



# Neighborhood News

News and information for the residents of Wells Branch  
Vol. 31, Issue 1, January/February 2023

## WBNA Annual General Meeting & Elections

February 23, 2023 | 6:30 pm

WB Community Center | 2106 Klattenhoff Drive

All Wells Branch residents (both in-district and out-of-district) are invited and encouraged to attend the 2023 general meeting.

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 spring, we'll be selecting board members for places 1, 3, and 5 and 7. Please take a moment and meet the current board online at: <http://wbna.us/about/wbna-board/>

As governed by the WBNA Bylaws, we will have an active election this year. Place 3, currently held by Donna Malone will be open for nominations. Donna is taking a well deserved break to focus on her family and the local Malone's Coffee business. Donna has served on the board for 11 years. We will showcase all board member accomplishments, along with the new members in the next issue.

Place 6 will be ratified with Mikella Maughan, a previous board member, replacing Pamela Woodward who decided to step down due to family commitments in 2022. Places 1, 5 and 7 currently stand unchallenged, but as always, we will take nominations from the floor. Any WBNA community member in good standing may step forward to be considered.

The entire team excelled this year, working through a full calendar of traditional events. Everyone's contributions are both treasured and valued and the dedication from each member served to make the team successful.

If you are interested in serving as a board or committee member, please send an email to [info@wbna.us](mailto:info@wbna.us). We are always seeking talented people ready to build the community spirit that makes Wells Branch so very special.



Your WBNA membership must be current in order to vote in the election or run for office. 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.

## Start the New Year Right

### Renew your WBNA 2023 Membership

Here's an easy New Year's resolution to complete: Take a moment and renew your commitment to the WBNA. Your membership is an investment in our wonderful neighborhood. All dues collected are returned directly into the community through our traditional events and educational programs. To pay by check, please use the enclosed envelope, the membership form is on the back cover.

It's easy to renew online at: <https://wbna-inc.square.site/> or scan the QR code below.



As a reminder, the WBNA organization is truly a labor of love and operates through a network of dedicated volunteers. Without that dedication, community support, and funds raised through dues and donations, many of the events would not take place. Your membership in the WBNA is essentially your annual pledge to support this wonderful community as membership is voluntary.

**Please join!**

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**Please JOIN or RENEW YOUR WBNA Membership TODAY!**

**Membership Form on Page 12 or join online at [wbna.us/membership/](http://wbna.us/membership/)**

## Janet Maxey

May 2, 1952 - December 29, 2022

I once asked my mom what her dream job was. If she could do anything, and money or time wasn't a factor, what would she want to be? What would she want to do? I'll never forget her answer.

"I've always wanted to be a mom. That was my dream job."

She continued working when I was a young child, foregoing staying at home when I was a baby. Instead, she traded the first five years of my life and all the milestones I couldn't remember so that she could retire when I was school-aged and be a dedicated "room mom" for the years I would remember.

And her plan paid off.

We moved to Wells Branch not long after I started school, and there isn't a time in my memory where my mom wasn't involved in the sincerest way, be that at school or in the neighborhood she wanted to raise her children in. It started with field trips and classroom parties, and then quickly turned into WB Armada, 4th Fest, Luminaries, and countless other moments I cannot remember because they became so intrinsic in her identity.

My mom worked tirelessly behind the scenes of many iconic WB events, well before she ever became a MUD board director. I like to say she wore a lot of different hats in her long career of service. It brings a smile to my face and a little laugh because she also wore a lot of literal hats! I honestly believe her signature style served as a uniform that cemented her into people's memories. "Just look for the lady wearing a ball cap" was something I heard many, many times over the years.

I count myself blessed to have grown up with a strong woman who embodied the idea of leading by example. In my youth, she counseled patience and compassion. As a teen and young adult, she helped me unfold the complexities of doing the right thing in a world that isn't black and white. Kindness and service were the common threads that ran through everything I consider my mom to be made of. While she was far from perfect, she was as good a human being as I could ever hope to know and learn from.

For those of you who did not know my mother, if you take anything away from reading this, I'd like to let you know that she was incredibly stubborn. It was the core of her being!! I would consider her stubbornly fair. That trait alone enabled her to work alongside neighbors, other MUD directors, district employees, and contractors, constantly striving toward a shared goal of bettering Wells Branch.

To all of you in WB that did know my mother, whether you counted her as a friend or not, I want to let you know she considered it a great honor to serve all of you in the ways that she could. She spent countless hours helping to make this neighborhood a place where people could thrive and foster a sense of community. It was not something she just talked about. It was something that she truly believed and was at the core of her being.

She enjoyed every MUD meeting, potluck, 4th Fest, casino night, concert in the park, disc golf tournament, committee meeting, swim meet, and WB event she attended.

From my family to all our WB neighbors: thank you for the love that was poured out onto my mom the last weeks of her life. She was immensely touched, and it brought her comfort during a difficult time. Reading your messages and well-wishes kept her spirits up until the very end.

It is my hope that she's remembered fondly for her dedication, her kindness, her sense of humor.... and all those baseball hats!



## Kevin Reese

July 1, 1964 - January 6, 2023

Kevin Bjorn Garst Reese, 58, passed away peacefully at his beloved home surrounded by his family, his books and his cats on January 6, 2023, after a fiercely fought battle with liver cancer. His name, Kevin Bjorn - means "friendly bear". The people who met Kevin, knew him to be that indeed.

His family was a most important part of him. With Rosaura working next to him, they renovated several homes, including their own. He would be found playing video games with his children, encouraging his 3 sons to all become Eagle Scouts, and working with them on the job. His sons are all succeeding because he taught them to work hard, figure out the problem, and be confident in what they want to do. Being around Kevin was never boring. He had the Reese Family trait of stirring up trouble, annoying the hell out of everyone, then making them laugh.

Whether you knew Kevin as a friend, neighbor, through Reese Renovation, Boy Scouts, or the many events he volunteered for via Scouting, he always had a smile on his face, was happy to see you, and ready to help. He will be missed.

From Kevin's last story he wrote, as the heroine finished her work and was leaving:  
"Hey" he called to her, "Who are you?" and she replied "It's not Who I AM that's important, It's What I AM." And then she was gone, lost in sight to the rising sun.



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## It's Girl Scout Cookie Season! by Emily Berver

The annual Girl Scout cookie sale is underway and there are lots of Girl Scouts in Wells Branch participating in this fun & tasty fundraiser. 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 aka Samoas, Peanut Butter Patties aka Tag-alongs, Lemonades, Peanut Butter Sandwiches & Trefoils aka Shortbreads, along with the newer flavors Toast YAY & Adventurefuls Cookie! Come February 10, a brand new flavor, Raspberry Rally, will only be available through the online Direct Ship option. It is a crispy, berry flavored cookie dipped in chocolate. As a bonus, if you buy 9 to 12 boxes through Direct Ship, your shipping is half price. Be sure to ask your neighborhood Girl Scout for more details.

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 26, 2023 unless extended due to weather. All profits from the sale stay local and help girls gain valuable new skills. **Thank you for supporting Girl Scouts!**



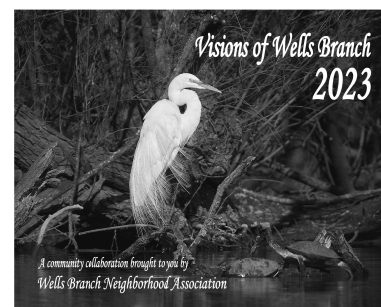
## Last Call for the WBNA 2023 Wells Branch Community Calendar!

We have a hand full of this year's calendar left. The calendar is a great mix of local area shots, fantastic wildlife images, and wonderful seasonal views submitted by ten different Wells Branch photographers. All proceeds from the calendar sales will fund WB community events. Please use this **QR code** to order online with **FREE delivery**.



You may also visit our Facebook page or website for the hot link. If you would rather pay by cash or check, please email us at [info@wbna.us](mailto:info@wbna.us)

**Thank you  
for your support,  
The WBNA Team**



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### Sign Up Today: WB Cultural Diversity Fair

**Hosted by WB MUD Rec. Dept. & the WBNA**

**Saturday, February 25 | 1:00-4:00pm**

**WB MUD Rec. Center | 3000 Shoreline Drive**

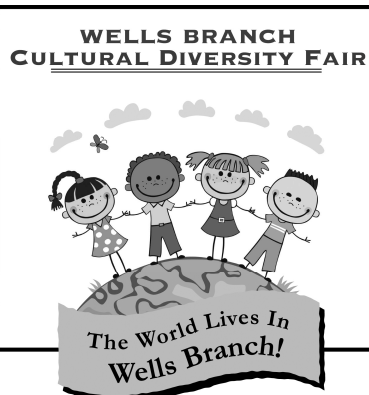
Get ready to travel the world right here in Wells Branch! Please join us in celebrating the amazing cultural diversity we have in our wonderful community. It's not too late to sign up. Please go to: [http://tiny.cc/WB\\_CDF\\_2023](http://tiny.cc/WB_CDF_2023) to share your unique cultural background with your fiends and neighbors.

The 2023 Cultural Diversity Fair marks the return of this exciting bi-annual event. The last Wells Branch "CDF" was held in February 2020. We had over 20 countries represented, sharing their culture from around the world through food, music, dance and activities. Each registered country may reserve a booth space (a table and 2 chairs) and is encouraged to host a wide range of cultural topics from their nation. We have reached out to local area groups and schools for international entertainment such as dance troops, ethnic music, and regional performing arts.

Kid-friendly activities include the "life-size" World Travel Game and the kiddos can stop by and color their own flag. The WB Community Library is hosting an interactive language lab. There is also a keepsake passport.

Please start making plans to participate and attend this amazing event.

Have questions? Want to volunteer to host a country? Please contact Margaret Sufke at [info@wbna.us](mailto:info@wbna.us) or call 512-341-0428.



## Join the Wells Branch Google Group!

Welcome to 2023! The Wells Branch Google Group has 1100+ members and serves as a valuable communication resource for our neighborhood. Thank you to all our members for reaching out to your neighbors and sharing information. If you haven't joined yet, please consider doing so.

The group is maintained by volunteers and has no official affiliation with the WB MUD or with Wells Branch Neighborhood Association (Both being excellent organizations!) This is a routine reminder of how the Group works, highlighting a few areas:

**REMEMBER THE FOOTER** - every message includes automated text added at the bottom. If you need the link to the Guidelines or the moderator address or the email address to participate - look there.

**GUIDELINES** - it's a good idea to review these now and then. Here are a few points that sometimes get overlooked:

**Respect privacy** - A good example is if you are reposting info from elsewhere, remove previous TO/FROM email addresses before sharing. Only share the **content** (and possibly relevant contact information).

**Refrain from political commentary and debate.** General information like notices of candidate debates or reminders to vote are fine.

**Avoid Excessive Postings** - Key examples:

If you are selling many items, please consolidate into a minimal number of messages. Do not send a separate message for each item.

We aren't saying you are limited to one email; but please - not 5, 6, 8...and then that many again as you post updates to what has sold.

If you have a local or home-based business, restrict promotional emails to a reasonable number such as once or twice per month.

### POSTING MESSAGES

To share a new message, **simply send an email to:** **wells-branch-neighbors@googlegroups.com.**

Remember, this information is in the footer of every message you receive if you forget.

Use a **descriptive subject line.**

Avoid cryptic phrases like "Help" or "For Sale".

Create a **fresh message for a new topic.**

Do not craft a new message by replying to an existing one and overwriting the subject line.

In the web interface, conversations are grouped into threads. If you reply to a "lost pet" message, clear out all the old text and type info about selling a desk, your "desk" message becomes part of the "lost pet" thread where the conversation is archived.

### HOW A WELLS BRANCH RESIDENT CAN JOIN

Please encourage others in the community to subscribe.

1) Visit the group page at <https://groups.google.com/g/wells-branch-neighbors> while logged into Google and click ASK TO JOIN GROUP, OR  
2) Email the moderators at [wbneighbors@gmail.com](mailto:wbneighbors@gmail.com) providing name, email address to be subscribed, **and home address.**

Members are not required to have a Google account in order to join. (Use option #2.)

However, if the subscribed email is affiliated with a Google account, the member can log into Google and access the web interface where all conversations are stored. That's the best way to search within old messages.

**Have a wonderful day! - Volunteer Moderator**

Wells Branch Google Group | [wbneighbors@gmail.com](mailto:wbneighbors@gmail.com)

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### WBNA Town Hall Meeting

#### Home Fire Safety with

#### TCESD No. 2 / Pflugerville Fire Dept.

Thursday, February 23 | 7:00pm

WB Community Center | 2106 Klattenhoff Drive

This critical home fire safety session will immediately follow the WBNA Annual General Meeting. We are so excited to host Asst. Chief Daniel Berger from the TCESD No. 2 / Pflugerville Fire Department. Dan and a few team members will lead an interactive "spring clean and fire safety" presentation. Please feel free to bring kids to this session! Dan has promised to roll "Big Red" down to the parking lot before the meeting. Community members are welcome to view the fire truck up close and meet with the local TCESD No. 2 crew. Truck schedule is dependent on any callouts.

Dan and his crew will also take questions from the audience regarding the current "sales tax" petition being raised in Pflugerville. (Our neighborhood has received two direct mailings on this topic). Please visit the TCESD No. 2 site for more information: <https://www.pflugervillefire.org/>

We are planning to host the meeting via Zoom if you're unable to attend in person. A few days prior to the meeting we'll send meeting and link details via the WBNA Facebook page, the WB Google Group and the WBNA website: <http://wbna.us>. Stay tuned for more details.

We look forward to seeing **YOU** there!



### McNeil HS Maverick Band Mulch Sale

Spring is in the air! The band is selling mulch as their spring fundraiser. We have two types: black and hardwood @ \$5/bag. Customers can pay by cash, check or Venmo via the band website ([mcneilband.org](http://mcneilband.org)). We have many McNeil High School Band students in the Wells Branch area. If you know a student personally please input their name so they can get credit for your sale. If you don't know a student personally, that's OK, all sales are very important to us! Delivery is available for orders of 10 bags or more. Orders of less than 10 must be picked up at Kelly Reeves stadium by 2:00pm on March 4.

**Orders must be completed by February 13.**

HARDWOOD MULCH  
AND BLACK LABEL MULCH  
AVAILABLE FOR \$5 PER BAG

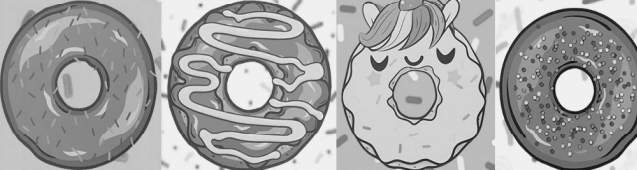


## MAV BAND MULCH SALE



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## Same Library Card, Two Different Digital Collections

E-Resources are available at Wells Branch Public Library, through our digital collection in both Hoopla and Libby (formerly known as Overdrive). While Libby and Hoopla are similar, each comes with its own pros as well as special features, so each offer something unique to the library. That means no matter how you like to enjoy your content, we've got a service for you.

Using the Libby App as a Wells Branch library card holder can get you access to free ebooks and audiobooks. The Libby app is available for Android, iOS, and Windows devices. If you prefer reading on your Kindle, Libby can send your library books straight to your Kindle. Libby is a simplified app from the previous app called OverDrive for borrowing ebooks and MP3 audiobooks. It has a large selection of ebooks and audiobooks but you may have a wait time for the most popular items.

Hoopla is another app where Wells Branch library card holders can instantly borrow eBooks, audiobooks, along with comics, music, movies & TV - 24/7 and with no wait time. Hoopla has less of a selection of ebooks and audiobooks but all materials are on demand.

Neither app will charge late fees if you forget to return a title. Instead, the title is automatically returned once it reaches its due date. Both apps are completely free to use and the content is free since the accounts are held from libraries. Ads and commercials are also absent from both apps. In order to utilize both apps, you only need a device, a Wifi connection, and a library card.

## New Role for Friends of the Library

The Friends of the Wells Branch Community Library are taking on roles as library ambassadors! We are even repurposing our website to blog more about this improved role and to talk more about our wonderful library. Check out the blog here: <http://wbfriends.org/2023/01/20/ambassadors-of-the-library/>



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**Hey Neighbor!**  
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**\*Mention this ad to support the WBNA\***

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

**\*\*Program registration: [wblibrary.eventbrite.com](http://wblibrary.eventbrite.com)**

**\*\*FIRST FRIDAY: Elizabeth Kahura, Day in Africa 3/3 @ 6:30pm** Come join us for an introduction to the geography, cultures, lifestyles, music, and stories of Africa.

**\*\*Teen/ Tween Bad Art Night (AGE 10-18 only): Sat 3/25 @ 2pm** Create with provided craft supplies and recyclables and compete to see whose is the worst!

**Open Table D&D: Mon 2/13, 2/27, 3/13 & 3/27 @ 5pm** Novices and veteran players can enjoy a self-contained story that allows for pick-up games with new and different players each time. It's the fun of D&D without the stress!

**Family Drop-In Game Day: Mon 3/13 4:30-6pm** Kick off Spring Break with fun! Come in and choose a game to play with your family and neighbors. Games are available to check-out afterwards, too. (No ATLAS 3/13)

**Spring Break Scavenger Hunt: 3/13-3/17** for all ages Test your searching skills and win a prize.

### **SPECIAL KIDS PROGRAMS:**

**\*\*Ramblin' Rita: Sat 3/18 @ 10:30am**  
Family fun with Texas stories and audience participation!

**\*\*Young Rembrandts: Mon 2/17 & 3/27 @ 6pm**  
Ages 5+ can follow the step-by-step instructions to create a masterpiece in an hour.

### **WEEKLY KIDS PROGRAMS**

- Mon @ 10:30am: Baby Signs
- Mon @ 11am: Storytime
- Mon @ 4:30pm: \*\*ATLAS CLUB (age 8-12 only)
- Tues @ 10:30am: Bilingual Storytime
- Tues @ 11am: Spanish Circle Time
- Tues @ 3:15 & 4:15pm: \*\* LEGO Lab (age 5+)
- Wed @ 10:30am: Circle Time
- Thu @ 10:30am & 11am: Storytime
- Thu @ 5pm: Storytime and Craft
- Fri @ 10:30am: Alphabuddies
- Sat @ 10:30am: Storytime and Craft

### **ADULT PROGRAMS:**

**Backyard Birds: Sat 2/18 @ 4pm**  
Want to learn more about the birds in the neighborhood? Find out about tools to identify different species.

**Traveling Tea Book Club: Thu 3/2 @ 6pm**  
Meet up, talk about books, and drink some tea together. You don't need to be a member to attend.

**Plant Clinic: Sat 3/4 10am-1pm**  
Travis County Master Gardeners will discuss vegetable and landscaping selections, timing, pollinators, and more including an activity for the little ones.

**\*\*Try It! Felt Flower Wreath: Sat 3/4 @ 4pm**  
Make a decoration for your door, no skills required.

**Spice of the Month Club: Sat 3/11 @ 4pm**  
Members can pick up a spice packet which includes some history, spice sample, and recipes. Give it a try and share your thoughts, tips, success (and failure) with the group.

**\*\*Resume Workshops: Sat 3/11 @ 10am**  
Edit your resume to stand out for the job you want.

**\*\*Bad Art Night: Sat 3/18 @ 4pm**  
Create a Disaster-piece with recycled items.

**\*\*Asian Plant Décor: Sat 3/25 @ 4pm**  
Learn about decorating with plants from different regions of Asia and make your own arrangement to take home.

### **Adult Wellness**

- \*\*Yoga: 2/23 & 3/30 @ 6:45pm
- \*\*Meditation & Stretching: 3/9 @ 6pm

### **Adult Crafting Space: Drop In Hours**

Sundays and Wednesdays 2pm to 5pm  
Adult cardholders in good standing can drop in to use our equipment during open hours (call or check the website).

**Tech Help** is available in the crafting space during drop-in hours. You can get help with our digital library (hoopla and Overdrive/Libby) or tour our databases.

### **Craft LAB: Wed @ 6:00pm (age 18+)**

- \*\*2/15: Paper Roses
- \*\*2/22: Book Wreaths
- \*\*3/1: Polymer Clay Basics
- 3/8: Knit and Crochet
- \*\*3/15: Glass Etching
- \*\*3/22 Alcohol Ink Tiles
- \*\*3/29 Fingerloop Braids



# Upcoming Events!

## Waste Water Averaging

**Begins December 8, 2022 | Ends March 8, 2023**

Winter wastewater averaging occurs during the three-month billing period between Dec. 8, 2022 and March 8, 2023. During this time, your average monthly water use will be used as your monthly wastewater usage for the next year. Save water now, save money all year!

For water saving tips, visit: <http://wellsbranchmud.com/water-and-wastewater/billing/winter-averaging>

## WB MUD Bulk Trash Days

**Saturday, February 11 & Saturday, March 11**

**8am-12pm • 13905 Thermal**

For more info, visit: <http://wellsbranchmud.com/bulk-items/bulk-trash-household-waste>

## Valentines Day Family Dance

**Tuesday, February 14 | 6:30-8:30pm**

**WB MUD Recreation Center | 3000 Shoreline Dr.**

We're celebrating all things LOVE at the annual Valentine's Dance! Hosted by Wells Branch MUD Parks and Recreation Dept., this fun family event is free and open to all ages.

Bring the family out and share the love with us!

Dance the night away on an open dance floor with live music! Snacks, drinks, and roses will be provided. DJ and Photobooth will be supplied by Powell Party.

- This is a FREE event.
- This event is indoors and will be held rain or shine.
- This is an all-ages, family-friendly event.
- Light refreshments will be provided.

## Cultural Diversity Fair

**Saturday, February 25 | 1:00-4:00pm**

**WB MUD Recreation Center | 3000 Shoreline Dr.**

Experience the melting pot of cultures in our community! Hosted by Wells Branch MUD Recreation Department and the WBNA, this event showcases the diversity of people and cultures in our community. In addition to music, food, games, and dancing, you can explore various interactive booths that showcase the culture and history of many different countries. Interested in hosting a booth?

Contact us at [events@wellsbranchmud.com](mailto:events@wellsbranchmud.com) or sign up via the WBNA [http://tiny.cc/WB\\_CDF\\_2023](http://tiny.cc/WB_CDF_2023)

- This is a FREE event.
- This is an all-ages, family-friendly event.
- This event is indoors and will be held rain or shine.
- This event also includes:
  - Cultural exhibits or booths from 20+ countries
  - Tasty International food samples
  - Three hours of live regional entertainment
  - Activities and games for kids

## St. Patrick's Day Bagpipe Concert in the Park

**Friday, March 17 | 7:00-8:00pm**

**2106 Klattenhoff | Courtyard at WB MUD**

**Community Center / KF Park**

Come experience Celtic heritage with a complete marching pipe band as Wells Branch MUD Parks and Recreation Dept. hosts its St. Patrick's Day Celebration! We invite you to wear green and march behind the band as they lead a parade through Wells Branch's Katherine Fleischer Park, ending with an incredible performance in the Community Center Courtyard.

- Band: Silver Thistle Pipes
- This is a FREE event.
- This is an all-ages, family-friendly event.
- This event will be cancelled if inclement weather occurs.

## Community Event:

### Electric Vehicle Demonstration

**St. Andrews Presbyterian Church**

**Saturday, April 1\* | 9:00am-1:00 pm**

**(\*Rain date: April 15)**

**14311 Wells Port Drive, Austin**

Interested in learning more about electric vehicles? The environmental team from St. Andrew's has organized this special community event. Several different models will be on display including Tesla, BMW, Chevy Bolt, Toyota Prius, Nissan Leaf and others.

You are welcome to take a closer look at the different models to gain a better understanding of the technology. Test rides will be available to experience how well electric cars perform. A few electric bicycles will also be available for your review and folks will be on hand to demonstrate how an electric bike handles.

There will be additional information on electric vehicles including financial information on government subsidies and the bottom line on owning an electric car. Find out how far electric cars can go and where the charging stations are located.

Please join us to get all this timely and environmentally friendly information.

**Point of Contact:**

**Joe Linsalata | 512-327-5000 | [joe@linsalata1.com](mailto:joe@linsalata1.com)**

## Now Hiring!

The Wells Branch MUD is currently hiring for the positions of

- **Parks Employee**

For more information, please visit:

<http://wellsbranchmud.com/services/human-resources>





# Community Clubs

*Want to participate in fun, free clubs in your neighborhood? Community Clubs are a fantastic opportunity for Wells Branch residents to meet their neighbors! Anyone can host or attend a Community Club.*

## **Wells Branch Photo Club**

**WB MUD Rec. Center • 3000 Shoreline Dr.**

***Meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 6:30-8:00pm in Meeting Room 100 / 101***

Meetings are a drop-in format and everyone is welcome. The club includes members of all skill levels from those just starting to enjoy the photographic hobby to semi-professional enthusiasts.

The WB Photo Club held its first post-Covid meeting on January 10. It was great to see familiar faces as well as some new ones. The good news is the group is going to start meeting again and we have lots of ideas for new topics.

Our next session will be on Feb 14, the same night as the Valentine's Day dance. We are going to meet briefly to discuss the best techniques on to how to capture the "stop action" of dancers in low lighting. If you are interested in joining us, please reach out. Happy Snapping!

Watch for updates via the WB Google Group, WBNA Facebook Page, WB Photo Club Facebook Page, and [wbna.us](http://wbna.us).

Questions? Contact Margaret Sufke at [mmsufke@gmail.com](mailto:mmsufke@gmail.com) or 512-341-0425 (msg)

## **Wells Branch Garden Guild**

**WB MUD Rec. Center • 3000 Shoreline Dr.**

***Meets the 3rd Saturday of the month from 10:00-11:00am in Meeting Room 100 / 101***

The Garden Guild is a friendly group of neighbors who meet once a month to discuss all things gardening. Topics will vary each month. All are welcome!

Watch for updates via the WB Google Group, WBNA Facebook Page, WB Garden Guild Facebook Page, and [wbna.us](http://wbna.us).

## **Pioneer Pals (Pre-schoolers)**

**The Homestead in KF Park | 2106 Klattenhoff Dr.**

***Meets every Wednesday, 9:30-10:30am.***

Calling all pre-schoolers! Bring your caregiver and join us for weekly storytelling sessions, where your child will experience a fun-filled morning bursting with stories creatively read to the group, songs that will have them dancing the morning away, crafts inspiring thoughtful creativity and activities that can't be found anywhere else except the Wells Branch Homestead. Explore Texas Pioneer life, learn about nature and history, and make some new friends along the way.

## **Silver Branchers' 2023 Calendar**

**WB MUD Rec. Center • 3000 Shoreline Dr.**

***Meets every Thursday from 1:00-4:00pm in Meeting Room 100 / 101***

Open to active adults, the Silver Branchers bring neighbors together for camaraderie and good laughter. Join this welcoming group for social activities, board games, and great company.

### ***Spring Party – Glen & Noe's House***

***Thursday, March 2 | 1:00pm***

***14925 Jack's Pond Road, Austin, TX 78728***

We will meet at Glen & Noe's at 1:00pm.

Cut off for registration is February 16.

### ***Fall Fun – Austin's Amusement Park | 1:00pm***

***Thursday, November 2\* | \*Rain Date November 9***

***16231 N Interstate Hwy 35, Pflugerville, TX 78660***

Alternate dates 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. We will meet at Austin's Amusement Park at 1:00pm. There is no cut off for registration. An email will be sent closer to the event with the final date.

### ***Christmas Luncheon – Deckhand Oyster Bar &***

***Seafood | Thursday, December 7 | 1:00pm***

***701 W Louis Henna Blvd, Austin, TX 78728***

We will meet at Deckhand at 1:00pm. Cut off for registration is November 16.

On day trips, you are responsible for paying your entrance fees and meals. RSVP 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 or to join the email list, call Glen at 512-461-1665.

## **Advertising & Article Submission**

Do you have a business or service you would like to advertise? Have an article of interest to other WB residents? If the answer to either of these questions is yes, please visit [wbna.us/newsletters](http://wbna.us/newsletters) for advertising rates or contact us at [info@wbna.us](mailto:info@wbna.us) for more information.

The WBNA does not accept political advertising.

All article submissions are subject to editing.

All ads must be pre-paid.



## Register to Vote by Mail

It's a new year, which means that if you want to vote by mail in elections this year, it's time to sign up again! It is a requirement to renew your vote by mail registration every year. If you want to vote by mail in the primaries, your application must be received by February 18.

### Who Can Vote By Mail?

According to the Texas State Law, you may vote early by-mail if you are registered to vote and meet one of the following criteria:

- 65 years of age or older on Election Day
- Sick or disabled
- Expected to give birth within three weeks before or after Election Day
- Away from the county of residence on Election Day and during the early voting period
- Confined in jail, but eligible to vote

However, only applicants who are 65 years of age or older or are disabled qualify to apply for the Annual Application for Ballot By Mail (ABBM). Applying annually ensures that qualified voters will receive a mail ballot for ALL elections held during a calendar year. Annual applications may be submitted starting January 1 but must not be submitted later than the 11<sup>th</sup> day before the first election in which you seek to request a ballot by mail.

If you live in **Travis County**, download and print your application to vote by mail at:

<https://countyclerk.traviscountytexas.gov/departments/elections/ballot-by-mail/#download-application>

If you live in **Williamson County**, download and print your application to vote by mail at:

<https://www.wilco.org/language/es-mx/Departments/Elections/Voting-By-Mail>

### Here are some tips when filling out the Annual Application for Ballot By Mail:

- Make sure you are registered to vote in the county you are applying to vote by mail in.
- You will need to provide your Texas Driver's License Number, Texas Personal ID Number, or your Election Identification Certificate Number – all of which are issued by the Department of Public Safety. If you do not have any of these numbers, you must provide the last four digits of your Social Security Number.
- If you do not remember what number is linked to your voter registration, it is best to provide your Driver's License or ID Number **AND** the last four digits of your SSN.
- Make sure to indicate in Box 4 of the application that you are applying for the "Annual Application". This will ensure that you get a ballot for every election this year.
- Take a photo of your signature on your application, so you will know how to sign your ballot envelopes in a similar way.
- Track your Application for Ballot By Mail and your ballots via the Secretary of State's website.

**Questions?** Contact the **Travis County Clerk's Elections Division** at (512) 854-4996 or, for **Williamson County**, Lorraine McKay at 512-943-1633 or [bbm@wilco.org](mailto:bbm@wilco.org).

## Become a Volunteer Deputy Voter Registrar

If you have registered in the past as a VDR, it's time to renew for 2023 / 2024. If you are new to the process of registering folks to vote, it's an easy and rewarding process and a great way to get involved in the community.

There are 3 ways to get certified / recertified. Below are two links or you can also join an in person training with Bruce Elfant.



The following link is to the online video training with a required exam at the end.

<https://www.screencast.com/t/bKTbPJenACYd>

This link is the sign up for zoom training.

<https://campsite.bio/tcvdr>

If you have any questions about being a VDR, you can call Meg (512 854 7801) with Bruce Elfant's office.

### Other helpful links:

**TX VDR Guide:** <https://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/pamphlets/deputy.shtml>

**Training Slides:** <https://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/forms/volunteer-deputy-registrar-training.pdf>

## Save the Date!

**FREE  
DRIVE THRU**

## Rabies Vaccinations & Microchips

**Saturday February 18  
9 am - 1 pm**



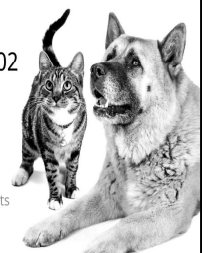
[AustinAnimalCenter.org](http://AustinAnimalCenter.org)

Austin Animal Center  
7201 Levander Loop, Austin 78702

🐾 Dogs must be on leash

🐾 Cats and puppies must be in a carrier

Title 10: Chapter 826 of TX State Law requires all cats and dogs have current rabies vaccinations





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## Special Thanks for a Wonderful WB 2022 Holiday Season!

### Community recognition for our wonderful volunteers, participants and vendors

by Margaret Sufke, WBNA President

The WBNA board and a spectacular team of helpful elves went all out this holiday season! Each December the WBNA partners with the WB MUD Parks and Rec. Dept. crew and the WB Friends of the Library to host two big nights of holiday crafts during Luminary Fest! There were 8 large stations offering some traditional favorites and some exciting new ornaments and cards to create. The event ran very smoothly from set-up to close (and all that crafting in between) thanks to dozens of community volunteers. Because the list of names is so long and space here is limited we are going to create a digital **Wall of Fame** to showcase all our amazing volunteers. Each and every contribution is highly valued and your efforts really shined during the holiday season!



Another sparkling contribution to the holidays was our **WBNA Holiday Home Lighting Contest**. Once again, friends and neighbors went above and beyond creating dazzling displays. We wanted to take a minute and recognize the vendors who provided

donations for the **Home Holiday Lighting** prize packets. Three holiday cheers for these local area businesses, **Home Depot, Malone's Coffee, Papa John's Pizza** and **Tropical Island Ice Cream!**

The winning addresses were: Best Use of Lights: **14834 Bescott** • Most Traditional: **2006 Crystal Shore** • Most Elaborate: **3201 Bratton Ridge Crossing** • Most Energy Efficient: **14816 Montoro** • Most Visible from Outer Space: **2209 Taylor Simonetti** • Most Original: **3620 Texas Topaz** • Most Patriotic: **15417 Cadoz Dr** • Most Whimsical: **2313 Spring Wagon**. **Congratulations to one and all!** The real winners were the Wells Branch community members who got to enjoy all the amazing displays. Thank you to all who contributed so much to participate, the whole neighborhood really sparkled!



Wishing you all the best for 2023!  
- The WBNA Team



## WBNA 2023 Newsletter

### Advertising Program Update

by Margaret Sufke, WBNA President

Do you have a business or service you would like to advertise within the Wells Branch community? If your business is ready to invest in an effective **target market** solution, the WBNA newsletter team has an advertising option for you!

The **WBNA Neighborhood News** is published six times a year. The publishing dates vary to meet the seasonal events and demand. Please check the website for our competitive rates and the current schedule. <http://wbna.us/newsletters/advertising-article-submission/>

As we move into 2023, the production cost of our community newsletter has increased dramatically. To offset the higher costs, regrettably, we find it necessary to increase our advertising rates by 10%. For our current loyal advertisers, if you pay for a full year of advertising by February 28, you will receive a 7% discount for the entire year.

We are also expanding our advertising options in 2023. If a six issue subscription doesn't fit your business model, or if you would rather make a one-time donation, please review the WBNA Special Events advertising options. This plan also allows your business to sponsor a specific event. Please review the current program details (.PDF) on our website. <http://wbna.us/newsletters/advertising-article-submission/>

Thank you to all our local area business owners for your support. The entire Wells Branch community truly appreciates the wide range of goods and services right here in the neighborhood.

## Drone Videos of Wells Branch

*Many thanks to our talented WB Photographers!*

### Luminary Fest by Dave DeVore

I captured this video during a 40 minute flight and cut it down to about 6 minutes. It starts at dusk and I orbited around KF Park until well after dark. Special thanks to my assistant, Arlie Pfeifer. I hope you like this!

<https://youtu.be/gvdm70ZbUGY>

### 2023 Ice Storm by Scott Cannon | Cannon Light Media, LLC.

I hope this finds you warm and well. As all of you know, our neighborhood recently experienced an ice storm which caused damage to trees and power lines. I have created a video that captures the aftermath of the storm and wanted to share it with all of you.

The video showcases the beauty of our neighborhood even in the face of adversity and I hope it brings a smile to your faces.

<https://youtu.be/qR50Q8Wks3E>

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# Building Community Together

### OFFICE USE ONLY

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Check: \_\_\_\_\_

### Support your Neighborhood Association

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

Here is my check (made out to WBNA) for \$25 annual dues for 2023

\_\_\_\_ Renew membership      \_\_\_\_ New member



Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Ready to help with: \_\_\_\_ Newsletter Delivery      \_\_\_\_ Crime Watch      \_\_\_\_ July 4th

\_\_\_\_ Easter Egg Hunt      \_\_\_\_ Nat'l Night Out      \_\_\_\_ Pumpkin Patch      \_\_\_\_ Luminary Fest

MAIL TO: WBNA Membership, 2104 Klattenhoff, Austin, TX 78728 | ONLINE: [wbna.us/membership/](http://wbna.us/membership/)

