

A newsletter
for the customers
of the Wells Branch
Municipal Utility
District

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Municipal Utility District

INSIDE: WELLS BRANCH LIBRARY BIRTHDAY

WELLS BRANCH

WORD



MUD asks input on new rec center

You can have a say in how Wells Branch's new Indoor Recreation Center serves you.

The MUD Board's Recreation Committee is inviting public suggestions about activities at the new center in a town hall meeting scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday March 26 at the Wells Branch Community Center.

The new center, adjacent to the MUD office at 3000 Shoreline, is on-schedule for opening this spring. **The MUD will host a dedication of the new center from 2 to 6 p.m. April 20**. The event will feature food booths, games and prizes for children and live music.

But the real star will be the long-awaited recreation center. Tours will give you a first look at what's sure to be longtime center of activity for Wells Branch.



ON SCHEDULE — The almost-15,000 sq. ft. Indoor Recreation Center is being built with a Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. matching grant.

Homestead exemption deadline April 30

Deadline for filing for a homestead exemption — which exempts a portion of your primary residence from taxation — is April 30.

The amount of property tax exemption varies from government to government. Wells Branch MUD grants a 20 percent exemption. That means that on a home appraised at \$100,000, the MUD only taxes \$80,000.

Once you've filed for an exemption, there's no need to file again.

For information, contact the Travis County Appraisal District at 834-9317 or www.traviscad.org.

SAVE WATER, SAVE MONEY

Column offers tips on conservation

Editor's Note: The MUD Board's Conservation Committee has been researching ways to reduce water usage and will provide this regular feature.

*By Robert O'Donnell and Donna Howe
MUD Board Conservation Committee*

By shaving off peaks of consumption, water conservation can reduce the rates the City of Austin charges the MUD. That saves you money, too.

- The single most effective conservation step that can be taken inside the home is to install low-flow showerheads. They use 30 to 70 percent less water while still providing invigorating showers.

- Toilet water use can be cut by up to 70 percent by installing low-flow or air assisted commodes. If you can't replace your toilet, place a half-gallon plastic jug of water or a toilet dam in your tank. This can cut toilet water use by 20 percent. (Don't use bricks — they fall apart.)

- Install low-flow faucet aerators on the bathroom and kitchen sinks. These use about half as much water without compromising performance.

Wells Branch Library marks 3rd birthday

Wells Branch Community Library celebrated its third anniversary Feb. 9 by accepting a special quilt made by the library's Afterschool Club. After reading *The Quiltmaker's Gift*, the children, organized by Children's Program Coordinator Lisa Johnson, sewed the quilt depicting the classic children's book *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*.

Above, Brendan Carlquist and Melissa Johnson were some of the children in the Afterschool Club. Others are Jade Alexander, Jeremy Boyum, Tara Boyum, Sarah Byrd, Isabella Cardenas, Joshua Matisi, Emily McCauslin, Emily Richardson and Maddy Rivers. The Afterschool Club meets at 4 p.m. Thursdays for stories, activities and crafts. Below, MUD Director Robert O'Donnell and his family — wife Janna, sons Aidan and Parker and new daughter Cara — look over one of the library books with Lisa Johnson during the Feb. 9 open house and children's storytime.



Take a look around and help keep Wells Branch beautiful

With the arrival of spring, residents are back in the yard, keeping Wells Branch the attractive place that it always has been.

That's important, because part of being a good neighbor is keeping your residence looking nice. It's also important because, in many areas of Wells Branch, a well-kept lawn is required by restrictive covenants.

Restrictive covenants are legally enforceable promises you made when you purchased your home. Even if you're renting, you're required to abide by the promises. Renters agree to abide by covenants when they apply for Wells Branch utility service.

Take a look around your home:

- Is your lawn mowed? In the growing season, ten days is usually the maximum you can let the lawn go before it starts looking bad.

- Are there grass runners over the curb? Edging helps neaten the appearance of a lawn.

- How are your fences looking? Do you need to replace damaged or missing slats?

- Are the beds weeded? Are the shrubs pruned?

The MUD has the authority to enforce covenants to protect the investments of Wells Branchers who work very hard to pay for their nice home.

From time to time, the MUD will send reminders to sections of the neighborhood about the need to spruce up the yard and comply with covenants. If you get a reminder, it's not meant to offend or embarrass you. It's just a neighborly reminder that we all have a stake in helping Wells Branch look as good as it can.

For more information about restrictive covenants, contact the MUD office at 251-9814.



WELLS BRANCH COMMUNITY LIBRARY

14735 Bratton Lane
Suite 210

HOURS

M-W 12-8
Th 12-6
Fri 9-1
Sat. 10-4
Su. 1-5

STORYTIME

Fri. 10:30am, Tues 4:30pm

AFTERSCHOOL CLUB

Th 4pm



March 20 deadline for board candidates

Filing continues until March 20 for three positions on the May 4 ballot for the Wells Branch MUD board of directors.

The terms of directors Donna Howe, Robert O'Donnell and Joy Smith expire this year.

Directors serve four-year terms.

Deadline to file an application for office is 5 p.m. March 20 at the MUD office. Deadline for declaring a write-in candidacy in March 25.

If no more than three persons file their candidacies, the board may cancel the election and save taxpayers the expense of an election.

Deadline for registering to vote in the May 4 election is April 4.

For more information, call 435-2345.

Checks and balances

Wells Branch's annual HealthFest Feb. 23 gave residents a chance to shake off some winter cobwebs and see what condition their condition was in. Above left, volunteer Gaylen Tipps from Trauma Services at Brackenridge Hospital inspects Anna Domkowsi's car seat as Anna's mom Mary and older sister Thea offer assistance. Above right, Connie Gutierrez, a registered nurse from Health South, checks the blood pressure of Boy Scout Troop 1409 volunteer Belinda Means.

Attends seminar

Wells Branch MUD's Angie Nett attended a Feb. 22 seminar on customer service presented by the Texas Section of the American Water Works Association.

Since joining the MUD staff last fall, Angie has taken on additional responsibilities, assisting District Manager Don H. Williams in serving customers.

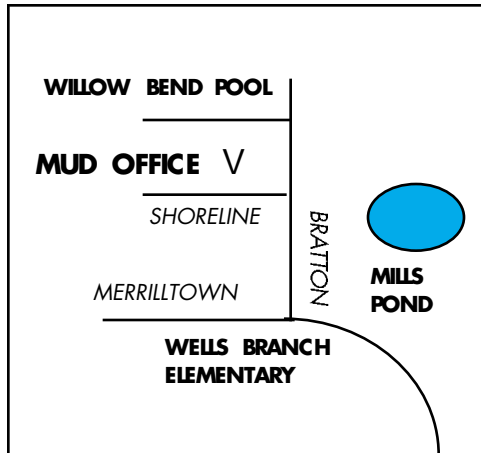


WELLS BRANCH WORD

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Stuff 2-Do camp summer signup begins April 1

Registration for the Wells Branch Stuff 2-Do summer camps will begin for families with All Facilities Family Recreation Tags at 8 a.m. Monday, April 1.

Only residents with the all-facilities family tag (available for \$112.50) may register April 1. All other residents may register April 2. Out of district residents may register on April 3.

This year, the Stuff 2-Do camp will be divided into three age-based programs based on the child's age May 1: Startlings (ages 5-7 and must have completed kindergarten), Juniors (ages 8-10) and Teens (ages 11-14).

For information, call 251-9814.

MUD's regular dumpsters help you take a load off

If your spring cleaning has you unearthing large items that you don't want, Wells Branch is offering you a new way to get rid of them, even when spring is over.

Beginning April 13, the MUD will have large dumpsters available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the second Saturday of each month at the MUD's Facilities Office.

The Facilities Office, which once was a fire station, is located at 13905 Thermal Drive, south of Wells Branch Parkway and across the street from Northwest Elementary School. For information, call 251-9814.

The dumpsters cannot accept paints, solvents, hazardous chemicals, whole drums, auto batteries, items with CFCs or tires.

Save grass clippings, brush and leaves for curbside compost collection on Monday, as usual. During the clean-up, you can order "cooked" compost for use in your spring garden or beds.

