mulch!) and grills that were cleaner than when they were new, trucking our supplies to the site, and packing it all up. Most especially, we'd like to thank Jake Armstrong for all his hard work! We'd also like to thank MUD Board Directors Janet Maxey and Shelley Palmer for their community spirit and participation. It made for a long day but please know that we appreciate all the you do to make and keep Wells Branch so special.



Happy Holidays & Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who made the 2019 Pumpkin Patch a success! It has been so much fun to see your families and children grow year-after-year and be able to bring this Wells Branch tradition to you.

We hope your family has a wonderful Holiday Season and we look forward to serving you in 2020!

Your Real Estate Team,
Pam, Susie & Jazz



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WBNA Pumpkin Patch & Pumpkin Painting in the Park by Debby Thompson

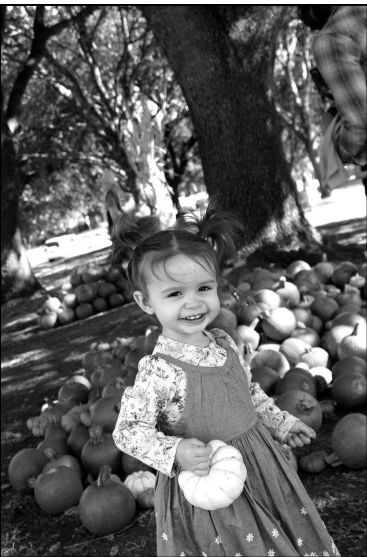
We had absolutely glorious weather and a fabulous time at our Wells Branch Pumpkin Patch and Pumpkin Painting in the Park! It was exciting to see lots of new faces! We did, however, miss all our kiddos who've aged out (you know who you are).

A HUGE Thank You to our Pumpkin Patch Sponsors: Pam King Wachholz, REALTOR®, Better Homes & Gardens Real Estate | Home City in partnership with Susie Oberpriller, Union Home Mortgage, and Jazz Lough, Trinity Title Texas and to Dianne Koehler, teacher and artist, for bringing all her painting toys for us to play with and offering inspiration. Special thanks to all the WBNA volunteers: Chuck Walters; Tracy Simon; Janet Maxey; Christiane, William & Sarah Lunsford; Katherine LaPierre; Debbie Brown; Emily & Sarah Berver; Sonya, Tim, Andrew & Brendan Shaffer; David & Max Lotspeich; Sarah & Cutter; and Topher & Joe Stapleton. You guys are awesome! We couldn't have done it without you!

Thanks to Wells Branch MUD for the use of both the facilities and tables, and for help transporting the hay bales as they travel from one event to the next. Shout out to MUD Staff, who are always so very helpful! You are appreciated!

As an added benefit, we raised \$135.06 and five cases of non-perishable food for St. Andrew's Food Pantry. Thank you, Wells Branch!

Check the WBNA Facebook page for more photos from the event. Feel free to tag and share and as always, please let us know if there are any photos you'd like removed.



Coming to an intersection near YOU! DIVERGING DIAMOND 2022

TxDOT Meeting

with Special Guest Taryn Feigen from Rep. Israel's Office

Thursday, November 21 • 7pm

WB Community Center • 2106 Klattenhoff
Models, Engineers, & Maps of WB Pkwy/I-35

Come ask questions!

<https://capexnorth.mobility35openhouse.com/>

Happy Holidays!

Numbers to know

October statistics of existing home sales in Wells Branch
According to the Austin Board of REALTORS®

1-Story Homes:
\$194 = Median PPSF**
6 = Homes Sold
21 = Avg DOM**

2-Story Homes:
\$158 = Median PPSF**
4 = Homes Sold
24 = Avg DOM**

*www.abor.com - E-mail Pam for Full Stat Sheet **price per Sq Ft/Days on Mkt

Would you like to keep up with YOUR stats?

Call or e-mail today and ask to be set up on a
Market Watch for your specific area.



Pam Wachholz, GRI, SRES
REALTOR®

512-925-5309

pamsellstxrealstate@gmail.com



Proud to call Wells Branch home since 1993

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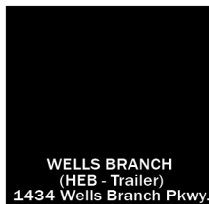
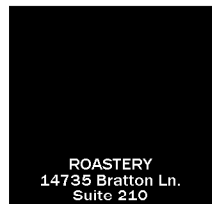
We're located in Bratton Square in Wells Branch

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Order a drink & get a stamp (below) at both locations.
On your 3rd visit get **50% off** your drink **any size!**



14735 Bratton Lane, Suite 210

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 2019/2020

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

