

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

Vol. 15, Issue 9
Dec. 2004

© 2004, Wells Branch
Municipal Utility District

www.wellsbranchmud.com

WELLS BRANCH

WORD



Finger food

A young Wells Brancher literally digs in during the neighborhood's annual Thanksgiving Feast Nov. 20. The event celebrated an abundance of food, fellowship and music and welcomed Santa to the neighborhood

(More Photos, Page 3).



Save water in winter, save money all year long

Winter use

calculates

wastewater bills;

City of Austin

conservation

programs available

in Wells Branch

Wells Branch can save money year-round by conserving water during the wastewater averaging period.

There are no meters on customers' wastewater lines. To determine wastewater usage, a customer's water usage is averaged over three consecutive, low-demand winter months, when lawn watering and irrigation are less frequent.

The customer's wastewater charge each month will be based on the new wastewater average or actual monthly water usage, whichever is lowest.

It benefits customers all year long to conserve water during the wastewater averaging period. Because the MUD is a wholesale customer of the City of Austin, the City's Water Conservation Program is available to Wells Branch residents to help reduce charges for both water and wastewater. Some

programs include:

- Replacement of water-guzzling toilets with new 1.6 gallon per flush models. The City offers free toilets, plus rebates if installed by a licensed plumber.

- Installation of water-saving devices, such as faucet aerators or low-flow showerheads, which you can get from the City at no cost.

- Purchase of a water-efficient clothes washer and earn a City rebate of up to \$100.

- If you have an irrigation system, the City will conduct a free audit to identify leaks. In the meantime, turn off the controller and only run the system if there is no rain for two to three weeks.

For more information on City of Austin Water Conservation Programs, customers can call 974-2199, or visit www.ci.austin.tx.us/watercon.

Tips to keep water flowing in the cold

After a cooler-than-usual summer and wet fall, prognosticators are calling for a cold winter. Here are some tips to protect your water service during a cold snap.

Before a freeze:

Wrap all exposed pipes located outside or in unheated areas of your home.

Remove garden hoses from outside faucets. Insulate the faucet with Styrofoam cover, rags or paper.

Cover vents around the foundation of your house.

Know where your property's water cut-off valve is located and know how to use it.

In sub-freezing weather:

Let water drip slowly from inside faucets during a freeze.

Open cabinet doors under sinks where pipes are along outside walls.

If you're not going to be home:

Cut off your water at the property's cut-off valve and drain all outside water faucets if your house will be unoccupied for several days.

Or leave your home heating system on at a low setting. That may cost a few bucks, but it's better than returning home from your holiday trip to find your carpet and furniture soaked from burst pipes.

Holiday collection schedules

Because Christmas and New Year's Day fall on a Saturday, IESI's collection of trash and recyclables will continue on its regular schedule.

TexaScares will not collect compostibles (grass clippings, leaves and branches) the week of Dec. 27. Collection will resume Jan. 3.

To recycle your Christmas tree for composting and use in the district's parks and greenbelts, leave it at curbside before 8 a.m. Monday or Tuesday or drop it at the Community Center parking lot, 2106 Klattenhoff, by Jan.17.



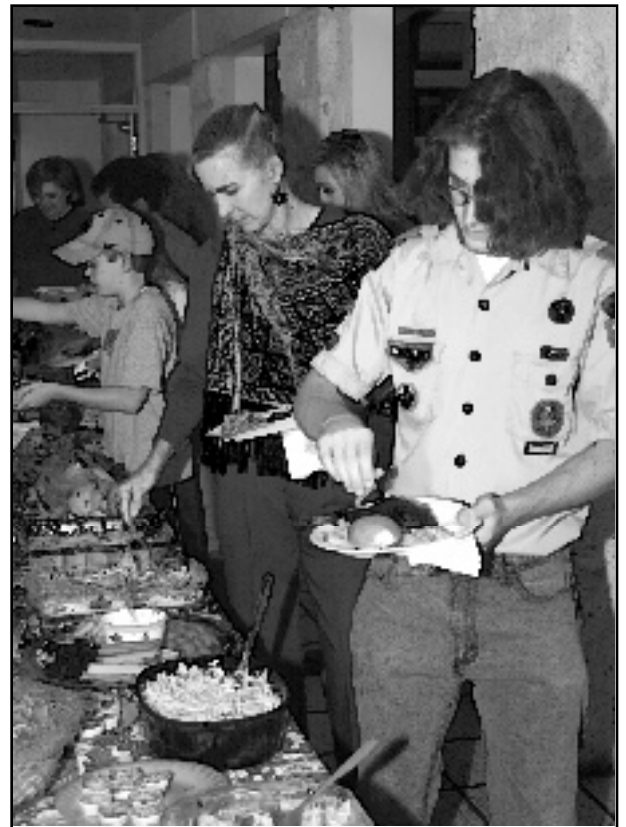
Costume ball

Wells Branch youngsters are all dressed up with someplace to go — the annual Halloween celebration at the Community Center. Here they join the Grinch for a game of beanbag toss.

(Photos by Robert Wood of robertwoodimages.com)



Thanks for the memories



Young, not-so-young and old alike enjoy the annual Thanksgiving Feast Nov. 20 at the Community Center. (Clockwise from top left) Santa, in his Victorian suit, makes his annual arrival and shares candy with the kids of all ages; Music is provided by the Generic Bluegrass Band; Wells Branchers line up for a vast variety of victuals and no one went away hungry. (Photos by Robert Wood of robertwoodimages.com).

WELLS BRANCH WORD

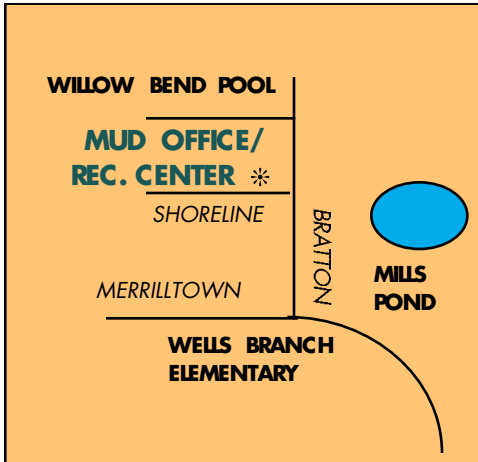
Wells Branch Municipal Utility District
2106 Klattenhoff
Austin, Texas 78728

PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
AUSTIN, TEXAS
PERMIT NO. 1696

<http://www.wellsbranchmud.com>

e-mail: info@wellsbranchmud.com

512-251-9814



Weekend of holiday fun set Dec. 10-11

Join your neighbors in Wells Branch in celebrating the holiday season. Beautiful luminaries will light the trails in Katherine Fleischer Park beginning about 5 p.m. on the weekend of Dec. 10-12. Other highlights:

FRIDAY, DEC. 10

Santa will be available to visit with children and pose for Polaroid photos (\$2 each) from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Homestead. Wells Branch Neighborhood Association hosts a potluck dinner at the Community Center from 7 to 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, DEC. 11

Come enjoy refreshments and entertainment at the Community Center from 6 to 9 p.m. Santa will again visit the Homestead from 6 to 9 p.m.

Throughout the weekend, keep your home's Christmas lights bright as judges determine the winners in categories including Most Beautiful, Most Effective Use of Lights, Most Original, and Most Traditional. For information, call 251-9814.



Set in stone

Wells Branch District Manager Don H. Williams greets former MUD Director Scott Gilmore (center), the Gilmore family and other well-wishers for the annual Dedication Grove ceremony. The grove features engraved pavers to mark family events, and includes the names of all who have served on the MUD board. Gilmore served from 1996 to 2004.