



Neighborhood News

News and information for the residents of Wells Branch.
Vol. 30, Issue 1, January/February 2022

WBNA Annual Meeting & Elections

Thursday, March 3, 2022 | 6:30pm

WB Community Center | 2106 Klattenhoff Drive

All Wells Branch residents (both in-district and out-of-district) are invited and encouraged to attend this meeting. Your WBNA membership must be current in order to vote in the election or run for office. There's a self addressed envelope inside and the membership form is available on page 12 or you may join online at: <http://wbna.us/membership/>. It's quick and easy! Please be sure and enter a valid email address.

The WBNA Board has seven members, each serving a two year term with assigned place numbers. Odd numbered places are elected during odd years; even numbered places in even years. This February, we'll be selecting board members for places 2, 4 and 6.

During 2021, the WBNA team rallied with tremendous effort to return to our normal schedule of events as much as possible. We made an extra effort to offer socially distanced options whenever feasible. The recent return to "stage 5" pandemic alert may limit upcoming events. Please check all the WBNA media sites for updates as the year progresses.

In late 2021, both Lara Bennett (1) and Jon Klekman (5) announced that they would be stepping down from their current roles. Jon had additional family and work commitments arise that will limit his volunteer time, thanks to Jon for his contribution. The board would like recognize Lara's 23 years of service. She joined the board back in 1998! Lara has decided to step back and focus on her family. A heartfelt thank you to Lara for her dedication to the board and her service to the community. The last 23 years of WBNA Easter Egg Hunts were spectacular because of Lara's efforts.

As governed by the WBNA Bylaws, roles vacated prior to the election are filled by appointees. Place 1 is filled by Heather Briggs. Place 5 is filled by Terra Moses, pending ratification at the general meeting. Donna Malone (3) and Margaret Sufke (7) will continue to serve.

In addition to the appointees, the following current board members are willing to continue serving the neighborhood in 2022/23 and will be seeking re-election.

"WBNA" continued on Page 2

Educational Meeting on Coyotes

Thursday, March 3, 2022 | 7:00pm

WB Community Center | 2106 Klattenhoff Drive

This meeting will immediately follow the WBNA Annual Meeting. We're excited to have Sarah Hollers, a former Wildlife Protection Officer for Travis County here to speak on coyote behavior. Sarah is no longer living in the Austin area, however, she's still active in wildlife education. She'll be discussing coyote history (why they are here), hunting (why killing doesn't work), peak seasons, breeding seasons, hazing, attractants, and pet safety.

Travis County contracts with the City of Austin for ETJ Wildlife Management. We found out recently that both Wildlife Officer positions are currently vacant. Given the increase in sightings, we felt it necessary to have a speaker out to answer questions. Sarah CANNOT take complaints. She is only here to educate. 311 continues to track movements, data, and populations (good and bad behavior). Always report concerning activity—like when coyotes are not responding to hazing efforts during the day. BUT, it is natural to see them in the daytime, especially due to the proximity of greenbelts and current breeding seasons.

Please see page 2 for links to join the meeting via Zoom if you're unable to attend in person or visit <http://wbna.us/neighborhood-watch/coyote-safety/> for more information.

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Please JOIN or RENEW YOUR Membership TODAY!
WBNA Membership Form on Page 12 or join online at wbna.us/membership/

They are:

Place 2 - Darci Marter

Place 4 - Juli Thatcher

Place 6 - Pamela Woodward

Additional nominations will be taken from the floor. Learn more about our existing Board on page 10.

Help Shape YOUR Community! Get Involved!

The WBNA is quite literally a labor of love. It was created by and is run by VOLUNTEERS. We need your membership, but more than that, we need you! Please consider joining the WBNA and volunteering your time and talents. Have Newsletter skills? Great at fundraising? Got ideas for new events, educational seminars, or activities? Join WBNA and help make a difference in our community!

If unable to attend in person, we'd love for you to join us via Zoom. Please follow the links below or visit our Facebook page and the WBNA website for virtual meeting instructions.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://bit.ly/Coyotesafety>

Meeting ID: 874 8216 0162

Passcode: coyote

One tap mobile

+13462487799,,87482160162#,,,,*466921# US (Houston)



SCAN ME

A recording of the meeting will be available afterwards on both our WBNA Facebook page and at wbna.us.

Mr. PC's Computer Corner by Dave DeVore

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

Biometric authentication. What a mouthful! Simply put, biometrics are measurements and calculations based on individual human characteristics. Authentication, when used in the context of access to computer systems and much more, can include anything from passwords, to figuring out a "I am not a robot" CAPTCHA puzzle to using your iris ala Jack Bauer to open a door at a secure location. Put these two ideas together and you have your unique characteristics, pieces of who you are, being used to do everything from screening the crowds at the Superbowl for terrorists through facial recognition to making a purchase at Whole Foods via the use of your palm print. If this sounds far-fetched, look around you, these things and more are already happening.

In 1985, I went to DePaul University to study computer science at the ripe old age of 33 and mainframe computers were beginning to be used to develop neural networks, software that could learn and hopefully mimic human intelligence eventually. At that time, computers could identify a coffee cup if it were sitting on a perfectly level surface. Tilt it only a little and artificial intelligence had no clue what it was. How far we have come, with smart phones being unlocked with a glance at our faces, our laptops being opened with a fingerprint and Alexa, Siri and Google knowing us and all of our daily routines by matching our unique voiceprints.

The advantages? Our logins can be more secure, faster and convenient. You may forget a password, but you always have your fingers, eyes and voice with you. This biometric data is hard to spoof or fake. Checkouts at stores with a scan of your hand are safer than credit cards which can be lost or stolen.

Disadvantages? It is quite costly to add it into existing systems. A password can be reset if you are hacked. If your biometric data is hacked, what do you do? Our ever-diminishing privacy will be decreased even more as additional ways are developed for us to be tracked. And there is always the chance we will be confused with someone else since no system is perfect.

Technology is neither good nor evil intrinsically. Time will tell whether these advances in security will enrich our lives or become a nightmare beyond anything Orwell could have conjured up.

Crew 1409 Update by Jill Douglass, Advisor

The crew will be available to pick up bulk trash for the April 9th Extreme Clean for a minimum \$20 donation. Transportation is limited to WB MUD In-District residents only. Please schedule your pickup with Daniel White. Text your name, address, and phone number to 512-413-0097 to be included.

The crew is traveling to Zion National Park for Spring Break and will use funds raised to pay for our cabins in Albuquerque on our way to and from the park.

Venturing is a youth development program of the Boy Scouts of America for young men and women who are 14 – 20 years of age. Contact Jill Douglass at 512-293-9022 or jdouglass@crew1409.com for questions about the Crew.

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Going Trashless by Monica Koenig

Have you ever had this experience? One harmless little trip to the grocery store or one stop for take-out practically fills my entire trashcan with waste to toss or recycle. All this waste contributes to climate change, but, as I tell myself guiltily, it can be hard to feed a family from the grocery store without leaving an impressive pile of stuff to throw out. Many times I've thought, "I'd like to do something about all this trash, but it's just the way it is. What can one little person do?" I'm delighted to say I've found a different way. A local company named Trashless calls itself the "milkman for everything." The milk I order every week comes in glass jars that I set out again empty next week for return... like it's 1950 and I'm Mrs. Cleaver. But with Trashless it doesn't stop with milk... pantry items, produce, even meal kits and take-out are delivered in containers that get picked the up the next week and reused.

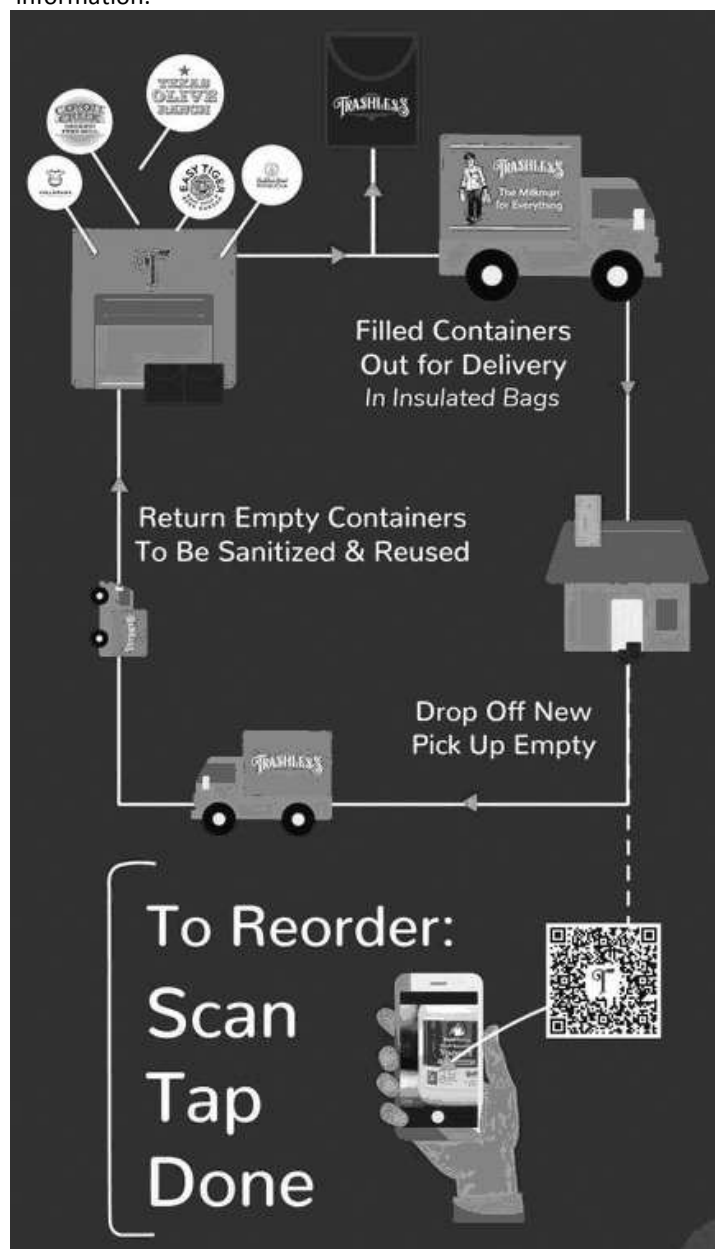
I'm particularly bothered by plastic waste, so I kept track of my trash and recycling for a few weeks and made notes about the products I buy that come packed in plastic. Now my family regularly buys tortillas from Trashless and there's no plastic bag to put in the recycling. I buy a pound of spinach every week that comes in a box I return for reuse. Apples and potatoes come in cloth bags that get returned and reused. My Wells Branch neighbor, Natalie, also a Trashless customer, says, "I love reducing my waste and carbon footprint, the care Trashless takes in picking out high quality and ethically sourced foods, and how easy they make things by delivering right here in the neighborhood."

I know Natalie because she comes by my house on Surrender Avenue to pick up her Trashless orders. My house is a Pick-Up Point...all the deliveries for our neighborhood arrive at my house and neighbors stop by to pick up their orders, no delivery fee required! Not only does it save money, one neighborhood Pick-Up Point allows deliveries to be made in fewer stops, using less fuel and lowering the carbon footprint of delivery.

Other zero-waste initiatives are always in the works at Trashless. The Trashless Reuse Army is a network of volunteers – including my neighbor Natalie – who collect ice packs, lightbulbs and dead batteries that will be picked up by Trashless and recycled or reused. From a program promoting reusable coffee cups to a new system to make take-out zero waste, Trashless really stands behind their mission.

I'm glad to answer any questions you may have at monica.koenig@yahoo.com.

Just FYI, your donations of lightbulbs, batteries, or ice packs can be dropped off at Natalie's, 2312 Klattenhoff Drive, or at my house, 2115 Surrender Avenue, which also serves as a Pick-Up Point for deliveries. Please visit www.trashless.com for more information.



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 those who might be interested in making new friends. Meetings are held Thursdays from 1:00 to 3:00pm at the Wells Branch Rec. Center, 3000 Shoreline Drive, to visit and play games. We also have socials and take day trips to places of interest from time-to-time (list below). Membership is free. Anyone 50 or older is welcome.

Spring Trip: Mayfield Park and Laguna Gloria w/ lunch at Spread & Co.

April 7th or 21st* — We will leave the Rec. Center at 11:00am, returning by 3:00pm.

Cut off for registration is March 24th.

<https://mayfieldpark.org/mayfield-park-and-preserve-overview/>

<http://thecontemporaryaustin.org/lagunagloria/>

<http://www.spreadandco.com/menus>

Summer Lunch: County Line on the Lake

June 23rd or 30th — We will leave the Rec. Center at 1:00PM, returning by 3:30PM.

Cut off for registration is June 14th.

https://www.countyline.com/lake_austin_tx/

Fall Trip: Downtown Austin via MetroRail, lunch at Fareground October 13th or 20th*

— We will leave the Howard Lane Station at 12:29PM, returning on the 3:14PM train. There is no cut off for registration.

<https://www.capmetro.org/redline>

<https://www.faregroundaustin.com/>

Christmas Luncheon: Gumbo's, Georgetown Square Shopping Dec. 1st or 8th*

— We will leave the Rec. Center at 12:00PM, returning by 3:30PM.

Cut off for registration is November 22nd.

<https://www.gumbosnorth.com/menu/project/23105/>

<https://visit.georgetown.org/downtown-shopping/>

*Alternate dates for each event are to account for weather. If the weather is good on the first date, we'll go on that day. If it is not, we'll try on the second date.

On day trips, you are responsible for paying your entrance fees and meals. We carpool for transportation, so you may be asked to contribute for the driver's expenses. Transportation is limited, so please sign up for a ride by calling Wells Branch MUD customer service at 512-251-9814 or in person at the Wells Branch Recreation Center before the cut off date. For more information, call Glen at 512-461-1665 or see our website at: <https://sites.google.com/view/wellsbranchseniors/home>



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WB Photo Club: Community Group Update by Margaret Sufke

2022 brings a fresh outlook and the start of the 8th year of our neighborhood photo group. As the pandemic continued to limit group functions in 2021, several members contributed to the community spirit by posting seasonal photos and actively participating in the 2022 Wells Branch Community Calendar photo contest.

We'd like to recognize club members, notably Rob White, Dave DeVore, Arlie Pfeifer and Candice Noble, along with many other friends and neighbors, who posted some amazing photos to the WB Facebook page. A sincere thank you to everyone who contributed, your efforts were greatly appreciated by the entire community.

The WB Photo Club was founded by Margaret Sufke and a handful of core members. During the last two pandemic years the group has waned, though last November we had an excellent session on editing techniques with Dave DeVore.

Moving forward, it is with great reluctance, Margaret will be stepping back as group chair. Her WBNA board duties have outstripped her resources. The group is looking for a new "shutter-bug" to step up and chair the group. Margaret will help with the transition. If you're interested in taking over or just have questions, please contact Margaret at mmsufke@gmail.com or leave a message at 512-341-0428 and she'll return your call.

In addition, the group needs to consider taking a more active role in helping to photograph Wells Branch events. That commitment is part of being a community club—and using the resources at the WB MUD Rec. Center.

As a starting point, the group has obtained some extra lighting gear and some additional studio equipment, such as lighting booths, a back drop stand and various reflectors. The goal is to share the equipment with the club members, via some sort of check out process. The next step is to start up this program.

As the seasons roll by, please head out onto the trails, into the gardens and enjoy capturing all that our community has to offer, albeit with safety in mind.

Happy New Year and happy snapping!



Photo by Dave DeVore

It's ALL FREE! by Donita Ward, Library Director

The Wells Branch Community Library is right in the neighborhood with books, movies, hotspots, computers, games, storytimes, workshops, and so much more. If you need to print something, borrow a movie, build a robot with LEGO, learn to knit, or find your next amazing read, the library is the place for you to get all of that for FREE. Want to download a book or audio directly? Use your library card! We have Great Courses, board games, graphic novels, music, and activity packs to borrow. We also have programs for all ages and interests.

How can you get an account? If your license or TXID has the correct address, that's all you need. If your ID doesn't have your current address, bring something like a utility bill or lease. There is no charge to get a library account and the only requirement is that you live in Texas. If you are age 5-18, your parent or guardian will have to come with you to get started.

The library is completely independent of any city or county and we are not part of any other library system. Everything we offer is funded by local sales tax. When you support local businesses and restaurants, that pays for library services and programs for your friends and family.

For more information, visit www.wblibrary.org or call the library at 512-989-3188.

FOL Annual Meeting and Board Elections

by Douglas Schwartz

President, Friends of the Wells Branch Community Library

Please join us for our annual board meeting and election of officers on Monday, March 14, 2022 at 6pm (Zoom link and dial-in information below).

The board had decided to postpone this meeting from our usual schedule in December in order to redefine our involvement with the Wells Branch Community Library.

For a long time, the FOL provided fundraising events to support library programs and seasonal events. With the continued success of the library, the FOL will be shifting our attention to better align with the library's growing needs. The library encourages Friends of the Library to take on the new role as ambassadors of the library who will become more involved with building the connection between the library and community while helping shape its future.

If you would like to become more involved, I encourage you to attend the meeting in March. Thank you for your time and continued support.

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://zoom.us/j/91880479744?](https://zoom.us/j/91880479744?pwd=ZDB6d3hSbU9ndEs0SjM1ZmNnL1B3UT09)

[pwd=ZDB6d3hSbU9ndEs0SjM1ZmNnL1B3UT09](https://zoom.us/j/91880479744?pwd=ZDB6d3hSbU9ndEs0SjM1ZmNnL1B3UT09)

Meeting ID: 918 8047 9744 **Passcode:** 384100

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+12532158782,,91880479744#,,,,*384100# US (Tacoma)

Wells Branch Garden Guild by Susan Gillespie

The Garden Guild has not held meetings during the pandemic. In the past, our meetings were held on the 3rd Saturday morning of the month at the WB MUD Rec. Center, 3000 Shoreline Drive. We had a seed and plant exchange at the beginning of each meeting and learned about various aspects of gardening in Wells Branch. Topics included vegetable gardening, composting, xeriscape, pollinators, native plants and hardscape. The Garden Guild also had a yearly garden tour in May featuring Wells Branch gardens.

We have our first post-pandemic meeting scheduled Saturday, March 19 at 10:30am at the Chuck Walters Pavilion in KF Park. Mark your calendars and bring a friend. We'll have a seed and plant exchange before the meeting.

Suggested topics for discussion are dealing with freeze damage, starting a vegetable garden, planning for future meetings and possibly a garden tour in May. Please feel free to suggest topics and ideas on our Facebook page or the Wells Branch Google Group. Hope to see you there!

USPS Delivery Notification

Sign up for **Informed Delivery** from the USPS to know when your mail has been delivered and what should be in your box.

Informed Delivery provides eligible residential consumers with a digital preview of their household's incoming mail scheduled to arrive soon! View images of the address side exterior of letter-sized mailpieces and track packages in one convenient location. Images are only provided for letter-sized mailpieces that are processed through USPS' automated equipment.

Go to <https://informedelivery.usps.com/box/pages/intro/start.action> and sign up for free.

Know what's coming anytime, anywhere. Download the USPS Informed Delivery App to view incoming mail and track incoming packages anytime, anywhere on your smartphone or tablet. It's free and available for iOS, Android, and Windows in your app store.

Hey park lovers! by Brian Litke

"It's My Park Day" is a day when you can volunteer to help beautify your neighborhood. I am leading an IMPD park improvement project in WB to plant trees, spread mulch, and pick up litter along the creek at the WB Disc Golf Course

Saturday, March 5, 2022 from 9:00am to 12:00pm

Register to volunteer on the Austin Parks Foundation to get a free "It's My Park Day" t-shirt.

<https://austinparks.givepulse.com/event/270319-Tree-mulching-and-planting-at-Wells-Branch-Disc-Golf-Course>

I've been leading IMPD projects for 8 years, and together we've planted over 120 trees and lower story plants at the WB Disc Golf Course. Come out and play a round!

The WB disc golf course is on Owen Tech Blvd. and you can park along the street across from the Whataburger.

Our full program schedule is back!

Programs are live at the library and free to attend.

Programs for kids under 5 will be held outside, weather permitting.

FIRST FRIDAY PROGRAMS

First Fridays are an opportunity for adults and families to share a fun cultural experience. Registration required

March 4 @ 6:30: Korean Dance

April 1 @ 6:30: Texas Tales with Donna Ingham

SPRING BREAK PROGRAMS registration required

- ESteam LEGO Fun Day (multiple sessions)
- Young Rembrandts Pastel Art Class
- Mad Science Fire & Ice Program
- Spring Fun Scavenger Hunt

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 & 11am Storytime
- Thu @ 5pm Story and Play (NEW TIME)
- Fri @ 10:30am Alphabuddies
- Sat @ 10:30am Story and Play

Young Rembrandts Art Classes : Step-by-step drawing fun for kids ages 5+, registration required.

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!

Black History Month Reading Challenge

Log your reading and activities to earn badges all throughout February. For further reading, check out book recommendations honoring the Black experience.

Get started at <https://wblibrary.beanstack.org/reader365>

ADULT PROGRAMS: (age 18+)**DIY Crafts Wed @ 6:00pm, registration required**

- 2/16– Iron-on vinyl
- 2/23– Sweater recycling
- 3/2– Book Folding
- 3/9– Knit and Crochet
- 3/16– Origami
- 3/23– Paper Roses
- 3/30– 3D Cards

WELLNESS

- Yoga 2/24 & 3/31 @ 6:45pm
- Meditation 2/9 & 3/9 @ 12pm

WORKSHOPS: (registration required)

MS Word 101: Thu 3/3 @ 6pm & Sat 3/19 @ 4pm

Learn the basics in a small-group setting.

Felt Flower Wreath: Sat 3/5 @ 4pm & Thu 3/10 @ 6pm

Make this pretty decoration just in time for Spring.

Bad Art Night: Sat 3/12 @ 4pm

Create your own "disaster-piece" with recycled objects.

Medicare 101: Thu 3/24 @ 2pm

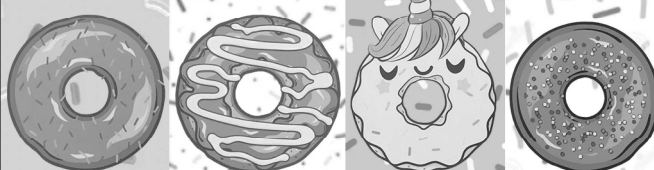
Free educational program includes an overview and time for Q&A about signing up, costs, and supplements.

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

WBLIBRARY.ORG.

Program registration: wblibrary.eventbrite.com

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Wells Branch ECO Fair

Sunday, April 3 | 1:00-4:00pm
WB Rec. Center | 3000 Shoreline Drive

The Wells Branch ECO Fair, an Earth Day Celebration, will be a little early this year - April 3, 2022, 1:00-4:00pm in the gym at the Wells Branch Recreation Center. Come celebrate our wondrous planet and discover ways we can better use our precious resources for the benefit of all.

Energy — Solar Vendors will be on hand to share information on rooftop solar and battery solutions, costs and rebates. Oncor and Austin Energy will be onsite to speak to residential rebates and Energy Saving programs.

The 4 Rs — Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Repurpose
The WBNA will showcase the 4Rs — There will be a display on how to greatly reduce the use of plastics, including ways to create your own household products plus examples of recycled art and on-site art projects to make from repurposed materials. If you would like to show your recycled artwork or volunteer for one of the 4 Rs, please contact Margaret Sufke, (mmsufke@gmail.com or 512-341-0428). Local scouting groups will be on hand with bulk trash hauling service information and younger scouts will help the kids with the popular “cardboard construction” activity. Recycling information will be available including an interactive activity to highlight what everyday items can and should be recycled.

Water Conservation — The Wells Branch MUD will speak to water delivery, conservation and wastewater. There will be science-based presentations and educational demonstrations that will help you understand how the water utility hardware works in your home. The Wells Branch Water Drop will be there handing out water conservation gear and prizes.

The Great Outdoors area is focused on the message “you are nature’s best hope”. There’ll be a lot to learn from growing mushrooms to great info about our native plants. We’ll have examples of low maintenance projects you can do in small spaces to benefit our pollinators, the kids can make seed balls, there will be a great tree give away and we will even send you home with pet lady bugs! We will explore Wells Branch’s Urban Forest efforts and where we go next. Great Texas groups like the A&M Urban Foresters, Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists, Audubon and our own local Ask an Arborist will be there. The Natural Grocer and others will be on hand to speak to healthy food and a plant-based diet. *Come early for our Tree Maintenance 101 class at 12-noon in the front conference room at the recreation center.*

Come celebrate spring with us, there will be many hands-on events for children and adults, we are sure you will have fun and learn new ways to make a positive impact on the environment and a better future for us all.

If you’re interested in working with us on the ECO Fair, contact spalmer@wellsbranchmud.com

Save the Date!

First Friday at the Library

Korean Dance Performance

Friday, March 4 | 6:30pm

WB Community Library | 15001 Wells Port

Journey to Korea with an interactive presentation, including Korean culture, dancing, and traditional clothing. Registration required.

WBNA Annual Meeting & Elections

Thursday, March 3, 2022 | 6:30pm

WB Community Center | 2106 Klattenhoff Drive

Meeting onsite and available via ZOOM. Please see page 1 for details.

Informational Coyote Meeting

Thursday, March 3, 2022 | 7:00pm

WB Community Center | 2106 Klattenhoff Drive

Meeting onsite and available via ZOOM. Please see page 1 for details.

FOL Annual Meeting and Board Elections

Monday, March 14 | 6:00pm

Via ZOOM

ZOOM link and dial-in information on page 6.

St. Patrick's Day Bagpipe Concert in the Park

Thursday, March 17 | 6:30 - 7:30pm

Katherine Fleischer Park | 2106 Klattenhoff Drive

Come experience Celtic heritage with a complete marching bagpipe band as the Wells Branch MUD Recreation Department hosts its annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration at 6:30pm, Thursday, March 17. All are invited you to wear green and march behind the band as they lead a parade through Wells Branch's Katherine Fleischer Park, ending in front of the Community Center.

WB Garden Guild Meeting

Saturday, March 19 | 10:30am

Chuck Walters Pavilion in KF Park

Mark your calendars and bring a friend. We'll have a seed and plant exchange before the meeting. Suggested topics for discussion are: dealing with freeze damage, starting a vegetable garden, planning for future meetings and possibly a garden tour in May. Hope to see you there!

Eco Fair

Sunday, April 3 | 1:00 - 4:00pm

WB MUD Rec. Center | 3000 Shoreline Drive

Join us for the 2022 Wells Branch Eco Fair hosted by the Wells Branch MUD Recreation Department. Visit booths with vendor demos, giveaways and hands on activities for both children and adults. For details and info on volunteering, see page 8.

Extreme Clean April!

Saturday, April 9 | 8am - 2:00pm

WB MUD Parks & Facilities Yard | 13905 Thermal Drive

Youth Disc Golf Tournament

Sunday, April 10 | 1:00 - 5:30pm

Wells Branch MUD Disc Golf Course on Owen Tech

This event is for youth ages 18 and under. Participants will get a custom-stamped event disc, and there will be trophies for age division winners. It will cost \$10 to enter the event. Pre-registration required. Walk up registration will **NOT** be available.

WBNA Easter Egg Extravaganza

featuring our furry old friend, the Easter Bunny

Saturday, April 16 | 10:30am

Katherine Fleischer Park | 2106 Klattenhoff Drive

Visit wbna.us for details prior to the event. Update to follow in March issue.

Pioneer Festival

Saturday, April 23 | Noon - 5:00pm

Katherine Fleischer Park | 2106 Klattenhoff Drive

Pioneer Festival is centered around the historic WB Gault Homestead, the 1850s-era cabin in KF Park. Celebrate 19th century Texas history and culture with fun and educational activities throughout the day. Demonstrations include butter churning, candle dipping, weaving, and log splitting, just to name a few. If you would like to volunteer, or have a craft or activity from that period for demonstration, please contact Tina Till via email at ttill@wellsbranchmud.com or 512-251-9814. Hosted by the WB MUD Recreation Department.

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Current WBNA Board Members Seeking Re-election

Hi Neighbors! I'm **Darci Marter**. I moved to Wells Branch about 4 years ago and I fell in love with this community instantly. The neighborhood reminds me a lot of my childhood in Georgia. I spend a lot of time at Katherine Fleischer Park with my 4 year old boy and 6 year old daughter. WBNA events have made special memories for my family. Our favorite events are the 4th of July Fest, Pumpkin Painting in the Park, and the holiday crafts at Luminary Fest. Before moving here, I taught art for 11 years in Omaha, Nebraska. I have a degree in Art Education. When I'm not being mom, I'm a visual artist and jewelry designer. I design copper jewelry through an art process called Electroforming. I have always had passion for creating and a love for teaching. As a member, I've enjoyed planning crafts and activities for the events and look forward to continuing in the future. And most importantly, I look forward to getting to know everyone.



Darci Marter, Place 2



Juli Thatcher, Place 4

Hello Wells Branch! My name is **Juli Thatcher**. I am honored to be serving on the Neighborhood Association Board! For the past 9 years, I have been a parent, community member, and small business owner in Wells Branch. I own a fitness franchise for moms called FIT4MOM Pflugerville. We provide outdoor fitness and wellness classes for every stage of motherhood and strive to build a tight knit mama village. We hold classes in Pflugerville and Wells Branch. Work out with us, Mama!

My husband, Todd, and I have lived in many places together, across several states. Neither of us grew up in Austin, but Wells Branch has become Home. I left a career I loved when my husband's company moved us to Austin, contrary to my own career plan. I was scared, we didn't know a soul here, and we had a 6-week-old baby. Wells Branch took us in and gave us a true family in a new place. This neighborhood means so much to my family. My children attend public school in this neighborhood, we work, live, and play in this neighborhood, and I run the trails on a regular basis when I need some tranquility. We've attended almost every event by now. We've enjoyed getting to know so many of you and I'm excited to get to know those of you that I haven't met yet! I'm looking forward to building community through future events and can't wait to see what we can do together!

My name is **Pamela Woodward**. I moved from Central Austin to the Wells Branch community in 2008. I raised my youngest daughter in the neighborhood beginning with kindergarten at Wells Branch Elementary. She is now a freshman in college. I've had the pleasure of volunteering at many of the neighborhood MUD and WBNA functions, including Fourth Fest, the Luminary Festival, the Easter Egg Hunt, Neighborhood Night Out, and the quarterly bulk waste disposal. I especially enjoy soliciting items for the Fourth Fest silent auction, working at the arts and crafts tables at the Luminary Festival, and judging the Holiday Light Contest. For a number of years, I worked as a surgery scheduler in medical office and hospital settings. I halted my career to care for my daughter during recovery from surgery for Chiari malformation and scoliosis. In the last year, I worked at various Travis County elections as an election clerk. In my free time, you're likely to find me enjoying my main interests, gardening and cooking.



Pamela Woodward, Place 6

I've seen how special this community is, not only first-hand, but through the eyes of my daughters and three grandchildren, for whom Wells Branch has been a home-away-from-home. My entire family has enjoyed the Wells Branch festivals, parks, pools, and trail system, and we have all experienced the unique feeling of community that is so strong in the WB neighborhood.

I look forward to continuing to work for the benefit of the Wells Branch community. Working together, the neighborhood will emerge from the pandemic and continue to be a wonderful place to work and live.

Meet Our Two New Board Members!



Heather Birkholz, Place 1

Greetings neighbors! My name is **Heather Birkholz** and I'm honored to be considered as a member of the WBNA Board. I have lived in Wells Branch for 10 years with my husband, two children, and 3 dogs. We have been so blessed to have access to such wonderful amenities like the dog park, playgrounds, library, and Mills Pond and we love attending the many events held by WBNA. I truly believe Wells Branch is a little slice of heaven and I have always wanted to give back to the community that has given so much to me and my family. I would be honored to serve as a member of the board and to donate my time, love, and attention to helping with events that bring the community together.

Hello, my name is Terra Moses, and I am excited to contribute to the Wells Branch Neighborhood Association. My husband and I moved to the Wells Branch community shortly before we got married in December of 2018. We instantly fell in love with the mature trees, spacious parks, and trails! We were also drawn to the neighborhood due to the convenience of being close to work and family.

Prior to moving to Austin, I attended college at Texas A&M University-Commerce. I received my undergraduate degree in Elementary Education and continued on to receive my Masters of Social Work (MSW). During college, I was provided amazing opportunities to run cross-country, track, and conduct research within the university's Honors College. I held several positions on our Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) where I was able to partner with other student athletes in service projects and fundraisers for Make-A-Wish. Upon graduation, I worked for a little more than a year at Austin State Hospital as a social worker, and I later transitioned to teach fourth grade writing in Austin ISD. I loved watching fourth graders transform into talented and passionate writers! I look forward to eventually returning to the classroom.

After our daughter was born in June of 2021, I decided to take time off work to care for her and watch her grow. Being a stay-at-home mom has been a big transition, but I am so grateful for the time I have with my daughter! I am always looking for ways to stay connected and involved. Investing time with the WBNA will be a great start!



Terra Moses, Place 5



Wells Branch Armada Summer swim league team in Well Branch MUD

Registration is underway for all returning and new families. Visit <https://wellsbranch.swimtopia.com/> to sign up now!

Thank you families for your continued support while we navigate through these crazy times. If you are interested in serving on the board or volunteering your time in assisting for the 2022 season, please reach out to us at sooneewright@austin.rr.com.



SCOUT ME IN™

Cub Scout Pack 140 by Tonya Riley, Committee Chair

Cub Scout Pack 140 has served the Wells Branch community since 1985. We welcome all youth in grades Kindergarten through 5th grade, and their families. Cub Scouts is a family oriented organization so families are always welcome to participate with their Scouts. We meet as a Pack on the 3rd Thursday of each month at the Wells Branch Annex. Grade-level based dens meet on various days. Our upcoming Spring activities include our Pinewood Derby and family campout. We can be reached at info@pack140.org or www.pack140.org.

Cub Scout Pack 728 by Deanna Johnson

Come Join the Adventure with Cub Scouts Pack 728!

Pack 728 gets kids active outdoors having fun, and making friends. Come check out a meeting and learn about all the adventures your family could be having.

Scouting is about discovering and working on new skills, developing strong friendships. Kids gain self-confidence through skits, games, field trips, and service projects. Pinewood Derby races and outdoor adventures provide more screen-free fun with family and friends.

Pack 728's community service projects are completed primarily in Wells Branch. Families from Wells Branch and surrounding communities are welcome to check us out, and begin their scouting adventures. Keep up with den meetings service projects, and the latest activities at www.WBpack728.com.

Troop 1409 Update by JayTrice Garrett

Troop 1409 has just passed its 25 year mark and we are ready for 25 more. The Troop accepts Scouts 11-18 and we are looking for new recruits. We meet every Sunday at 2pm at the Wells Branch Annex. Activities include: monthly camp outs, hiking and fishing. Our Troop understands the importance of volunteering and helping out in the community so we participate in all of the Homestead events. We can be reached at troop1409.com.



7th Annual WB Kite Festival

Saturday, April 2 • 10am-5pm

Retention Pond/Dog Park northeast of the
WB MUD Annex • 14611 Wells Port Drive

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

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



Wells Branch Soccer Assn

The Spring 2022 season is quickly approaching. We are tentatively planning on practices beginning in late February.

We hope many, if not all of you are returning for the new season. Thank you to those who have already registered. For those who have

not, please register as soon as possible! Our registrar is already hard at work putting preliminary rosters together. Link to register is below. Keep in mind that family discounts and payment plans are still available.

Register here: https://system.gotsport.com/programs/21L040026?reg_role=player

If you have friends who are interested in playing with us this season, please share this info with them. Let's ensure Spring 2022 is the best season yet for Wells Branch Soccer Association.

WBSA is a non-profit youth soccer organization that has served Austin, Round Rock, Pflugerville, Hutto, and surrounding areas for 25 years. Driven by volunteers and supported by an amazing neighborhood, WBSA is the most affordable and enjoyable soccer club in Texas.

Visit our website at <http://wellsbranchsoccer.weebly.com/>



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LAST WEEKEND TO BUY GIRL SCOUT COOKIES! by Emily Berver

Even though a new variant of Covid is going on, there are lots of Girl Scouts in Wells Branch that are out there selling cookies in new, innovative ways! Be on the lookout for door hangers or flyers with ordering information that a nearby Girl Scout might leave at your door. Many girls have signs in their yards with a link and/or QR code to their online cookie store. This contactless delivery method works much like if you were to buy cookies from her at your door, the sale goes to the girl, and she'll be responsible for the delivery if you have selected Girl Delivered.

There are no extra fees to order girl delivered cookies. After you enter your contact information and place an order, the girl's parents will receive an email and can confirm if they have the required cookies and can deliver. This year's cookie line up has the classics; Thin Mints, Caramel Delites, Peanut Butter Patties, Lemonades, Peanut Butter Sandwiches & Shortbreads along with the newer Toast Yay & brand new Adventurefuls Cookie!

If you want to buy in person, check out Girl Scouts of Central Texas website for a cookie booth near you. The Girl Scout cookie program will continue through February 27, 2022 unless extended due to weather. All profits from the sale stay local and help girls gain new skills. Thank you for supporting Girl Scouts!

Building Community Together

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 2022.

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

