



Neighborhood News

News and information for the residents of Wells Branch
Vol. 32, Issue 2, Spring 2024



WBNA Easter Egg Hunt Extravaganza!

Saturday, March 30 • 10:30am • Come Early!

The Homestead at KF Park • 2106 Klattenoff Drive

Hop into Spring! Join your friends, neighbors and The Easter Bunny himself, at the annual Wells Branch Easter Egg Hunt. The “Hunts” will be by age group and begin at 10:30am SHARP! Plan to come early and visit with the Easter Bunny or have fun at our craft table. This is a community event and ALL Wells Branch residents and their invited guests are welcome.

We need parents to set the example for behavior during this event. Please read and go over the rules with your hunters! **ONE** parent will be allowed in to help with the two youngest age groups (0-18mos & 18mos-3yrs.) We ask that you respect this restriction. Children in all other age groups must hunt on their own. There will be 7 minutes between each of the age groups to allow parents with multiple children to navigate to the next area. Please, only allow your children to hunt with their respective age group. If for some reason, your child ends up with only a few eggs, please approach any of our WBNA volunteers in bunny ears, they will have extra goodies. Last, but not least, please remember that this event is put on by volunteers. We spend weeks getting ready and usually stuff 8,000-10,000 eggs (if you are wondering, yes we recycle those eggs.) It's no small feat. So, if a volunteer asks something of you, please be respectful of their requests.

We love our neighbors and our community. We're asking for everyone's help in advance in creating an enjoyable experience for all involved. **Please help us and remember to recycle your eggs before you leave. We need volunteers to help things run more smoothly.** Anyone whose kids have aged out of the hunt, community service groups, or older teens who need service hours, we would be so appreciative of your time!

Please contact us for more information:
info@wbna.us or text 208-869-5224. To volunteer, use your phone's camera to scan the QR code or sign-up here:
<https://tinyurl.com/2024-WBNA-EEHUNT>.



Easter Egg Hunt Rules:

Those of you who've attended our hunts in the past know we have very few rules, but we do ask parents to follow those rules and be courteous and respectful of your neighbors so that all of our children may enjoy the hunt.

BE ON TIME (*early is better*) AS THE “HUNTS” GO QUICKLY

- Wait until your age group is called
- Check all eggs for prizes
- Let a volunteer know if there's an issue
- Recycle your eggs with the WBNA
- MOST of ALL, Have FUN!

AGE GROUPS:

0-18mos & 18mos-3yrs

- *Only 1 parent per child in egg hunting area
- *Watch out for potential choking hazards

4-6yrs • 7-9yrs • 10-12yrs

- * No parents or siblings allowed in egg hunting area



The Easter Bunny will be available for photos beginning at 10:00am and will stay until everyone has had a chance to talk to him. Photos will be posted to an album on the WBNA Facebook page or you're welcome to use your own camera.

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Please JOIN or RENEW your WBNA Membership TODAY!

See Membership Form on Page 12 or join online at wbna.us/membership

Shirley Lukenbill

1940-2024

Remembering Her Life of Service and Compassion

It is with heavy hearts that we bid farewell to a profoundly important former member of our Wells Branch Elementary family. Shirley Lukenbill, or Mrs. Lukie, as she was so affectionately called, was an icon at WBE for many years. Many of our children were blessed and inspired not only by her love for books and reading, but also for love of animals and the many rescue animals that called the WBE Library home. Mrs. Lukie passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on February 25th, 2024, at the age of 84. Mrs. Lukie's life was one filled with love, dedication, and a passion for making the world a better place for both humans and animals alike.

Mrs. Lukie's passion for education and literature was evident throughout her career. From nurturing young minds as she set up and managed the North Shore High School Library in Galena Park, Texas, to the University of Louisiana, where she imparted her knowledge and wisdom to aspiring librarians until 1968. She then began a new chapter in her life when she married Bill Lukenbill. Together, they embarked on a journey that brought them to Austin as they both taught in the Graduate School of Library Science, which is now the School of Information at the University of TX at Austin. Simultaneously, Shirley worked as the school librarian at Wells Branch Elementary. She wasn't just the Keeper of the Books, she loved our students and families and wanted them to appreciate and know the importance of reading and love it as much as she did! Additionally, she was just as passionate about the animals that also share our world. Mrs. Lukie's love for animals was on full display (along with many of her animals who called the library home) while she was at WBE, as she was a volunteer with Austin Wildlife Rescue for 15 years. She cared for many orphaned wild animals, including rabbits, opossums, squirrels, raccoons, songbirds, and owls. It was such a great experience for the families that were able to take home and care for one of the animals over weekends and holiday breaks—talk about hands on learning! Mrs. Lukie loved watching the students grow up and it was a treat for both student and professor when a WBE student or parent enrolled in her Children's Literature class at UT! Mrs. Lukie retired from Wells Branch Elementary in 2004, a huge loss to the students and families.

Mrs. Lukie touched thousands of lives (both human and non-human) in her decades of working with the children, college students, trash pandas, nighthawks, screech owls, and squirrels of the central Texas area. The libraries and the forests around central Texas would have been quieter without her influence on generations of kids and critters. She will be remembered and missed for these contributions.

A memorial open house in honor of Mrs. Lukie's life will be held at the Cedar Park Public Library Community Room, 550 Discovery Blvd, Cedar Park, TX 78613 on Saturday, April 13, from 2:30-4:30pm. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations to her much loved Austin Wildlife Rescue, <https://www.austinwildliferescue.org/waystogive#donate>.



Wells Branch MUD Summer Job Openings

Each summer the WB MUD Parks and Recreation Department hosts a series of camps, swim programs and community activities. Seasonal staff members are added and it's a great opportunity for first time job seekers.

The Wells Branch MUD Human Resource department will begin accepting applications for lifeguards and summer day camp counselors starting April 18, 2024. For position details and to apply, visit wellsbranchmud.com/jobs or send your inquiry to jobs@wellsbranchmud.com.



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Wells Branch by the Numbers...

Featured Listing

- \$425,000 in Orchard Ridge
- 4.99-5.99 Seller Financing option
- 3-car garage, 1-story, 3 BR + study

Coming Soon

- Hutto Highlands, 2788SF
- 4 BR, 2 Living, 2 Dining



Market activity as of 3/16/24 (2/8/24 - 3/16/24) in Wells Branch

According to the Austin Board of REALTORS'® Unlock MLS

1-Story Homes:

5	Active Homes for Sale
\$326	Active Median PPSF**
7	Homes Under Contract
1	Homes Sold
\$282	Sold Median PPSF**
25	Avg DOM to contract**
0	# exp/withdrawn/on Hold

2-Story Homes:

4	Active Homes for Sale
\$242	Active Median PPSF**
5	Homes Under Contract
3	Homes Sold
\$267	Sold Median PPSF**
52	Avg DOM to contract**
2	# exp/withdrawn/on Hold

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Notices of appraised value will be arriving sometime in mid to late April. See page 12 for a few handy reminders. The CAD has also changed its protest process since the workshop I held for the community back in 2019. Watch for more information in the May issue, before the protest deadline!

Having an experienced REALTOR on your side who knows the Texas contracts is an invaluable partner to have when you are buying or selling real estate and it's a BIG deal since it's likely one of the biggest transactions in your life!

Before you make any decisions, let's talk so you can explore your options!

Get Your Emergency Preparation Supplies Sales Tax Free April 27-29

Natural disasters will continue to happen. Prepare yourself, stock or re-stock during the 2024 Sales Tax Holiday just for these supplies. There is no limit on the number of qualifying items you can purchase.

This year's holiday begins at 12:01 a.m. on Saturday, April 27, and ends at midnight on Monday, April 29. These emergency preparation supplies qualify for tax exemption:

Less than \$3000

- Portable generators

Less than \$300

- Emergency ladders
- Hurricane shutters

Less than \$75

- Axes and/or Hatchets
- Batteries, (AAA, AA, C, D, 6 or 9 volt)
- Can openers – non-electric
- Carbon monoxide detectors
- Coolers and ice chests for food storage – non-electric
- Fire extinguishers

- First aid kits
- Fuel containers
- Ground anchor systems and tie-down kits
- Ice products - reusable and artificial
- Light sources - portable self-powered (including battery operated). Examples of items include: candles, flashlights and lanterns
- Mobile telephone batteries and mobile telephone chargers
- Radios - portable self-powered (including battery operated) - includes two-way and weather band radios
- Smoke detectors
- Tarps and other plastic sheeting

For a comprehensive list of items not covered, information on online purchases and telephone orders, additional charges that affect the sales price, and sales tax refund requests, please visit: <https://comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/publications/98-1017.php>



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Spring Extreme Clean!

Saturday, April 13, 2024 | 8am-2pm

WB MUD Facilities Yard | 13905 Thermal Dr.

Need help transporting your Trash & Recyclables to Extreme Clean? Venture Crew 1409 is here to help!

WB Venture Crew 1409 will be offering trailer transportation of larger items to the Extreme Clean event on April 13 for a minimum donation of \$20. Please tip accordingly. All monies received will be used for future Venturing endeavors. Transportation is limited to In-District residents only. **Please schedule your pick up by Friday, April 12, by texting your name and address to 512-413-0097.**

Bulk Trash

Trash or bulky items too large that cannot be placed in your trash bin • Wood pallets (broken-down) • Old fencing (broken-down) • Mattresses & box springs • **TIRES ARE NOT ACCEPTED**

Metal Recycling

Lawn mowers (oil & gas emptied) • Metal tools, sheets, rods and framing • All appliances (**Freon must be removed**) • Water heaters • Aluminum

Household Waste & E-Cycling

Household batteries include alkaline batteries - A, AA, C, D, 9V, 6V (all types-heavy duty), phone batteries, rechargeable batteries, computer and small appliance batteries and motorcycle batteries • Antifreeze in clearly labeled and closed container • Latex / water based paints in original sealed and non-leaking container

NOT ACCEPTED: oil based paints, stains, thinners, motor and cooking oil, gasoline, chemicals/pesticides, or car batteries

Electronics and Appliance Recycling

Computers, laptops and monitors • Tablets, cell phones and chargers • Wire (extension cords, Xmas lights, computer cables) • CDs, DVDs and oppy discs • Routers, DVRs and cable boxes • Lamps • All TVs, VCRs and DVD players • Printers, copiers, scanners and fax machines • Radios, stereos and speakers • Small kitchen appliances (microwaves, coffee makers, toasters, etc.)

Styrofoam

Clean egg cartons, food packaging, meat trays, to-go containers, disposable plates and coffee cups, large packing pieces and foam ice chests

NOT ACCEPTED: packing peanuts, and Styrofoam attached or glued to other materials, like cardboard or plastic film

Regular Bulk Recycling

Cardboard boxes – all sizes; large appliance boxes should be broken down & **FREE from Styrofoam and/or other packing material** • Plastics (#1-7)

Drug Take-Back - Pill Form ONLY

Creams, liquids, ointments and pet medication will **NOT** be accepted. **Please remove labels with personal information prior to drop-off.**

On-Site Shredding

Carbon paper, colored paper, computer paper, fax paper, transparencies, post-it notes, window envelopes, glossy paper, invoice paper, laser print-outs, ledger paper, letterhead, stationary, NCR paper

Community Donations / Re-Purpose & Re-Use Items

(ALL Donated items **MUST** be dropped off pre-sorted and labeled as volunteers will **NOT** be able to sort, post pandemic safety requirement).

Animal Shelter / Rescue

New or gently used crates, clean bedding, bowls, like-new toys and unexpired/unopened food and unopened/unexpired pet meds

Austin Creative Re-Use

Arts and crafts supplies • Fabric, yarn and knitting supplies • Puzzles, game pieces and playing cards • Acrylic and craft paint • Blue painters tape • Wine & champagne corks • Fully functional sewing machines, crafting tools and machines

St. Andrew's Food Bank / Unsheltered Donations

Backpacks • School supplies • Basic clothing needs (new) socks, (new) underwear, t-shirts, sweatshirts, etc. • Basic hygiene products (diapers, feminine hygiene, soap, toothpaste, etc. • Gift cards for food • Canned goods, dry goods, pantry items, bottled water

Salvation Army—Local Area Office

Gently used clothing & shoes (all ages & sizes; nothing soiled, stained, torn or too worn) • Linens & household items • bikes gently used baby/toddler items

Off-Site Yard Chemical Re-Purposing & Recycling—CANCELLED

WB Wild Tip – Getting a Spring Garden in the Ground Quickly

By Shelley Palmer, Capital Area Master Naturalist

It's spring and perhaps you have started collecting plants like I do; I tell my family that they just follow me home! Maybe you need to pull up some turf grass and build out a garden area to get those plants in the ground.



The following is a process you can use to get that done quickly, with minimal labor and without chemicals, in a way that should limit weeds and grass from encroaching on the garden in the future. Use this for landscape gardens, not food.

First, plan out your garden, the size, shape, and place, choose drought tolerant native plants from the City of Austin Grow Green Guide based on sun/shade and size of the area. Using rock or brick edging with some width to it is helpful in keeping other grass out of the garden, dig the edging into the soil at least an inch.

Paint the shape of the garden on the ground, using a weed eater, whack all of the unwanted vegetation down to the roots. Leave the cuttings and cover all of the garden area with clean cardboard, overlapping the edges.

Next, water the cardboard until it's thoroughly damp. Cover the cardboard with about 6 inches or more of well-draining soil, being careful not to pile up soil around the base of any trees. If you use anything larger than a one-gallon size plant, you will likely have to cut a hole in the cardboard and dig into the original soil so that the plant will fit. The cardboard can break down within three months if it's kept damp and you should have a good start on a successful, grass free garden.

Taking these steps in setting up your garden should limit the amount of labor needed to maintain it in the future.

Note: Cardboard from recycled paper will break down more quickly than corrugated board and that's a good thing. Here are a couple of recommended resources:

Grow Green plant guide:

https://services.austintexas.gov/watershed_protection/publications/document.cfm?id=198301

Get more guidance with planning additional garden area in your yard: <https://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Watershed/growgreen/factsheets/landscaping.pdf>



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WB Eco Fair, Recycle – Reuse – Repurpose

Get ready for a world of fun at Eco Fair! Come to the WB Rec Center on Shoreline, April 6 from 1:00-4:00pm, and discover the evolution of WB parks, uncover future park plans, and learn how to transform your turf into an urban oasis. Come see the electric bike display, dive into activities, snag give-aways, and chat with environmental experts for a celebration as lively as the planet we love.

The WBNA team is proud to participate with a whole host of topics and booths. Are you recycling correctly? Find out by playing the “Recycle Game”—you could win a door prize! Learn how to make a rain gauge from a recycled water bottle and monitor your water usage. The local Buy Nothing Group and a repurpose clothing group will be on hand. There’s even a craft activity for the entire family made from recycled materials. ***Go green, recycle and have FUN!***



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WBNA Wells Branch Neighborhood Association



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

To see everything happening at the library, including closings and regular program schedules, check out our website at WBLIBRARY.ORG.
Programs with **require advance registration at wblibrary.eventbrite.com

PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH AND FAMILIES

So many stories and storytimes

Did you know that the library has TWELVE storytime programs every week? We have stories in Spanish, stories in Sign Language, stories with crafts, and even storytime for kids too wiggly to sit through a story, all for FREE!

Karate Dance Party: Saturday April 27 at 10:30am
The whole family can bring their energy for this concert event.

STEAM Workshops: ages 5+, Mondays at 4:30pm
3/25 & 4/22 Tech Warriors: Coding, robotics & circuits, oh my!
4/1 & 4/29 Mad Math: Numbers, shapes, dice, games & more.
4/8 & 5/6 Physics Fanatics: Design & build to test physics & engineering concepts.
4/15 & 5/13 Wacky Science: Do experiments (and get messy).

****Kids' Yoga:** Monday, March 25 & April 22 at 6pm
Ages 6-12 can learn and practice with a trained instructor.

****Big Kids' Arts & Crafts:** ages 8-12, Tuesdays at 5pm
Create something new every week

****TEENS ONLY: (ages 10-18)**

****Juggling Workshop:** Saturday April 6 at 1pm
Matt Tardy will put on a show and teach us to juggle!

****Swiftie Saturday** April 13 at 2pm
Games, music, friendship bracelets, and all things Taylor Swift

ADULT PROGRAMS

Medicare 101: Saturday March 30 at 10am
A specialist will give an overview and answer questions.

****Resume Workshops:** March 23 and April 27 at 10am
Adults can get help customizing their resume to stand out.

Traveling Tea Book Club: Thursday April 4 at 6pm
Talk about books we are reading and drink some tea together.

****Diamond Painting:** Saturday April 6 at 4pm
It's like cross-stitch meets paint-by-number, on wood. Try it!

Spice of the Month Club: Saturday April 13 at 4pm
Get a kit at the front desk, cook at home, and then share.

****Paint & Pour:** Saturday April 20 at 4pm
Relax while painting ceramics and drinking tea.

****Birds of Austin:** Saturday April 27 at 4pm
Learn about the diversity of birds that call Austin home.

****Adult DIY classes– now on Sundays, too!** Our classes are so popular we've added extra sessions on Sundays in addition to Wednesday evening sessions. Workshops in April are all about jewelry. Classes are different every month and always free, but you must reserve a seat to attend.

The library will have a limited supply of glasses available (1 per patron) starting on April 1 during regular library hours at the information desk. *Eclipse Information is available at www.wblibrary.org/2024-total-solar-eclipse*

****Eclipse: Myths and Science with Maggie Goodman:** Friday April 5 at 6:30pm.
Learn about the eclipse with hands on experiments, hear stories from ancient cultures about the phenomenon, and more!

Looking for a new hobby? The library hosts a free Knit, Crochet, & Crafts night on the 2nd Wednesday of every month from 6-8pm. No age requirements or registration required. Bring a craft you're doing or come ready to learn.

Open Table D&D: ages 10+, Mondays at 5pm. Drop-in fun for new and experienced gamers! Every week is a new game.

Make an appointment for Crafts & Tech Help: Having trouble getting a hem straight or downloading books to your Kindle? Need to set up your google drive or gmail or use a sewing machine? Adults can contact the library to make an appointment for one-on-one training for our digital resources or reserve a time to use craft LAB equipment for your project.

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WB Armada Swim Team News

by Emily Childs, Secretary, WBA

Joining the Wells Branch Armada (WBA) is a great way to help your kids get some exercise, make friends, and have fun this summer! Registration for the 2024 season is underway for new and returning swimmers. Information can be found on our website: <https://wellsbranch.swimtopia.com>

Evening practices start in late April or early May at the Willow Bend Pool; practices shift to mornings once school is out.

Our home meets are also at the Willow Bend Pool. If you see a big crowd and lots of tents out at the pool early on a Saturday morning, feel free to stop by to cheer on your neighbors and enjoy some delicious concessions.

We are currently seeking sponsors for the 2024 season. If interested in sponsoring the team, or donating in some other way, please visit our website. The Wells Branch Armada would like to thank the WB MUD for its continued support. If you have any questions about WBA, send an email to: secretary@wbarmada.org

WBNA Election Results & Event Updates

Please welcome our board members for 2024! We are excited to have a new member, Steve Cockrell, joining the team. Lara Bennett and Pam Wachholz have returned to the group and their enthusiasm for the community is truly appreciated.

We had a quorum vote with 16 votes or proxies being recognized. Returning and new members were duly elected. Next year, positions 1, 3, 5 and 7 will be up for election in 2025.

Lara Bennett -- (position 3) Nadia Bernard -- (position 6)
Steve Cockrell -- (position 2) Margaret Sufke -- (position 7)
Juli Thatcher -- (position 4) Pam Wachholz -- (position 5)

There were no nominations from the floor for Position 1, so it remains open. We will continue to actively seek a volunteer for the remaining post. Following the general public meeting the new board will meet as a group and roles will be assigned.

The board approved the **"Shot in the Dark at the Park"** solar eclipse event. We are partnering with the WB Photo group to host this event. **The 2024 Arts at the Library**—Craft Marketplace has been confirmed for **September 28th** - look for more information in the next issue. We will also host a candidate forum closer to the elections in November.

Just a friendly reminder. If you have not joined or renewed, use the membership form on page 12 or pay online at: <http://wbna.us/membership/>. If you have already paid your 2024 dues, thank you.

A sincere thank you to everyone who has volunteered and supported the WBNA. YOU make the Wells Branch Community better. We are all looking forward to another fun-filled year!

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Community Events

Wells Branch Wild – The Attraction of Moths

Guest Speaker: Jack Cochran, Texas Master Naturalist

Saturday, March 30, 2024 | 7:00-8:00pm

WB Community Center | 2106 Klattenhoff Drive

See page 11 for more details about this workshop.

WB MUD Eco Fair

Saturday, April 6 | 1:00-4:00pm

WB MUD Rec. Center | 3000 Shoreline Dr.

Get ready for a world of fun! Enjoy activities, snag giveaways, and chat with environmental experts for a celebration as lively as the planet we love. See page 5 for details.

A Shot in the Dark - 2024 Total Solar Eclipse

Monday, April 8 | 11:30am-2:30pm

Homestead Cabin in KF Park | 2106 Klattenhoff Drive

Experience a total solar eclipse with the WBNA and WB Photo Club while the Texas Hill Country area is in the “shadow” of a total eclipse of the sun. Join us at KF Park to experience this rare event, just 2 hours away from the epicenter in Kerrville.

- FREE Solar glasses to the first 100 WB Neighbors
- Bring a picnic lunch to the Homestead park area
- Centerline pass starts at approximately 12:10pm
- Eclipse totality begins about 1:27pm, with about 1:44 minutes of darkness in Wells Branch

For more information visit: <https://nationaleclipse.com/overview.html>

WB MUD Youth Disc Golf Tournament

Sunday, April 14 | 1:00-5:30pm

WB MUD Disc Golf Course on Owen Tech Drive

Get the kids out for a fun day at the Youth Disc Golf Tournament! Open to players 18 and under, this is a one-day event perfect for introducing young players to disc golf. Participants will receive a custom-stamped disc and there will be trophies for age division winners.

Pre-Registration is required and can be found at this link:

<http://www.wellsbranchmud.com/parks-a-recreation/events>

Cost: \$15. Walk up registration will NOT be available.

WB MUD Pioneer Festival

Saturday, April 27 | 12:00-5:00pm

Homestead Cabin in KF Park | 2106 Klattenhoff Drive

Take a trip to the past and experience real frontier life while learning about life before modern conveniences. Celebrate Texas culture as you walk the grounds of the Homestead and witness demonstrations that will transport you back in time into Texas history. If you would like to volunteer or have a craft or activity from that period, please contact the Parks and Rec team at 512-251-9814.

WB MUD May Dive-In Movie

Friday, May 3 | 8:00pm

Katherine Fleischer Park Pool | 2106 Klattenhoff Drive

Float on by to the May Dive-in Movie event hosted by WB MUD Parks and Recreation! Cool off in the pool or relax poolside as we show a family friendly movie. Regular pool rules and fees apply-no sign-up required.

WB MUD Youth Fishing Tournament

Saturday, May 4 | 9:00am-12:00pm

Mills Pond Park | 15108 Wells Port Drive

Wrangle up the kiddos and come out to the fishing pier for the Spring Youth Fishing Tournament hosted by WB MUD Parks and Recreation! Kids 17 and under, of all skill levels, are invited to participate in this free outdoors tradition. Prizes awarded for various age groups and categories. We will have a limited supply of poles, hooks, and bait for those anglers who don't have one. Rain or shine.

WB MUD American Red Cross Blood Drive

Saturday, May 4 | 9:00am-3:00pm

WB Rec. Center | 3000 Shoreline Drive

WB MUD is partnering with the American Red Cross to host a blood drive at the Rec Center. Donations save lives and are always in high demand, consider donating! Ready to sign up? Go to: <https://www.wellsbranchmud.com/> for details.

WB Wild Butterfly Walk

Sunday, May 5 | 12:15pm | WB Butterfly Garden

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church | 14311 Wells Port Drive

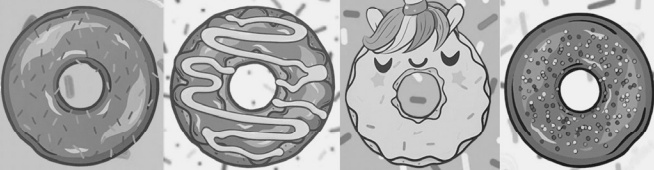
WB MUD Annual Disc Golf Tournament

Saturday, May 18 | 9:00am-12:30pm

WB MUD Disc Golf Course on Owen Tech Drive

Toss your name in for the Annual Disc Golf Tournament hosted by WB MUD Parks and Recreation in partnership with the Wells Branch Disc Golf Club! Play with the best and compete for one of the incredible prizes against disc golfers of all ages. Pre-registration is required and can be found at this link: <http://www.wellsbranchmud.com/parks-a-recreation/events>. Cost: \$20. Walk up registration will NOT be available.

ATX Donut



Hours: 6 am - 1 pm / Closed on Tuesday

2113 Wells Branch Pkwy. / 737-300-1024



Nicole A Viator

Financial Advisor

11211 Taylor Draper

Suite 103

Austin, TX 78759

512-345-4989

Edward Jones

MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING Member SIPC

Business Spotlight

Malone Coffee & the Fika Table – A Tasty Combination!

Grand Opening • Fika Table

Saturday, March 30 • 11:00am - 3:00pm

Malone Specialty Coffee • 14735 Bratton Lane

Please come celebrate the Grand Opening of the Fika Table. The Fika Table has partnered with Malone Coffee to bake their Nordic-inspired goods in the Malone Specialty Coffee kitchen and offer fresh baked treats every day at the counter. The Fika Table is Austin's Nordic bakery since 2020. Their offerings focus on the Swedish tradition of "fika"—a ritual break in the day to connect with others over coffee and a pastry or sweet. The bakery draws on the founder's family recipes from Finland and regional Nordic-inspired treats to bring joy to both daily pauses and special occasions.

HealthMarkets Insurance

Community Event: FREE Healthcare & Safety Seminar

Insurance of any kind can be a complex or confusing subject. Did you know that there is a full service insurance broker right here in our community? The HealthMarkets office is in The Shops at Wells Branch on the corner of MoPac/1325 FM and Wells Branch Parkway. (next to Subway)

A Special Event: Healthcare and Safety Seminar. Industry professionals (doctor, lawyer, first responders, etc) will be on hand to discuss health care topics, legal concerns, accident prevention and a review of insurance programs. This educational program is a great opportunity to gain clear insight into these critical topics. Open forum format with handouts, snacks and prizes—watch for additional details and make plans to join us Friday, April 26 from 11:00am-3:00pm!

Local Job Opening: HealthMarkets Insurance is growing and the Wells Branch office is seeking well qualified candidates who are ready to train as agents and help support the community. Career benefits include:

- Flexible work schedule, working your own hours from home or in the office
- Complete career support through on-going training and tools to promote success
- Rewarding work experience, assisting clients with their healthcare, life and Medicare insurance needs

Contact: Sherri Arrington | 512-924-2327

WB MUD Parks & Rec Fitness Classes

WB MUD Rec. Center | 3000 Shoreline Drive

Stay in shape with Kundalini Yoga, T'ai Chi into Meditation, Zumba with Erica, and Fit4Mom workout classes. Join up today!

Check out an amazing list of fitness classes available for adults at our Recreation Center and Pools. For descriptions go online to: www.wellsbranchmud.com/parks-a-recreation/fitness-class

Classes are included with a Recreation Tag, All Facilities Tag, or by paying a Day Use Fee. Class days/hours are subject to change without notice, please always check with customer service, 512-251-9814, for the latest updates.

AquaFit Classes

Willow Bend Pool | 2801 Sauls Drive

Meets every Tuesday & Thursday | Noon-1:00pm

Water aerobic workouts are a form of fitness training that can be beneficial for people at any fitness level. Fitness training with water aerobics can improve athletic performance, aid in rehabilitation and improve activities needed for daily living. Free with Pool Tag or All Facilities Rec Tag.

This is really a great way to get fit! The impact is minimal and we really do have fun! Please wear swim attire, bring a water bottle and towel. See you at the pool! For more information, contact Katie Hutcheson at 512-516-2621 or khutcheson@wellsbranchmud.com.

Wells Branch Dog Memorial By Neil Suneson

One of our "neighborhood history" markers rests quietly along the Wells Branch greenbelt trail in KF Park and is a somewhat inconspicuous tree trunk on the trail's northeast side just north of Alpha Collier. Nailed into the old trunk are small plaques of remembrance in the form ID tags and licenses of the much loved pets who once walked their owners along the trail. As of March 6, 2024, 32 beloved family pets have been remembered.

The trunk is a "Dog Memorial" to our Wells Branch canine friends, although it's possible that a pet goat or potbelly pig has also been remembered. The memorial is open to any Wells Branch pet owner who'd like to remember their special walk companion. Just bring a tag, nail, and hammer and add to the growing list of (mostly) dogs who have made the greenbelt trail a real community trail.



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Silver Branchers

Thursdays, 1:00-3:00pm in Meeting Room 100 / 101
WB MUD Rec. Center • 3000 Shoreline Dr.
<https://sites.google.com/view/wellsbranchseniors/home>

Open to active adults, the Silver Branchers bring neighbors together for camaraderie and good laughter. Join this welcoming group for social activities, dominoes, cards, board games, and great company. Membership is free, anyone age 50 and older is welcome!

Spring Day Trip – Texas Science & Natural History Museum Thursday, April 18 | 10:00am – 2:00pm

Meet up at the Rec Center at 10:00am to leave for the museum and then go to Hoover's for lunch at 1:00pm, returning around 2:00pm. **Registration cut-off is April 4.**

Texas Science & Natural History Museum: <https://sciencemuseum.utexas.edu/>

San Jacinto Garage: <https://parking.utexas.edu/parking/garages/san-jacinto-garage-sjg>

Lunch at Hoover's: <https://www.hooverscooking.com>

For more information about Silver Branchers or to join the email list, call Glen at 512-461-1665.

Wells Branch Photo Club

Meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month, 6:30-8:00pm, Room 100
WB MUD Rec. Center • 3000 Shoreline Dr.

Meetings are 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 group shares tips, tricks and offers to help to those new to the hobby.



Based on your suggestions, we have planned a few photo shoot sessions, including a Solar Eclipse meet up, and we are trying for a special weekend shoot. Our April meeting will be at Mills Pond to capture spring blooms and the evening twilight.

APRIL 8 | A Shot in the Dark in the Park | 11:30am
KF Park – Homestead | Eclipse Photography

APRIL 9 | Spring Meet Up at the Pond | 6:30pm
Mills Pond | 15108 Wells Port

Watch for updates via the WB Google Group, WBNA Facebook Page, WB Photo Club Facebook Page, and wbna.us. Questions? Contact Margaret Sufke at mmsufke@gmail.com.

WB Drop-In Mahjongg Club

1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month, Room 101
WB MUD Rec. Center • 3000 Shoreline Dr.

Have you heard? There's a new WB Community Club—it's the WB Drop-In Mahjongg club. The club is open to all members of the WB Community - beginners and seasoned players are welcome. We play the American four player version and try to balance folks between skill levels and games so that new players may learn in a comfortable environment. A club brochure is available at the WB Rec Center or contact Margaret Sufke at mmsufke@gmail.com or 208-869-5224.

Articles & Advertising Submission

Do you have a business or service you'd like to advertise?
Have an article of interest to other WB residents?
If yes, please visit wbna.us/newsletters for advertising rates or email info@wbna.us for additional information.

Deadline for the May 13 issue is April 26.

The WBNA does not accept political advertising.
All article submissions are subject to editing.

All ads must be pre-paid.

Thank you for your support!

WB DEMS

Meets the 1st Saturday of the month, 11:00am at
Malone's Specialty Coffee • 14735 Bratton Ln.

Please join the conversation with like-minded people for an open discussion on current civic topics that pertain to the Wells Branch community.

*NOTE: The WBNA is a non-partisan group and has no political affiliations. 2024 is a major election year and we encourage everyone to vote, stay informed and become aware of the issues and races. Currently this is the only civic "meet up group". There is also a Facebook page for the **Wells Branch Civics Club** that offers insights into local civic and government topics. If anyone is hosting another group, we would be glad to include your meeting information. Contact us: info@wbna.us*



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Scouts Lead the Adventure!

Venturing Crew 1409

Venturing is a youth-led program for youth between the ages of 14 and 20. Venturing Crew 1409 is a diverse group of youth and adult advisors who enjoy all things outdoors. Our group does everything from casual weekend camping to week-long trips that include canoeing and backcountry backpacking. We do at least one outdoor trek every month and go on week-long adventures during Spring Break and summer.


Whether you're seeking adventure, looking to make new friends, or simply wanting to enjoy the outdoors, Venturing is for you. Join us weekly on Tuesdays from 7:00-8:00pm at the WB MUD Admin. office at 14611 Wells Port Dr. A multitude of topics are discussed during our weekly meetings, including planning for upcoming trips, discussing service opportunities, and skills training.

Crew 1409 continues to provide bulk trash pickup every month as a youth fundraiser for a minimum requested donation of \$20. Please note that we are unable to take any items that the MUD does not accept. We are only able to pick up household waste, including paint, in April and October for Extreme Clean. Also this service is provided only for household bulk items. We are not able to pick up contractor debris from home improvement projects.

Check us out at <http://www.crew1409.com> or send an email to info@crew1409.com

EXTREME CLEAN

Saturday, April 13 – See page 2 for details



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Wells Branch Wild:

The Attraction of Moths

Please Join Wells Branch Wild on March 30 at 7:00pm in the Community Center for this fun presentation "The Attraction of Moths" by Jack Cochran. After the presentation we will walk to specially set up mothing stations in the park to attract and observe these nighttime insects.

People who spend time outdoors have surely noticed butterflies, especially in Texas where there are over 400 species, including Monarchs that migrate in large numbers during spring and fall. But even people with keen natural interests often overlook a related and even more numerous winged insect – the moth. Moths are important to Texas ecosystems as bird and bat food as well as pollinators. Moths also are seen in a wide range of interesting shapes and color patterns, which make them fun to watch. This presentation will serve as an introduction to the variety of Texas moths, including those that might be seen in the Greater Austin region. Seeing moths can be as easy as turning on a light!

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Property Appraisal Notices Coming Soon Pam Wachholz, REALTOR-GRI, SRES, ABR, MRP, PSA, RENE, NHC, AHWD

Like 'em or hate 'em (I think I know how MOST of us feel!) the Notice of Appraised Value for your property should arrive around mid-April. There are a few things to keep in mind as you review your notice:

- 1-This notice is not your tax bill This is the notice of the value showing what the CAD (County Appraisal District) thinks your property is worth from a Market Value standpoint. You do have the opportunity to protest the value!
- 2-There are TWO values listed. The first is MARKET VALUE - that is what the CAD believes your property is worth, without taking into consideration the Homestead Cap. The second is the ASSESSED VALUE - this is what your tax bill will be based on and, if you've had the Homestead exemption for several years, it will likely be lower than the Market Value. The Homestead exemption gives you a nice break on the taxable value for certain entities (including PfISD or RRISD). BUT, just as important is the "CAP" on value - especially after the "COVID Craziiness" that drove property prices through the roof in 2021/22. The CAD can only increase your Assessed Value by a maximum of 10% from the previous year. IE: a \$300k assessed value last year means the max assessed value this year would be \$330k, the maximum due to the Homestead Cap.
- 3-If you're going to protest your value (\$275k value on our lots-really?) you must decide at the beginning if you will hire someone to do it or go through the process yourself. Once you're on one path, you cannot switch.

Protesting your Market Value, even if your assessed value is lower, is a good idea and should be considered - the explanation is longer than the available space, so I will cover it in the next issue!

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 2024 _____ 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/		

