



Happy Holidays from the WBNA!

The holidays are HERE! We hope you'll join us in celebrating these wonderful Wells Branch traditions with family, friends, and neighbors. We look forward to seeing each of you this season! The WBNA Team—Building Community Together

Light Up the Night at Luminary Fest Friday & Saturday, December 10 & 11 • 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 10 & 11. Santa will be visiting the Homestead Cabin both nights from 6-9pm with FREE digital photos provided by WB Community Church available the next day on the WBNA Facebook page.

Join us outdoors for a caroling hayride or enjoy a peaceful stroll among the luminaries. Download our traditional caroling songbook to follow on the hayride at wbna.us.

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. Look for the Friends of the Library and their holiday tattoos! The 2022 WBNA Community Calendar will be available for purchase inside the Community Center both nights as well.

Sadly, many businesses are still getting back on track after the COVID closures and the Holiday Express Train and Saturday Night Kids' Karaoke will not be joining us this year, but there'll be lots of crafts, music, cocoa and cookies both nights.

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!**

Polar Express Pajamarama

Saturday, December 11 • 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 11 at 6:00pm & 7:00pm! Register at wblibrary.eventbrite.com.

Tis' the Season of Joy! Get Ready to Sparkle!

The WBNA is sponsoring a Wells Branch Holiday Lighting Contest. Get ready to shine! We've added a Holiday Lights Trail Map this year and set up an online site for entering nominations. Once entered, the entry will be "pinned" the map. Please nominate as many addresses as you'd like at https://bit.ly/WBNAholidaylights, to be added to our map. The map will be updated as nominations arrive, it can be viewed and shared here:

https://bit.ly/WBNAholidaylightsmap.

One grand prize will be awarded for each category. The winners will also get to display an award sign in their yard through the holidays.

Categories will be labeled on the map as well, they include: Best Use of Lights, Most Traditional, Most Elaborate, Most Energy Efficient, Most Visible from Outer Space, Most Original, Most Patriotic, and new for 2021, Most Whimsical.

Important Dates:

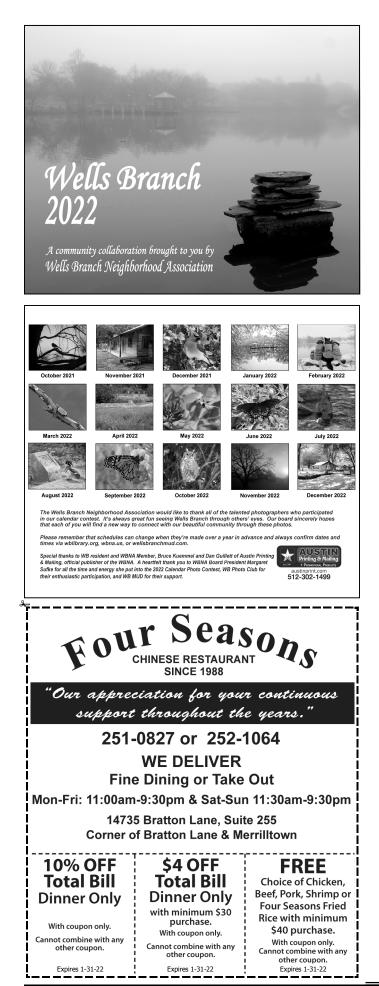
- DEC 15: Displays complete, entries submitted
- DEC 16: Lights on 6:00 9:00 pm for early previews
- DEC 17-18: Drive by Judging and "online voting" from the community "Lights On"
- DEC 19: Winners announced, signs installed, and prizes awarded

Good luck and have fun!

Inside wis Issue

Bulk Trash Pick Up Crew 1409	Membership
pages 9, 11	page 12
Business Updates	NNO Recap
page 7	page 5
Calendar Contest Winners	Pumpkin Patch & Painting TYs
page 2	page 9
Coupons	Safety (Coyote)
pages 2, 5, 9, 12	page 11
Events	Safety (ESD)
pages 1, 9, 11, 12	pages 3, 4
Holiday Hours	Safety (TCSO)
page 11	page 8
Library News	Silent Auction Thank You
page 10	pages 6 & 7

Please JOIN or RENEW YOUR Membership TODAY! WBNA Membership Form on Page 12.



The 2022 Wells Branch Community Calendar is on Sale Now! by Margaret Sufke

Get yours today! As in years past, the 2022 Wells Branch Community Calendar offers a truly awe-inspiring collection of images. There are sixteen unique photographs in the 15-month calendar including the cover image. This is the fifth annual Wells Branch calendar and it's available for only \$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 on SALE every Saturday from 9am-1pm at Malone's through January 8, 2022.

The WBNA members will also be selling the calendars at several upcoming community events: both nights of Luminary Fest and WB MUD Monthly Bingo Nights (3rd Wednesdays of the month through February) or order online for home delivery at https://tinyurl.com/2022WBNACalendarOrder.

This year we are offering a new WBNA membership incentive. If you renew your WBNA membership by January 31, 2022, 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	Title	Photographer
COVER	Stillness	Arlie Pfeifer
2021 OCT	Evening Silhouette	Sharee Darce
2021 NOV	Wells Branch Homestead	Arlie Pfeifer
2021 DEC	Cedar Waxwing in Winter Storm	Bruce Jones
2022 JAN	Foggy Morning at the Pond	Roberto White
2022 FEB	Candy Cane Crew	Jennifer Higgins
2022 MAR	Headed to the Top	Roberto White
2022 APR	Spring Walk	Margaret Sufke
2022 MAY	In Flight	Bruce Jones
2022 JUN	Black Wing Beauty	Roy Cotton
2022 JUL	Cooling Off	Roberto White
2022 AUG	Only 25-45 Miles to Go in Woody's Marathon	David DeVore
2022 SEP	Migrating Monarch	Bruce Jones
2022 OCT	You Can't Escape My Sight	David DeVore
2022 NOV	Foggy Winter Morning	Arlie Pfeifer
2022 DEC	Snow at the Homestead	Roberto White

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. Watch for updates via the WB Google Group, WBNA Facebook Page, WB Photo Club Facebook Page, and wbna.us. Please contact Margaret Sufke at mmsufke@gmail.com with any questions.

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.



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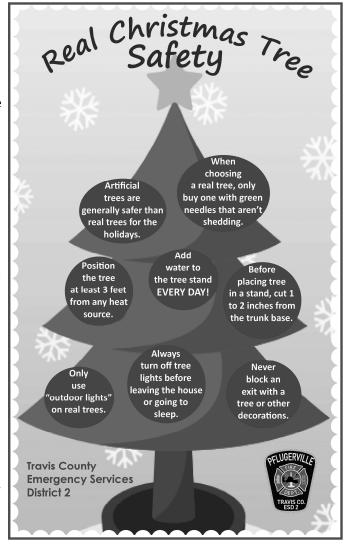


The Official Printer of the Wells Branch Newsletter

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:

- <u>Use a Timer</u>—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 <u>especially</u> 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.
- <u>Caution with Cords</u>—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!





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

FACT!

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 wellventilated 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.



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Near Walgreens at the corner of Wells Branch Parkway and Mopac.

Shelly Chicoine Hogan, D.C. Nicole Chicoine Edwards, D.C. (Resident of Wells Branch)

Our Family Has Been Caring For Your Family Since 1989.

2021 National Night Out at KF Park • THANK YOU Wells Branch! by Margaret Sufke, WBNA President

We had an excellent 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 Chief Nicholas Perkins and 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 EMS ambulance, and the fun activities you brought for our residents. 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. Major Craig Smith and several long serving deputies were able to stop by and took the time to speak with community members. You're all wonderful!

Special shout out to Commissioner Brigid Shea, Travis County Precinct 2. She took time out to meet with community members to discuss several topics, including county redistricting and environmental programs.

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

Thank you WBCL and thank you Lauren for hosting the Library table promoting all the recent program updates. It was a great

addition to the event.

The Jubilee Academy-Wells Branch campus hosted an informational booth with games and prizes, focusing on their educational programs, the teaching staff and our community.

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

Last but not least, thank you to all the WBNA volunteers who make this event happen each year: Guest Pit Master Extraordinaire, Chris Carby, partnering with Shawn Trubenstein, new owner of Branch BBQ. Thank you Steve & Donna Lyons, Paul and Donna Malone, Darci Marter, Mark Sufke, and Juli Thatcher for set up and tear down. Catherine Carby and CeCe Trubenstein for prepping sausage wraps and hot dogs. Our emcee, Pam Wachholz, Lara Bennett for manning the door prize table, and Gus Kohn and Alberta Thompson for 2022 WBNA Calendar sales. Special thanks to Paul and Donna Malone of Malone Coffee for their generous food donation.

We also want to recognize Shirley Ross and Tina Till, representing Wells Branch MUD. Together, they hosted a booth on current district programs with games and prizes. MUD Staff went above and beyond in helping ready the pavilion and trucking our supplies to the site, and packing it all up. We'd also like to thank MUD Board Director Janet Maxey for her community spirit and participation. It made for a long day but please know that we appreciate all that your team does to make and keep Wells Branch so special.

Special THANKS to ALL who participated in our July 4th Silent Auction! Wells Branch community support is outstanding!

The Wells Branch Neighborhood Association would like to thank our neighbors for supporting our organization through the recent Silent Auction. Whether you donated an item, participated online or visited the live auction on July 4th, each contrabution made a difference.

We truly appreciate the support from the entire community. We were able to reach our goal; we raised just over \$5200.00.

As most of you know, all the funds raised directly benefit the neighborhood help to pay for National Night Out, the Easter Egg Hunt, participation in Halloween & Autumn events, Crafts at Luminary Fest in December and to help host educational/safety programs and candidate forums. Whether you were a donor, a buyer, a volunteer, or the WB MUD, who so graciously allows us the use of their facilities, your contribution made a tremendous difference and the WBNA is grateful!

When you visit the local area businesses or see your neighbors listed below, please thank them for supporting our community. Remember, as you patronize these businesses you continue to support Wells Branch.

Salvador Aguirre, WB Neighbor WB Photographer

Alamo Drafthouse Lakeline Jeff Rinehart

14028 North, US-183 Building F 512-771-2138 https://drafthouse.com/austin/ theater/lakeline jeff.rinehart@drafthouse.com

All Stars Unlimited Nicole Ramirez, Owner/Head Coach 512-310-5822 www.allstarsunlimited.com info@allstarsunlimited.com

Amazing Auto Repair

Damon Andrew, WB Neighbor 1601 Hydro Dr, Austin, TX 78728 512-643-1429 amazingautoandtransmissionrepair.com damon@AmazingAutoRepair.net

Austin Aquarium

13530 N. Hwy 183 #101, Austin, TX 512-222-5586 https://austinaquarium.com/ info@austinaquarium.com

Austin Overtures, Sightseeing Tours Mary Davidson 602 E 4th St., Austin TX 78701 512-659-9478 www.aotoursaustin.com mary@austinovertures.com

Austin Sewing Machines and Quilting 2601 S IH 35 Frontage Rd #100, Mike Smith 1601 S IH 35 Frontage Rd #300 Round Rock, TX 78664 512-310-7349 https://austinsewing.com/ mike@austinsewing.com

Austin Zoo

10808 Rawhide Trail, Austin, TX 512-288-1490 austinzoo.org

Linda Barnett, WB Neighbor WB Photographer

Jessica Bearden, Beauty Consultant Jessica Bearden, WB Neighbor 707-287-3645 jessbearden523@gmail.com

Branch BBQ **Chris & Catherine Carby** 1779 Wells Branch Pkwy. #112 512-990-5282 branchbbg.com

Debbie Brown, WB Neighbor Event Volunteer

Butler Park Pitch & Putt 201 Lee Barton Dr, Austin, TX 78704 512-477-4430 https://butlerpitchandputt.com/ info@butlerpitchandputt.com

Chicoine Chiropractic Nicole Edwards & Shelly Hogan WB Neighbors 3407 Wells Branch Pkwy, #625, 512-255-1777 www.chicoinechiropractic.com ChicoineWB@gmail.com

Dave's Ultimate Automotive Josh Winner 2711 W Howard Ln, Austin, TX 78728 512-244-7716 davesultimateautomotive.com/ north-austin/

Dave's Ultimate Automotive Brett Kinker Round Rock, TX 78664 512-246-1558 davesultimateautomotive.com/ round-rock/ boardwalk@davesua.com

Stephen Davis & Carl Fairman WB Neighbors Donors

dd's pendants Darci Marter, WB Neighbor 402-206-1488 darcipressnall8@gmail.com

Dream Bakery Karen Fry, Owner 14735 Bratton Ln #210 512-494-4009 https://dreambakery.com/café dreambakeryaustin@gmail.com

Edward Jones, Financial Services Nicole Viator 11211 Taylor Draper Ln, #103 Austin, Tx 78759 512-345-4989 https://www.edwardjones.com/usen/financial-advisor/nicole-viator nicole.viator@edwardjones.com

Emler Swim School Clara Wright / Jaci Basco 2800 South IH-35, #190, Round Rock 512-759-6900 https://emlerswimschool.com/ roundrock@emlerswimschool.com

Fit4Mom Juli Thatcher, WB Neighbor 512-730-0240 http://pflugerville.fit4mom.com/ julithatcher@fit4mom.com

Susan Gezana, WB Neighbor **Event Volunteer**

Hamilton Eye Associates Dr. Derek Hamilton Penny, Office Mgr. 15550 Ranch Road 620N 512-251-1010 penny@wbvision.com

Healing Acupuncture Center Karen Nunley, L.Ac. 8705 Shoal Creek Blvd. #113 512-338-8810 austinhealingacupuncture.com

Hurricane Grill & Wings Michael Boselah 2701 Parker Rd #100, Round Rock, TX 78681 254-247-7028 hurricanewings.alohaorderonline.com/ Time.aspx mboselah@gmail.com

Inner Space Caverns Patti P., Ofc. Mgr. 4200 S IH 35 Frontage Rd, Georgetown, TX 78626 512-931-2283 https://innerspacecavern.com/

JHeartClay designs Jessica Rhinehart 707-287-3645 jessicalrinehart@gmail.com

Jon Klekman Trio Jon Klekman, WB Neighbor https://jonbassjon.com/

Gus Kohn, WB Neighbor Donor

Kim Lanicek, WB Neighbor Donor

Kinderdance of North Austin **Angela Collins**

7617 Elkhorn Mountain Trail 512-257-0733 kinderdancenorthaustin.com/ dance@kinderdancenorthaustin.com

Sherrie Lindig, WB Neighbor WB Photographer

Lone Star Riverboat Cruises Mike Pearce / Joye French 208 Barton Springs Rd, Austin, TX 512-327-1388 https://www.lonestarriverboat.com/ captmike@austin.rr.com

Lyon's Electric Steve Lyons, Owner WB Neighbor 3400 Mocha Trl, Austin, TX 78728 512-587-4977 lyonselectric.com steven@lyonselectric.com

Steve & Donna Lyons, WB Neighbors **Event Volunteers**

Malone's Specialty Coffee Paul & Donna Malone WB Neighbors 14735 Bratton Ln #210 512-514-0066 http://malonecoffee.com/ Mary Kay Cosmetics Lesley Walton 703-439-8756 www.marykay.com/lesleywalton

Mary Hale, WB Neighbor Event Volunteer

Oddwood Ales Brett Ziebarth 3108 Manor Road, Austin TX 78723 512-220-0612 oddwoodales.com/home brett@oddwoodales.com

Organic Edges Laurie & Cody Childers, WB Neighbors 512-252-0202 info@organicedges.com

Outback Steak House Lina Siu 1651 N Interstate Hwy 35 South, Round Rock, TX 78664 512-733-6828 https://www.outback.com/

Papa John's Pizza Melenie Herren 2113 Wells Branch Pkwy, Austin, TX 512-251-7272 https://www.papajohns.com/

Arlie Pfeifer, WB Neighbor Donor / Event Volunteer

Denise Pierce, WB Neighbor Donor

Pinthouse Pizza - Round Rock Krystal Angelo 2800 Hoppe Trail, Round Rock, TX 512-787-0869 https://www.pinthousepizza.com/

Ralph & Tracy Simon, WB Neighbors Event Volunteers

Ramos Tex-Mex #3 Felix, Store Manger 14611 Burnet Rd, #103, Austin 512-246-0727 www.ramostexmexrestaurant.com/

Realty Texas Tonna Marcyes, WB Neighbor 2000 S IH-35, Ste E-1, Round Rock 512-630-0316 tonna-marcyes@realtytexas.com

Rubbish Reimagined Delian Filip, WB Neighbor 512-299-4924 delian.filip@yahoo.com

San Antonio Zoo 3903 N St Mary's St, San Antonio, TX 210-734-7184 https://sazoo.org/

Doug Schwartz, *WB Neighbor* Event Volunteer

Shine On Window Cleaning Dixie Putzier 300 Wimberley St, Hutto, TX 78634 512-574-2869 shineonwindowcleaningtx@gmail.com

Sick Strings Carlos Castaneda 512-627-9821 sickstringsatx@gmail.com

State Farm Insurance David Chenault, Agent 4201 W Parmer Ln, Bldg. B, Ste 170 512-244-6641 https://www.davidprotectsme.com/ DChenault37@gmail.com

Margaret Sufke, WB Neighbor Silent Auction Website Editor

Mark Sufke, WB Neighbor Event Volunteer, Float Driver Sunflower Sisters Studio Cynthia Hannon, WB Neighbor cynthia.hannon@gmail.com

Texas Roadhouse Derek Morris 15415 N. I-35 Service Road NB Pflugerville, TX 78660 512-670-1818 http://www.texasroadhouse.com 237marketing@texasroadhouse.com

Alberta Thompson Donor

Deborah Thompson, WB Neighbor Donor

Thundercloud Subs David Cohen 1700 Grand Ave Pkwy, Pflugerville 512-479-8805 https://thundercloud.com/ david@thundercloud.com

Tropical Island Ice Cream Erika Acevedo, Owner 14733 Bratton Ln, # 107, Austin, Tx 512-848-1740 http://tropicalislandicecream.com/ erika17salazar@yahoo.com

Typhoon Texas Waterpark Brittany Estes, Director of Sales 18500 TX-130 North Service Road Pflugerville, TX 78660 512-212-7792 https://www.typhoontexas.com

Untied States Taekwondo James Lockett 14735 Bratton Ln, # 115 737-999-4004 UnitedstatesTKD.com unitedstatestkd@gmail.com Vida Green Consulting Tara Munoz, WB Neighbor vidagreen.consulting@gmail.com

Virginia Davis Estate / Disney M. McGhee/L. Zandbergen, Donors

Volente Beach Kara, Marketing Manager 16107 FM2769 Suite D, Leander, TX 512-258-5110 https://www.beachsidebillys.com/ kara@volentebeach.com

Kevin Ward, WB Neighbor Donated use of trailer, WBNA Float

Edwin G. Webb, DDS Judy, Office Manager 2013 Wells Branch Pkwy, # 101, Austin, TX 78728 512-251-1274 http://www.dredwinwebb.com/ edwebbdds@hotmail.com

Wells Branch Armada Swim Team Soonee Wright 2801 Sauls Drive, Austin, TX 78728 512-419-8359 https://wellsbranch.swimtopia.com/ sooneewright@austin.rr.com

Wells Branch Soccer Association (WBSA)

Chris Connell,Registrar, VP P.O. BOX 1902 PFLUGERVILLE, TX 512-470-8179 wellsbranchsoccer.weebly.com Chris.Connell@wwt.com

Rob White, WB Neighbor WB Photographer

Pam Woodward, WB Neighbor Donor / Event Volunteer

Wells Branch Local Business Update by Margaret Sufke

Malone Specialty Coffee and Roastery and Dream Bakery: Hot Coffee and Delicious Treats! Malone's Coffee is now sharing their great neighborhood shop with Dream Bakery. Malone's has extended their hours and Dream Bakery is offering the same great gluten-free and Keto menu, as well as providing wonderful custom made-to-order cakes and baked goods. Check out the holiday specials. Come in for the coffee, and stay for the treats. LOCATION: Bratton Square | HOURS: 7:00am-3:00pm

Little Ola's Biscuits has really taken off. Chef-Owner Michael Fojtasek was looking for a new option to "front" his catering and food truck business, after closing his fine dining restaurant, "Olamaie" in south Austin. Michael, a three time James Beard finalist, wanted to provide an upscale but causal dining experience. He was also looking for a small neighborhood vibe with a large community to support his biscuit sandwiches and baked treats; the peach-vanilla hand pies are amazing. Heidi Garbo recommended her Wells Branch location as an ideal spot to help Chef Fojtasek meet his goals. LOCATION: Bratton Square | HOURS: M-F 7:00am-4:00pm serving breakfast, lunch, baked goods and real lemonade. https://www.facebook.com/littleolasbiscuits

Changes at Branch BBQ: After 27 years of serving the best BBQ in Wells Branch Chris and Catherine Carby decided to retire after making it through the worst of the pandemic. In keeping with the spirit of community, Chris didn't jut take the first offer he received. He worked hard to find just the right couple to take over the business of keeping Wells Branch supplied with great BBQ and those wonderful dinner favorites, like meatloaf and chicken and dumplings. Chris even stayed on for additional 2 weeks to help with on-the-job training. The new owners Sean and CeCe Trubenstein are working very hard to keep the tradition of great BBQ in Wells Branch going. We'll miss Chris & the gang. They made WB "home". Stop by when you're out and welcome the Trubensteins to Wells Branch. **Currently open W-Sa 11am-8pm for lunch and dinner.**

Exciting changes at St. Andrews!

Construction is nearly complete, and the first in-person service since the pandemic was held on Dec. 5 at 11am. Images and videos can be viewed on the St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Austin FaceBook page, and information about Christmas services will be forthcoming on our FaceBook page and at https://www.staopen.org.

Holiday Safety Tips

by Debby Thompson 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!**

WBNA Pumpkin Patch & Pumpkin Painting in the Park

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).

We owe a huge THANK YOU to Jill Douglass of Venture Crew 1409 and BSA Pack 728 for their help picking up hay bales, setting up the pumpkin patch, and Jill's help with clean up afterwards. Also, Donna Malone for picking up the hay and pumpkins! Thanks go out to Michael Fojtasek of Little Ols's for his contribution and to Darci Marter, teacher and artist, for organizing the event anew and offering inspiration. Special thanks to all the WBNA volunteers: Donna & Paul Malone, Darci & Jason Marter, Tracy Simon, Janet Maxey, Debby Thompson, Sarah Lunsford, Emily & Sarah Berver, Diana and Mason Lynn, Amaris and her two friends. You guys are awesome! We couldn't have done it without you! Thanks to Wells Branch MUD for the use of the facilities and tables. As an added benefit, we raised \$100 and five cases of non-perishable food for St. Andrew's Food Pantry. Thank you, Wells Branch!

Check the WBNA Facebook page for 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.

Need help transporting your Trash & Recyclables on Bulk Trash Day? by Jill Douglass, Advisor

Bulk trash day is Saturday, December 11th. Scouts BSA Crew 1409 will come to your house to pick up your trash and deliver it to the MUD bins for a minimum donation of \$20. We are hoping to earn money to offset the cost of a Wilderness First Aid course. Transportation is limited to WB MUD In-District residents only. Please schedule your pickup with Daniel White by Friday, December 10th. Text him your name, address, and phone number at 512-413-0097.

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



WBNA Holiday 2021



WINTER READING 11/15/2021-1/15/2022

Challenge yourself to read more over the winter months, and earn raffle entries for prizes to delight readers of all ages! <u>www.wblibrary.beanstack.com</u>

Percussion Show with Mark Shelton Fri 1/7 @ 6:30pm, registration required.

This one-man concert includes performances on marimba, hammered dulcimer, handpan, bodhran, rhythm bones, cajon, and electronic percussion. Original compositions, arrangements, and improvisations draw from his experiences in classical, jazz, folk, and popular music.

The Teen Library Council is a volunteer group (age 10-18) who plan and run events, create displays, and have fun. Join us on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month to earn community service hours making a difference in the community.

RPG Figuring Painting Sat 1/8 @ 4pm (ages 12+)

Learn some basics, then choose your own miniature to prep, paint, and take home with you!

WEEKLY KIDS PROGRAMS

- Mon @ 10:30am– Baby Signs
- Mon @ 11am- Toddler Storytime
- Tues @ 10:30am Bilingual Storytime
- Tues @ 11am Spanish Circle Time
- Tues @ 3:15 & 4:15pm LEGO Lab (two sessions, registration required)
- Wed @ 10:30am Circle Time
- Thu @ 10:30am Toddler Storytime
- Thu @ 11am PreSchool Storytime
- Thu @ 6pm Story and Play
- Fri @ 10:30am Alphabuddies
- Sat @ 10:30am Story and Play

COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic Mon 1/3 3-6pm

Open to Ages 5+, No cost, no insurance required.

Sign up for an appointment : <u>www.signupgenius.com/</u> go/wellsbranchjan3 15001 Wells Port Drive | 512-989-3188 WE'RE OPEN!! : 10am-8pm Mon-Thurs,

10am-6pm Fri & Sat; 1pm-6pm Sun

ADULT PROGRAMS: (age 18+)

DIY Crafts Wed @ 6:00pm, registration required

- 12/15 Glass Etching
- 1/5 Sewing Machine 101
- 1/12 Knit and Crochet
- 1/19 Cricut 101
- 1/26 Drremel 101

WORKSHOPS: (registration required)

Ebooks: Th 1/6 @ 6pm & Sat 1/22 @ 4pm

Want to check out eBooks or audiobooks from our online library ? Learn how to search on Overdrive, and how to check out and download e-books and audiobooks.

Nail Dip Powder: Th 1/13 @ 6pm & Sat 1/29 @ 4pm

Learn about nail dipping and how to create amazing looks using glitter, foils, and powders at home.

Mod Podge Bullet Journals: Sat 1/15 @ 4pm

Plan events, notes, goals, general life, and creative fun in style. We will mod podge journals and set up the inside for 2022!

WWW BookClub Th 1/20 @ 7pm. Discuss <u>My Life in Paris</u> by Julia Child & Alex Prud'homme.

In-person yoga and meditation classes will resume at the library in January. Check the calendar for times, dates and registration info.

LIBRARY OF THINGS: Go beyond books - now you can check out board games, armchair traveler kits, electronics such as WiFi hotspots, and more with your library card! See our website for more information.

DIAL-A-STORY: Call 737-255-9100 to listen to recorded stories, poems, jokes, and library news!

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

Program registration: wblibrary.eventbrite.com

Recent Coyote Sightings

As you may have noticed, there are several new areas under construction in or around Wells Branch. This has disrupted the wildlife once again and several residents have reported coyotes trotting down the streets mid-day.

Travis County contracts with the City of Austin for wildlife management. The City of Austin does not remove or relocate healthy native wildlife. Instead, the City of Austin/ Travis County's Wildlife Officers work with residents to provide tailored, humane, and long-term solutions to resolve conflict. It is important to report any concerning behavior so the Wildlife Officer can monitor activity.

The City of Austin Animal Services has a Wildlife Officer dedicated to Travis County, focusing on educating the public about wildlife. Officer Sadkin can assist with a variety of concerns or conflicts regarding wildlife. It is important to report coyote activity so that Officer Sadkin can monitor behavior. If you have any questions or concerns regarding coyotes or other wildlife, you may reach her via email at emery.sadkin@austintexas.gov. You may also call 311 (512-974-2000).

Keep your pets safe – Safety Tips:

- \cdot Keep small pets inside if possible and monitor them when outside at all times
- \cdot Avoid using extendable leashes; walk dogs on leashes that are 4-6 feet in length
- \cdot Avoid letting dogs explore vegetation that you cannot see through
- Provide secure shelters for poultry or other animals living outside
- · Feed pets indoors

Secure Reliable Food Sources: To keep coyotes and other wildlife wild, we can follow a few, simple preventative measures:

 \cdot Always keep trash and compost in a secure bin

Wells Branch MUD Holiday Hours

December/January Holiday Closures: The Recreation Center and District Office will be closed December 24-27 and December 31-January 3. Willow Bend Pool will be closed December 24, 25, 31, and January 1. Contact WB MUD Customer Service with questions at 512-251-9814 or info@wellsbranchmud.com

Solid Waste and Recycling Pickup

December/January Holiday Schedule Changes: There will be no changes to service.

Curbside Community Compost and Christmas Tree Collection

December/January: There will be no Curbside Community Compost pickup December 27– January 3. *Reminder:* Natural Christmas trees may be placed curbside for pickup during the regular weekly collection. Please REMOVE ALL LIGHTS and DECORATIONS.

- · Keep your barbecue grill clean
- Keep the area under your fruit and nut trees free of droppings (a coyote's diet can be up to 40% fruit in Texas)
- Avoid feeding pets outdoors (if you must feed pets outside, feed during the daytime and remove the uneaten food as soon as the animal has finished)
- Feeding wildlife and feral cats can attract coyotes. In addition to coyotes eating the food, mice and other animals will be drawn to leftovers, which can subsequently attract predators such as foxes and coyotes.

Hazing: Encouraging coyotes to avoid contact with people. Hazing should be exaggerated, assertive and consistent.

- Make eye contact, yell and wave your arms. You want the coyote to know the behavior is directed at it. Waving your arms will make you seem bigger.
- Use noisemakers such as whistles, air horns, a "shaker" can full of small rocks (or something similar) or bang something like pots and pans together.
- If the coyote does not leave immediately, throw nonedible objects near it. You can use something like small rocks, sticks or tennis balls. Remember, the goal is not to hurt the coyote, you're trying to get it to leave and associate humans with unpredictable, "scary" behavior.
- Spray the coyote with a water hose, water guns or spray bottles. You can also use a mixture of water and vinegar, pepper spray or bear repellant.
- If the coyote does not leave after escalating hazing efforts, maintain eye contact and back away slowly. Notify 311 immediately.

Don't haze if a coyote appears sick or injured, is cornered or displaying acceptable coyote behavior. Please call 311 to report sick or injured animals.

For the complete article and informational links and videos, please go to wbna.us/neighborhood-watch/coyote-safety/. For immediate assistance, call 311 or 512-974-2000.

Winter Wastewater Averaging

You can lower your water bill all year by conserving water between **December 9, 2021** and **March 8, 2022**. For more information and details on how to find your water meter visit: wellsbranchmud.com/wwa

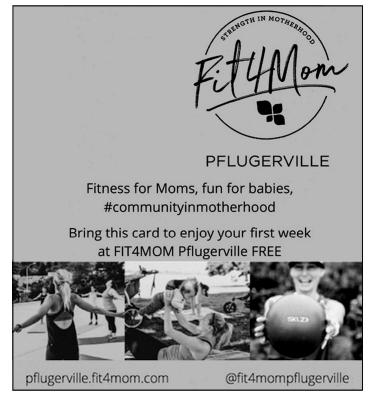
Bulk Trash Collection

December 11 & January 8 • 8:00am-2:00pm Parks & Facilities Yard • 13905 Thermal Drive Open from 8am-2pm or until dumpsters are full. This FREE service is for residents of the Wells Branch MUD ONLY. There will be large dumpsters for bulk trash, a dumpster for metal recycling and a dumpster for other oversized recyclable materials. There will be no collection of any other items or donations at this event. Anyone unable to make it out on this bulk day may still place their bulk items curbside, alongside your trash or recycling cart, on your regularly scheduled collection day. For more details on accepted bulk items at this event, please visit wellsbranchmud.com.



YOUR WBNA 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, or Join online at: https://squareup.com/store/wbna-inc/. It's quick and easy! Please be sure and enter a valid email address and remember, you'll receive a FREE calendar with membership through January 31, 2022.



WB MUD Parks & Rec Bingo Nights

Wednesday, December 15 • Wednesday, January 19 6:30pm-8:30pm • Recreation Center • 3000 Shoreline Dr. Get your daubers ready — you're in for a real treat! Wells Branch Recreation Department is hosting Bingo Nights this winter. Grab your bingo buddy and lucky charm and join your neighbors at the Recreation Center Gym every third Wednesday of the month from November through February. The lucky winners will have a selection of gift cards to choose from. Light refreshments will be available at no cost. Bingo will begin at 6:30pm and prizes will wrap up around 8:30pm

Happy Holidays from the WBNA				
OFFICE USE ONLY Date:	by joining the WBNA and continue to make Wells Branch great!			
Check:	Here is my check (made out to I am: renewing my m		member	
Name(s) Address:		E-mail: Phone:		
East	lp with: Newsletter Deliv er Egg Hunt MAIL TO: WBNA Membership, 2	_ Nat'l Night Out	Luminary Fest	