



# Neighborhood News

News and information for the residents of Wells Branch.  
Vol. 32, Issue 4, Summer 2024



## Celebrate Independence Day the Wells Branch Way at 4thFest!

4th Fest is brought to you by the WB MUD Recreation Department—Thank you!

**Roll out the Red, White & Blue!**  
If you haven't decorated yet, you better get busy! Let's show our Wells Branch Spirit.

Meet in front of the community center at 9:30am. The parade takes off at 10am. If

you've never been to one of our parades before, then get ready to see lots of decorated bikes, wagons, trailers, DOGS, KIDS, hats, motorcycles and floats. It's a grand event! If you wish to include a float in this year's parade, please contact the WB MUD Program & Events Coordinator at 512-251-9814.

### 2024 Parade Route (Departs at 10am)

- Facing west on Klattenhoff Dr. => Right on Alpha Collier
- => Right on Fronia Woodward => Right on Cervin Blvd.
- => Right on Wells Port Dr. => Right on Crystal Shore
- => Right on Klattenhoff Dr. => Return to KF Park

**When the parade returns to the Community Center, we kick off a day of fun events.** There'll be children's activities throughout the park until 2:00pm and free admission to KF Pool with games there from 1:00-4:00pm. The Kiddy Train will be all revved up and giving rides, there'll be balloon clowns and face painting in the courtyard, and inflatables and a rock wall in the park until 2pm. Be sure and capture a moment in the 4thFest photo booth. Live entertainment starts at 10:30am under the Big Tent behind the Community Center with the band, **Soul Shack**. Cool off inside the CC, visit the WBNA Silent Auction or stop by the Library table for a tattoo. **ALL FOR FREE!**

Concessions will be available from local restaurants and community service groups offering a variety of items to enjoy. Finish up the day with fireworks at 9:00pm at the Rec Center on Shoreline. *Please see pages 3 and 8 for more details.*

### WBNA 4thFest Silent Auction

Tuesday, July 4 | 9:00am - 2:00pm

WB Community Center | 2106 Klattenhoff Drive

Get ready to be dazzled at the 2024 WBNA "live" Silent Auction during WB 4thFest! Proceeds benefit the entire community. Monies raised help to fund the Easter Egg Hunt, National Night Out and Pumpkin Patch/Painting along with our participation in WB MUD Halloween Trunk or Treat and Luminary Fest. We also host several educational and safety seminars throughout the year.

Check out the amazing selection of gift baskets and certificates, goods and services donated by Wells Branch friends, neighbors, and businesses! Online bidding began June 21 and ends on July 2 at noon. Check out all the spectacular goods and services at **32auctions.com/WBNA4thFest2024**



In person bidding will take place from 9:00am to 2:00pm, July 4th. Here are some bidding tips to ensure your success. Remember you **MUST** have a bidder number to place a bid. Check in at the registration desk, it only takes a minute. Please note that the auction closes in stages, starting at 1:15pm. Event staff will be ready to help with the "Buy Now" option for any item.

Contact Margaret Sufke at 512-341-0428 or SilentAuction@wbna.us if you have an item or service you'd like to donate or if you'd like to volunteer, please see the sign-up link on page 3. We can **ALWAYS** use a hand. Volunteers are welcome and very much needed!

**A 4thFest Request from St. Andrew's:** Our food bank supplies are running low and our Pantry Program is busier than ever. As you head out to watch the parade, go to the WB MUD outdoor activities or head to the WBNA Silent Auction, please consider bringing a canned good or dry pantry item. We will have a collection table set up in the Community Center lobby.

## ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Inside this Issue ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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## Fireworks Safety Pflugerville Fire / Travis Co ESD No.2

Every year around July 4th and New Year's Eve, we are often asked the question, "Are fireworks legal around here?" The answer depends on where you are located!

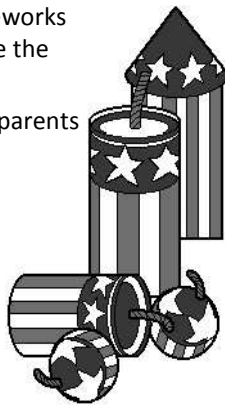
In unincorporated Travis County outside of city limits, fireworks generally are legal, but **THERE ARE SEVERAL LIMITATIONS**, some of which are listed below. Call the Sheriff's dispatch number (512) 974-0845 then press OPTION 3 for fireworks issues in unincorporated Travis County.

- Fireworks cannot be used on public roadways.
- Fireworks cannot be used on school district property.
- Fireworks cannot be used within 600 feet of any church, a licensed child-care center, a hospital, or a public or private school or higher-education facility unless the person received written permission from that organization.
- Fireworks are illegal in Travis County parks.
- Fireworks are illegal to use on Wells Branch Municipal Utility District (MUD) property, which includes all MUD facilities, parks, trails, greenbelts, the Pond, drainage detention areas, the veloway, and the grassy area located at Robert I. Walker and Charla Circle.
- For all other properties, you must get written permission from the property owner to light any personal fireworks – even if it's a commercial property not in use at nighttime.

Even where fireworks are legal, they are risky to use and cause many fires and injuries around the U.S.! The safest legal way to enjoy fireworks is to attend a professional fireworks show, such as the Pfirecracker Pfestival in Pflugerville or the 4th Fest in Wells Branch. Here are a few other fireworks safety tips:

### Make Fireworks a Family Activity

- Before the holiday, make a point to discuss fireworks safety with everyone in your family to decrease the chance of someone getting hurt.
- Never let children purchase fireworks without parents there – even older kids.
- Insist on adult supervision whenever fireworks are being lit – even for older kids. Children age 10 to 14 years old actually receive the second-highest number of fireworks burns and injuries, right behind preschoolers and toddlers!



**Kids who are younger than kindergarten-age should never be allowed to hold any fireworks on their own, including sparklers.** Sparklers reach temperatures hot enough to melt metal. Give little kids glow-sticks instead! Pass the sparklers to much older kids and adults to carefully light ONE at a time – ideally wearing gloves. Check out this PSA from the Texas State Fire Marshal <https://bit.ly/SparklersScary>



### Respect Vets, Pets, and Neighbors

- Keep in mind that the sound of fireworks can be very stressful for some veterans and others who experience Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). It also scares many dogs and other pets.
- When a holiday falls on a weeknight, remember that most people will be getting up early the next day and go to work. Please respect your neighbors' work schedule.
- Fireworks are poisonous to pets. Be sure not to leave behind any used fireworks where pets (yours or someone else's) spend time.

**You must get written permission from the property owner to light any personal fireworks there – even if the property is currently vacant.**

### Preparing to Light Fireworks

- Only light fireworks OUTSIDE on a flat surface that's far from any homes or buildings. Don't light fireworks near dry grass or leaves – you can catch them on fire.
- Before you light a firework, take a good look around to be sure there aren't any people or pets in range of possibly getting hurt.

**Don't lean over firework devices or place your hand over them when lighting. Immediately back up as far as you can after lighting! The body parts that suffer the most fireworks injuries are fingers, hands, eyes, face, and ears.**

### Safely Disposing of Fireworks

- Don't try to re-light fireworks that didn't work on the first try!

Thoroughly soak all fireworks, even the ones that did not work, in a bucket of water or with a hose before putting in the trash.

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***\*Mention this ad to support the WBNA\****

# Wells Branch Stats & Tips...

**See you at 4th Fest!**

## May Market Stats for 78728\*

2023:	2024:	
\$438,500	\$450,000	Median Price
10	17	Closed Homes
25	24	Active Homes
2.1	2.1	Months Inventory
\$261.85	\$250.87	Closed Median PPSF**
1659	1846	Median SF
33	27	Avg Days on Market

\*SOURCE: TX REALTORS MarketViewer, based on single-family resale homes. \*\*price per Sq Ft E-mail Pam for reports

Start the conversation - contact me today!

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Indications from the Fed's June meeting is that Interest Rates *may* see *one* .25 reduction in 2024 (as opposed to the *three* it was predicting Q4 2023). Now more than ever, pricing your house competitively is one key to a successful sale.

Here are a few others:

- 1. Preparing your home:** These days, buyers want an immaculate, move-in ready home. Starting with the curb appeal-make your house shine!
- 2. Great photos:** Professional photos are a MUST. Photographs are literally the first impression of your property and need to be good enough for buyers to want to see it in person.
- 3. Accessibility:** Will your house be easy to show, or will a prospect need to give 24 hours notice?

An experienced REALTOR® can offer you advice on preparations, repairs, staging, the pro's & con's of a pre-listing inspection as well as buy-before-selling and pay-for-updates-and-repairs-at-closing options. There is a lot to consider when selling or buying! My team and I are always here to help!

## Fireworks Location Reminder

Brought to you by the WB MUD Recreation Dept.

WB MUD will launch the July 4th fireworks display from the soccer field/detention pond on Shoreline Drive between the Rec. Center and Fire Station.

Please refer to the map to the right for designated seating areas. We suggest being in your seats by 9pm, as the fireworks begin at dark (around 9:30pm).

Although parking is available along the street and in the Willow Bend Pool parking lot, the number of spaces are limited, so we encourage all that can, to walk or ride bikes.

Please come early, bring your blankets, chairs, coolers and bug spray.

Don't forget to clear your area and pick up your trash when you leave. Thank you!

Questions? Call the MUD Rec Center at 512-251-9814.



## Wells Branch MUD

### 4th of July Fireworks Launch Map



- Fireworks Launch Zone
- Park area open for viewing
- Park area closed to Public
- Public Parking
- No Public Parking



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## The WB Fire Safety House: An Old Friend is Retiring

A community update from the Pflugerville  
Fire Dept. & Travis County ESD2



Assistant Fire Chief Daniel Berger contacted the WBNA team to provide an update regarding the "much loved and very well used" Fire Safety House. Dan shared that his team had completed their annual budget review. It was noted that the general maintenance, much needed repairs and storage costs associated with the 20+ year old unit had become cost prohibitive. Last October the unit had a few significant issues and that kept them from bringing it to the WBNA National Night event. The final recommendation is to retire the unit, as the costs to make the unit fully functional again outweigh future benefits. The wonderful Fire Safety House has had a great run.

The original fire safety house program was started with the support of WB MUD Directors, providing support for the National Night Out program to help educate friends and neighbors on fire safety as the main goal. Over the years the program had become hugely successful. Kudos to the team who were involved at the start of the program.

At the 2023 NNO event, there was new interactive equipment to train folks on how to put out a fire and over 100 residents became firefighters that night. Community feedback was extremely positive. There's also a new interactive CPR set up and the fire department is looking at a new obstacle safety course and some other educational tools. Asst. Fire Chief Burger suggested that this year's NNO would be the last time the WB Fire Safety House would be used (*assuming it can be made safe enough for use, the final status TBD*). But all the new equipment will also be at the 2024 NNO event and the community engagement program will move forward and be better than ever.

As always, the entire Wells Branch community is truly grateful each and every day for all our first responders at the Pflugerville Fire Department and Travis County ESD2. Many thanks to Dan and his team for providing this update and including the neighborhood in their planning process.

Stay safe and we will see everyone at the October 1, 2024  
National Night Out!





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## WBNA Summer 2024 Silent Auction Volunteers Needed! Are you ready to help?

Check out our electronic sign up page for event volunteers. Please visit <https://tinyurl.com/2024-auction-vols> to sign up. Want the secret exciting insider's tip? If you volunteer to help during the 4thFest Silent Auction you'll get a personal sneak peek of this year's auction goodies! Consider helping to stage the auction items, or how about a ride on the WBNA parade float? If you help decorate it, you can ride it—it's worth an early start! Want to experience the excitement of the closing bids? Volunteer to be a closer and get ready to move quickly. Whatever you choose to do—we can promise that you will have fun at the 2024 4thFest Silent Auction. There's air conditioning inside!



### Opportunities Include:

- **Monday, July 3rd:** Staging, Set up, Signage 9:00am – 4:00pm (several time slots available)
- **Tuesday, July 4th:** Float Prep, 8:30am (Parade is at 10:00am)
- **Tuesday, July 4th:** Silent Auction, many openings are available, bidder registration, runners, pick-up window and closers

Remember, it's our wonderful volunteers that really help make things happen. Please consider joining us, even if you can only give an hour or two for a single event or help out behind the scenes—your contribution benefits the entire community. Watch the WBNA.US website, follow us on Facebook and please consider volunteering at the 2024 4thFest.

## BSA Venturing Crew 1409 by Steve Dzurenko, Advisor



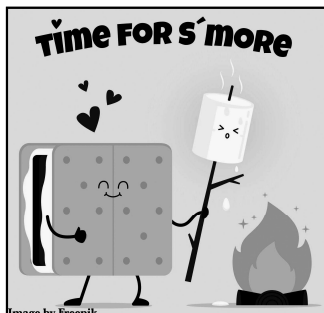
Venturing is a youth-led program for youth between the ages of 14 and 20. Crew 1409 meets weekly on Tuesdays from 7:00-8:00 PM at the WB MUD Annex at 14611 Wells Port Dr. For more information visit <http://www.crew1409.com> or email [info@crew1409.com](mailto:info@crew1409.com).

Crew 1409 is a diverse group of youth and adult advisors who enjoy all things outdoors. We have outings every month and go on week-long adventures during Spring Break and summer. We are a high-adventure group that enjoys backpacking, canoeing, and alpine snowshoeing. For our Spring Break trip this past March, we summited Guadalupe Peak, the highest point in Texas at 8,751 ft.

The Crew went canoeing in May and is just days away from leaving for our summer trip to hike Four Pass Loop in Colorado; a 26-mile trail around the Maroon Bells reaching an elevation of 12,500 ft. There is still a lot of snow up there, so we're excited to hit the trail!

Whether you're seeking adventure, looking to make new friends, or simply wanting to enjoy the outdoors, Venturing is for you.

Join Crew 1409 for s'mores around the firepit in front of the Wells Branch Homestead every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month. Come see what we're all about, or just enjoy a treat on us! We hope to see you Tuesday, July 16<sup>th</sup> between 7:15-8:00 PM for some s'mores!



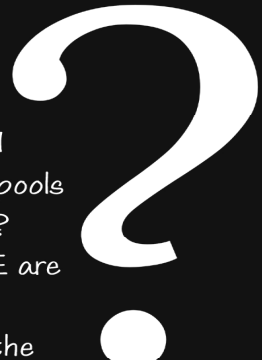
## WB Soccer Assn News by Gabriela Hinojosa, Secretary

WBSA wants to extend a giant THANK YOU for a memorable 2023/2024 season! We had over 450 players, over 50 volunteer coaches and managers and a bunch of great referees participate this past season. A special thank you also goes out to the Wells Branch MUD for providing us access to one of the best soccer facilities in the area.

WBSA is continually growing and innovating to provide the most affordable soccer experience in the area. The leadership is committed to offering quality recreational and competitive soccer programs for all boys and girls, ages 2 and up. Registration is already open for the Fall season. Please visit our website at [www.wellsbranchsoccer.com](http://www.wellsbranchsoccer.com) to register and don't forget to like us on Facebook.

## SWIMSUIT COLOR MAY HELP PREVENT DROWNING

Did you know that swimmers underwater are **INVISIBLE** to observers on the surface **UNLESS** they are wearing **NEON ORANGE, YELLOW or GREEN** in pools with dark bottoms and in lakes? **NEON PINK, YELLOW, & ORANGE** are best in light-bottomed pools.  
**NOTE:** This does **NOT** apply in the ocean as sharks are attracted to neon colors.



**REMEMBER: Drowning is a SILENT KILLER—always be vigilant in and around water.**

## Heat Stroke: Know the Signs Pflugerville Fire / Travis Co ESD No.2

During hot and humid weather, your body has a harder time cooling. When the body heats up too quickly to properly cool itself – or when too much fluid/salt is lost through sweating or dehydration – the victim may suffer heat exhaustion or heat stroke which is very serious. Below are tips on preventing heat stroke, recognizing its symptoms, and first aid. And remember: never leave kids, pets, or disabled adults alone in parked cars ... not even for a few minutes! Have a safe and enjoyable summer everybody.

### PREVENTING HEAT STROKE

- Slow down! Reduce, cancel or reschedule strenuous activities until the coolest time of the day
- Even if you don't feel thirsty, proactively bring and drink plenty of water (not very cold) or other non-alcoholic, decaffeinated fluids
- Prevent sunburn through sunscreen, sunhats, and minimizing direct exposure to the sun; a sunburn reduces your body's ability to cool down
- Dress in lightweight, loose-fitting, light-colored clothing to reflect heat and sunlight
- Eat light, cool, easy-to-digest foods such as fruit or salad
- Take a cool bath or shower
- Spend time in air-conditioned locations
- When the room temperature is hotter than 90°, don't direct the flow of portable electric fans toward you because the dry, blowing air may further dehydrate you

### HEAT STROKE SYMPTOMS

- Altered mental state or confusion
- Hot, red, dry, or moist skin
- One or more of these symptoms: dizziness, throbbing headache, nausea, shallow breathing
- Rapid and strong pulse
- Fainting or loss of consciousness
- Body temperature 103°F or greater

### FIRST AID FOR HEAT STROKE

- Heat stroke is a severe medical emergency! Call 9-1-1 or get the victim to a hospital immediately
- Get to a cooler setting, preferably air-conditioned
- Do not give fluids • Reduce body temperature with cool cloths or a bath • Use a fan only IF the heat index is **BELOW** the high-90s

The infographic is a vertical split diagram. The left side is labeled 'HEAT EXHAUSTION' and the right side is labeled 'HEAT STROKE'. The top of the diagram is split by the word 'OR'. A central human figure is shown with various symptoms indicated by lines pointing to different parts of the body. On the left side (Heat Exhaustion), symptoms include: Faint or dizzy (head), Excessive sweating (torso), Cool, pale, clammy skin (torso), Nausea or vomiting (stomach), Rapid, weak pulse (heart), and Muscle cramps (legs). On the right side (Heat Stroke), symptoms include: Throbbing headache (head), No sweating (torso), Body temperature above 103° (torso, with a thermometer icon), Red, hot, dry skin (torso), Nausea or vomiting (stomach), Rapid, strong pulse (heart), and May lose consciousness (head, with a sad face icon). Below the figure, there are two columns of first aid instructions. The left column for Heat Exhaustion includes: 'Get to a cooler, air conditioned place', 'Drink water if fully conscious', and 'Take a cool shower or use cold compresses'. The right column for Heat Stroke includes: 'CALL 9-1-1' and 'Take immediate action to cool the person until help arrives'. At the bottom, there are social media handles for Weather.gov/socialmedia and Weather.gov/heat, logos for Pflugerville Fire and Travis County ESD No. 2, and a Twitter handle for @SacramentoOES SacramentoReady.org.

## REMINDER: PLEASE UPDATE YOUR PET'S MICROCHIP INFO and MAKE SURE THEY HAVE THEIR COLLAR & TAGS!

Every year we see an increase in lost pets around the 4th of July, as they try to escape the noise and confusion of fireworks.



IF YOU FIND A LOST PET please text the Wells Branch microchip scanner volunteer at (512) 270-1026 for a free scan, or take the pet to your nearest fire station, vet office, or pet supply store such as Petsmart or Petco to have them scanned.

Please post on the Wells Branch Lost and Found Pets page on Facebook, Austin Lost & Found Pets, Pflugerville Lost & Found Pets, Nextdoor, and the Wells Branch Google Group.

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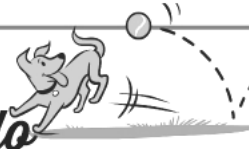
\*Includes Examination, X-rays (if diagnostically necessary), and Initial treatment/ Chiropractic adjustment

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## FUN IN THE SUN with Fido



**What is HEATSTROKE?** Heatstroke occurs when normal body mechanisms can't keep the body's temperature in a safe range. Animals don't have efficient cooling systems like humans (who sweat) and can get overheated easily.

### HEATSTROKE OCCURS WHEN PETS...



HAVE NO ACCESS TO SHADE OR WATER...



ARE EXERCISED...



ARE LEFT IN CARS (EVEN ON A 70° DAY)...

**IN HOT OR HUMID WEATHER.**

### SIGNS OF HEATSTROKE

#### IN DOGS

- rapid breathing
- bright red tongue
- red or pale gums
- thick, sticky saliva
- depression
- weakness
- dizziness
- vomiting
- diarrhea
- shock/coma



#### IN CATS

- rapid breathing
- redness in mouth
- sweaty feet
- stumble/stagger
- excess grooming
- restlessness
- drooling
- vomiting
- lethargy
- panting

### HOW TO PREVENT HEATSTROKE



**KEEP PETS COOL** in the shade, especially if they have certain predisposing conditions like older age, obesity, heart disease or breathing issues.



**PROVIDE ACCESS** to fresh water at all times and make sure outside pets have access to shaded areas.



**ON A HOT DAY,** restrict exercise and avoid places like the beach and concrete or asphalt areas. Do not muzzle your dog on hot and humid days.



**WET YOUR DOG DOWN** with cool (NOT ICE) water, or allow him/her to swim.



**TO HELP PETS COOL OFF,** freeze water bottles or fill resealable bags with ice and water. Wrap them in towels for your pets to lay on.



**DO NOT** leave your pet in a hot car, even if parked in the shade or gone for a short time.

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# Summertime Events

## WBNA Town Hall Meeting

**Ken Burns Commencement Speech:**

**Insights Into Democracy**

**Sunday, June 30 | 1:00pm-2:00pm**

**WB Community Center | 2106 Klattenhoff**

All residents are invited to attend this non-partisan civic event. There will be a showing of the recent commencement speech made by Mr. Ken Burns, an American filmmaker who produces highly acclaimed and in-depth historical documentaries such as Baseball, The Civil War, Jazz and so many more. Following the short YouTube film presentation, there will be an open forum to discuss the key points regarding how American democracy has evolved and why it is important to review current events through an historical lens.

## Wells Branch 4thFest

**WBNA Silent Auction**

**Thursday, July 4 | 9:00am-2:00pm**

*(with pick-up until 5:00pm July 4 & Friday, July 5 from Noon-5:00pm)*

**WB Community Center | 2106 Klattenhoff**

*Please see page 1 for details and page 5 to volunteer.*

**4thFest Parade & Activities**

**Thursday, July 4 | 10:00am**

**KF Park | 2106 Klattenhoff**

Line the streets and wave your flags at the FourthFest parade from 10:00am-10:30am! Cheer on the cars and displays that travel through the streets of Wells Branch and show off your most patriotic pride.

After the parade, snag free watermelon and explore all that Wells Branch has to offer with their flurry of free 4thFest activities. Purchase a tasty lunch from a variety of local vendors. Activities run until 2:00pm.

There is something for everyone at 4thFest, and there's no better place to be on the Fourth of July! *Sponsored by WB MUD Parks & Rec. Look for the parade route on page 1.*

**WB MUD 4thFest Cornhole Tournament**

**Thursday, July 4 | 10:30am**

**WB Homestead | 2106 Klattenhoff**

If you're driven to compete, try your hand at our cornhole tournament! Get your partner and test your skill in a face off with your fellow cornhole-playing neighbors. Pre-registration is required and spots go fast, so make sure to grab your place as soon as you can for a chance to take home the coveted first place spot! Check <https://wellsbranchmud.com/parks-a-recreation/events> for registration info. *Sponsored by WB MUD Parks & Rec.*

**WB MUD 4thFest Fireworks**

**Thursday, July 4 | 9:00pm**

**WB Rec Center | 3000 Shoreline**

Close out Independence Day with a bang, right here in the District!

Launching from the Recreation Center, witness the beauty of the dazzling fireworks show. No public parking will be available at the Recreation Center and no personal fireworks are allowed on District Property. *See the map on page 3.*



**WB MUD Dive In Movies:**

***TMNT: Mutant Mayhem (PG)***

**Friday, July 12 | 8:00pm | KF Pool | 2106 Klattenhoff**

***Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom (PG13)***

**Friday, August 9 | 8:00pm | KF Pool | 2106 Klattenhoff**

***Trolls Band Together (PG)***

**Friday, Sept. 13 | 8:00pm | KF Pool | 2106 Klattenhoff**

Float on by to our July Dive-in Movie event hosted by Wells Branch MUD Parks and Recreation! Cool off in the pool or relax poolside. Regular pool rules and fees apply, with no registration required. This leisurely entertainment experience has a maximum capacity of 80, and in the case of inclement weather, this event will be canceled.

**WB MUD Movies in the Park:**

***Wonka (PG)***

**Friday, July 19 | 8:30pm | KF Park | 2106 Klattenhoff**

***Wish (PG)***

**Friday, August 16 | 8:30pm | KF Park | 2106 Klattenhoff**

Grab a spot at our Movies in the Park hosted by Wells Branch MUD Parks and Recreation! Gather the family, pack up the cooler, and roll out the picnic blankets. The movie will start around sunset and is completely free to watch! Check [wellsbranchmud.com](https://wellsbranchmud.com) for information on inclement weather closer to time of event.

**July Open Mic Night**

**Thursday, July 25 | 7:00-9:00pm**

**WB MUD Community Center | 2106 Klattenhoff**

Showcase your talents and enjoy live entertainment at our July Open Mic Night! No matter the skill you want to showcase, this is your chance to shine among your neighbors. We invite all performers beginning or advanced to take the stage. It's an excellent opportunity to show off your skills and connect with fellow community members who share your passions, or simply cheer on your neighbors as they display their talent. Light refreshments will be provided for the whole family, so sit back, relax, and savor the entertainment. *Sponsored by WB MUD Parks & Rec.*



## Wells Branch Community Event:

### Back to School Open House

Friday, August 9 | 3:00pm-7:00pm

HealthMarkets Wells Branch Office

3407 Wells Branch Parkway, Ste. 890

Wells Branch families with school age children and community members are invited to join our team on August 9th for a fun-filled Back to School Event! The theme of this event is to go back to school healthy, happy and well-prepared. Local vendors will be on hand with info on check ups for the kids, vision care, and hair cuts, everything you need to go back to school. There will be backpack and school supply giveaways, kid-friendly activities, food and so much more!

## WB MUD Labor Day Casino Night

Saturday, August 31 | 6:00-9:00pm

WB Rec Center | 3000 Shoreline

Place your bets at the Labor Day Casino Night hosted by Wells Branch MUD Parks and Recreation! Rain or shine, adults 21 and older can roll the dice and spend your chips with a varying number of casino games. There's a range of prizes and refreshments at this free event, so there's no losing! This event is for residents 21+ and IDs will be checked at the door.

## WB MUD Holiday Pool Hours

### Free Entry & Open Swim

KF Pool Hours | 2106 Klattenhoff

Thursday, July 4 | Noon-8:00pm

Pool Games 1:00-4:00pm

Willow Bend Pool Hours | 2801 Sauls

Thursday, July 4 | 1:00-7:00pm | Open Swim ONLY



## American Red Cross Blood Drives

WB MUD Rec Center | 3000 Shoreline

Saturday, July 6 | 9:00am-3:00pm

Saturday, September 7 | 9:00am-3:00pm

Wells Branch MUD is partnering with the American Red Cross to host a blood drive at the Recreation Center. Donations are always in high demand, so save lives; consider donating!

To donate, visit the link below and enter the Recreation Center zip code (78728). Scroll to the option that says Wells Branch Recreation Center, and select your time to donate!  
[wellsbranchmud.com/parks-a-recreation/events](http://wellsbranchmud.com/parks-a-recreation/events).

## WB MUD Bulk Trash Days

WB MUD Parks & Facilities Yard | 13905 Thermal

Saturday, July 13 | 8:00am-12:00pm

Saturday, August 10 | 8:00am-12:00pm

Saturday, September 14 | 8:00am-12:00pm

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

## 2025 WBNA Community Calendar

### Photo Contest: "Wildlife of Wells Branch"

The annual WBNA Community Calendar Photo Contest is coming up. Our 2024 calendar was hugely popular and each and every image was amazing.

The 2025 theme is "Wildlife of Wells Branch", this includes critters, birds, flora, fauna—anything wild—including folks having a "wild" time in the neighborhood. Once again the contest will take place both live in the WB MUD Recreation Center main lobby as well as online via our Facebook gallery for viewing and voting. The WB MUD Rec Center will host the contest gallery and "live" votes will be collected in a drop box. You may vote often, but only once for a single image. Voting will take place online via the WBNA Facebook page at

[bit.ly/WBNA2025CalendarContestAlbum](http://bit.ly/WBNA2025CalendarContestAlbum)



As a reminder, anyone who lives in Wells Branch can submit up to six photos. The image format **MUST** be in **8x10 landscape** for the calendar. The only real "rules" are that images

must be taken within Wells Branch by Wells Branch residents. Please visit [bit.ly/WBNACalendarContest](http://bit.ly/WBNACalendarContest) for rules and entry information. **NOTE:** Please plan to provide an 8x10 printed image for display in the Rec Center gallery.



### Important Dates to Remember:

**May 15: Contest opens.** Use the online form and drop photo entry at the WB MUD Rec Center

**Sept. 1:** Contest closes and voting ends

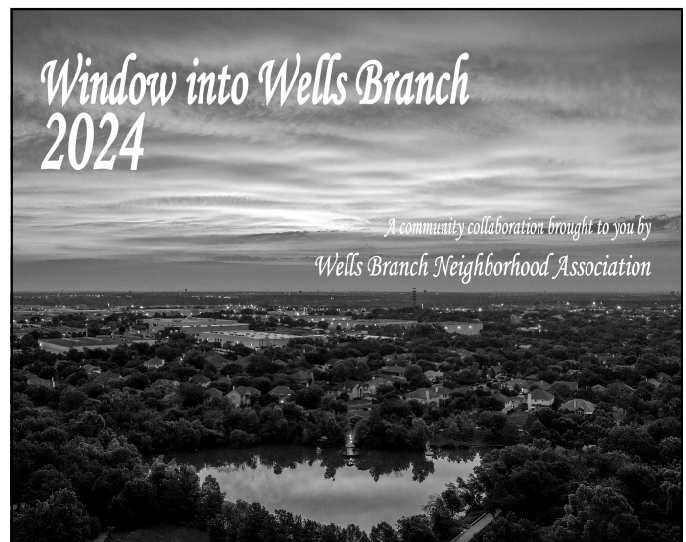
**Sept. 4: Winners announced**

**Sept. 28:** Early sales begin at the WBNA Arts at the Library Marketplace

**Oct. 1:** The new 2025 Calendars will be available at National Night Out

Questions? Contact: Margaret Sufke,

Calendar Contest Coordinator, at [mmsufke@gmail.com](mailto:mmsufke@gmail.com)



2024 Calendar Cover by Dave DeVore

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### Silver Branchers

**Meets every Thursday of the month, 1:00-3:00pm at the WB MUD Rec. Center, 3000 Shoreline, Room 100 / 101**

Open to active adults, the Silver Branchers bring neighbors together for camaraderie and fun. Join this welcoming group for social activities, board games, and great company. Visit <https://sites.google.com/view/wellsbranchseniors/home> for the 2024 Day Trip schedule. For more information or to join the email list, call or text Glen at 512-461-1665.

### Wells Branch Garden Guild

**Garden Guild meetings are held on the 3rd Saturday of the month at 10:00am at the WB MUD Rec. Center, 3000 Shoreline, unless otherwise noted.** Meetings are open to anyone interested in gardening.

If you are new to the area or in joining our group please visit our Facebook page to request access. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/WBGardenGuild>

Our group is also actively supporting the Wells Branch Wild group, chaired by Jill Douglass. *Please see her update on page 11.*

### Wells Branch Photo Club

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

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 help to those new to the hobby.

Our July meeting will focus on capturing wildlife images and more on macro shots for the community calendar contest. In August we will host a photo review session of the calendar gallery and member photos at the Rec Center.

**JULY 9** | Meet-up at 6:30pm | Mills Pond | 15108 Wells Port

**AUGUST 13** | 6:30pm | WB Rec Center | Photo Review Session

Watch for updates via the WB Google Group, WBNA Facebook Page, WB Photo Club Facebook Page, and [wbna.us](http://wbna.us). For questions please contact Margaret Sufke at [mmsufke@gmail.com](mailto:mmsufke@gmail.com).

### WB Drop-In Mahjonn Club

**Meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month, Room 101 WB MUD Rec. Center, 3000 Shoreline**

We have grown, please join us! The WB Drop-In Mahjonn club is a very active group. We typically have 3-4 tables going and play 3-4 games at each session. It's a great group of folks and there is always someone to help newer players learn the secrets the game. We can always use an extra set, so please consider bringing a set if you have one.

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](mailto:mmsufke@gmail.com) or 208-869-5224.

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## Water, Mosquito Control, Native Plants: Insight from Wells Branch Wild Conservancy

As the temperature rises during the hot Texas summer months, gardeners know that it becomes a challenge to keep the plants alive while conserving water. The presence of mosquitoes in our yards and parks is another challenge that faces everyone. Fortunately, native plants offer a great solution. Native plants are adapted to the local climate which make them ideal for hot summers and mild winters. Once established, they are drought tolerant due to deep roots that allow them to withstand longer periods without water, thus reducing the need for constant irrigation. Examples include yuccas, salvias, agaves, mist-flowers, and turk's caps.

In addition to using native plants the following options are available to save water. 1) Use drip irrigation such as soaker hoses instead of sprinklers to minimize evaporation during irrigation. 2) Harvest rainwater from the roof by collecting it in barrels and use it for watering. 3) Apply organic mulch around plants to retain moisture and control weeds. 4) If you have an irrigation system, check for leaks and only irrigate according to the schedule determined by WB's MUD.

Native plants can also help with mosquito control by acting as mosquito-repellants. Plants to select include lantana, lavender, bee balm, and sage. Non-native plants to consider include rosemary, garlic, marigold, citronella grass, lemongrass, basil, catnip, eucalyptus, and mint. Due to climate change mosquitoes are appearing earlier in the spring and even breeding into the winter in Texas. We want to prevent mosquito bites as these insects may carry a variety of diseases such as the West Nile fever.

Other natural methods to control mosquitoes include: 1) Remove standing water and regularly clean out features that require water, such as bird baths to eliminate breeding grounds. 2) Cover water storage containers or use mesh smaller than a mosquito. 3) Consider installing lightning that mosquitoes are not attracted to such as LED in outdoor spaces. 4) Sprinkle used coffee grounds on areas where there had been drainage problems to deprive eggs of oxygen. 5) Attract natural predators such as birds, frogs, and dragon flies by providing them habitats. 6) Use an outdoor fan on the patio or deck as mosquitoes are not very strong flyers. 7) Use mosquito dunks in a bucket of water to make a mosquito trap to kill off mosquito larvae instead of fogging, because fogging also kills other insects.

For personal protection, use insect repellent, wear light loose fitted clothes with long sleeves and long pants.



## Volunteers Needed!

### WBE PTA Facelift Painting Project

July 11-14 • Day and evening volunteer slots available.

Wells Branch Elementary School • 14650 Merriltown Drive

Have you walked the halls at WBE lately? They're looking a little drab.....which is why we're SO excited that under the direction of our new Principal, Ms. Negrete, we're going to give WBE a little facelift over the summer! This will mostly be done with paint, so we can show our bright Explorer blue and green a bit more than the boring colors that are currently on the walls. There might be a few other surprises in store too when students return in August!

In order to make this a success, we're asking for ANYONE who is willing to volunteer and paint **during the day or evening July 11-14**. PTA is providing paint and supplies, so we just need some extra arms to make it happen! The AC will be on :)

Please respond to [president@wellsbranchpta.org](mailto:president@wellsbranchpta.org) to let me know if you're interested and available. Also, spread the word to friends, family, and teenagers looking for some "fun" volunteer work - the more the merrier!

### Volunteer Opportunities at St. Andrew's

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church needs your help in reaching out to the people we serve. We promise that you will feel good doing this, and you can be involved as much or as little as you wish, and your schedule allows.

**Thursday night Homeless Dinner/Showers:** We offer this ministry every Thursday. It continues to grow in popularity. We open the doors at 5:30, and our clients enjoy meals, showers, and laundry services. Volunteers start at 5:30pm and leave at 8:30 – 9:30pm. However, we can accommodate your schedule. Email [edwardkopas@gmail.com](mailto:edwardkopas@gmail.com) for more info.

**Food Pantry:** We reach a variety of clients who face food insecurity from Wells Branch and the surrounding areas. With the help of volunteers, customers shop for shelf-stable foods, fresh fruit & vegetables, frozen meat, seasonal offerings from our church garden, pet food & child diapers.

Lots of volunteers are needed at the food pantries on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays from 9am to noon. We also need volunteers on Fridays to prep for pantry-day or pick up food at the Central Texas Food Bank. Email [landsmanlaura@gmail.com](mailto:landsmanlaura@gmail.com) for more info.

It's so very gratifying for us to make life easier for the those in and around Wells Branch. We have a great group of volunteers, but often need substitutes for them. That's why we're asking you to volunteer. Give us a try!

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### WBNA Arts at the Library

Calling all local area crafters and artists! We are excited to launch the **2024 Arts at the Library Marketplace** on **Saturday, September 28 from 10:00am—3:00pm.**

Last year's event was SO successful! This year's event will target hand-crafted goods, services, and artwork, utilizing a "farmer's market" layout for local artisans and crafters. Vendors are encouraged to showcase their niche market hand crafted products and personalized services. We will also host a small area for "Kiddo Crafts" for young entrepreneurs looking to learn how to market their work.

Last year's wide variety of products is what made the marketplace so successful! Do you make jewelry or work in wood, glass, clay, textiles or resin? How about painting, photography or home goods? Do you craft personal care products like soaps, honey, candles, or natural beauty products? Do you bake, cook, write or create music? We are ready to help showcase your talents.

If you hand craft something wonderfully unique to sell and you want to grow your business in the Wells Branch area, this event is for YOU

and all of Wells Branch. WBNA is organizing this event for the neighborhood to help promote the wide variety of locally hand-crafted goods, original artwork, photography, literature, music, and culinary creations. Fees collected for the stall space will serve as a donation to the WBNA organization, which in turn benefits the entire Wells Branch community.

#### Details for Vendors:

- Format: Open air parking lot with assigned spaces, Canopies recommended (10' x 10')
- Reserve a 10' x 10' space for \$25
- 6' tables available for \$10 (limited supply)
- Reserve a double space for \$40
- Small 4' x 6' open table space in the breezeway only \$20 (good spot for "Kiddo Crafts")

There will be an open stage area available for live performances, such as music, readings or story telling. Call 512-341-0824 (msg) to schedule a slot or sign up online at <https://tinyurl.com/ArtAtLibrary2024>



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

