

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

Vol. 12, Issue 6
August 2002

© 2002, Wells Branch
Municipal Utility District

WELLS BRANCH

WORD



With water hookup, Rec Center officially opens

The Indoor Recreation Center is fully opened now after months of disagreement with the City of Austin over water service.

The center, at 3000 Shoreline, was dedicated in late April, but some construction items remained to be completed.

One of those items was connecting to the City of Austin's water service. Ironically, because the recreation center is just outside the boundaries of the municipal utility district, Wells Branch MUD — which provides water and wastewater service within its boundaries — had to rely on the City of Austin.

But City of Austin officials wanted the district to identify a city-owned underground water line and connect it to a new fire hydrant. The water line was not where it was supposed to be on city maps.

The district maintained that the City should know where its lines were and that the district should not be penalized when the City didn't know. Officials of Travis County Emergency Services District No. 2 — which provides fire protection to Wells Branch and neighboring areas — certified that they didn't require the fire hydrant. (ESD No. 2 has a fire station on the same block, just on the other side of the District Office.)

But the City officials were adamant. As a result, the recreation center was only available for limited activities. The Stuff 2-Do summer day camp could use the building to get out of the summer heat, but campers had to troop over to the District Office to use the bathroom.

After months of negotiation and meetings at the highest levels, the City finally located the line on its own, and the district was able to perform necessary construction. Wells Branch could then open the facility for the variety of activities planned for district residents.

RECREATION CENTER HOURS

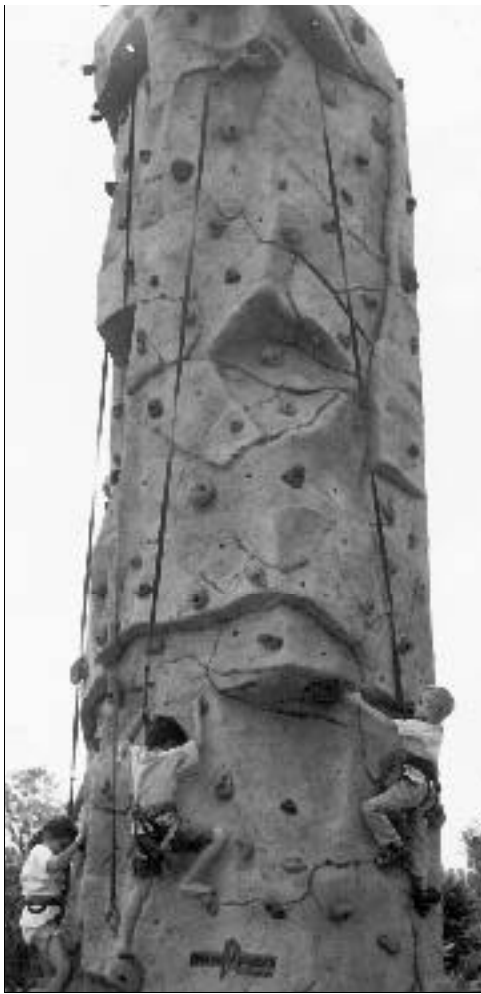
8am-10pm Monday - Friday
(enter via MUD Office 8am-3pm; Center staffed 3-10pm)
10am-10pm Saturday
1-8pm Sunday

WILLOW BEND POOL HOURS

Through Sept. 30
Lap Swim: 5:30-7am, M-F; Noon-2pm M-F
Open/Lap Swim: 3-9pm M-F; 1-6pm Sat. & Sun.
Oct. 1-March 31
Lap Swim: 5:30-7am, MWF; Noon-2pm MWF
Open/Lap Swim: 3-8pm M-F; 1-6pm Sat. & Sun.
(Tag holders may reserve the pool one week in advance for an hour after closing for lap swim. Call 251-9814 ext. 28)



Wells Branch MUD board members Donna Howe, Robert O'Donnell, Chuck Walters (seated) and Joy Smith are joined by Aquatics Manager Manny Woo and Wells Branch Armada Swim Team Pres. Janet Maxey to admire the Armada's trophy won as Divisional Champion July 8. It was the first Divisional Championship for the Armada in 14 years. On behalf of the swim team, Maxey thanked the MUD for support in the 2002 season.



The popular Rock Climb (above) was a different kind of "ride" after the parade returned to Katherine Fleischer Park. Wells Branch staffer Lanna Chapman catches a ride to her next assignment with MUD Board Member Scott Gilmore (bottom left). Brigitta Cersovsky of the Wells Branch Community Library had her own kind of style for the parade (bottom right).



Wells Branch FourthFest Freedom Riders



FourthFest 2002 gave residents a chance to ride in celebration of freedom. The Jiggle Bug (top) carried residents on a ride along the parade route. The Wells Branch Armada Swim Team (left), more accustomed to riding the waves, waved during the ride. County Commissioner Karen Sonleitner and Congressman Lloyd Doggett



man Lloyd Doggett (above) shared a laugh before climbing aboard their parade vehicles. Fortunately they rode in convertibles, since a brief downpour doused the parade.

FourthFest Winners

Event Winners:

Volleyball: Marc Kruse & Will Corbin

Parade Route:

Most Patriotic House: 15005 Doria Dr.

Most Unique Float: Boy Scout Troop #1409

Most Patriotic Float: Brownie Troop #1987

Best Banner: Girl Scout Troop #39

Best Performance: Wells Branch Armada Swim Team

Most Historical Group: Wells Branch Library

Best Wagon: Stephanie Gabbart

FourthFest in Wells Branch: it's always worth the trip

By Cliff Avery

Over the past nine years, I've taken a lot of pictures at Wells Branch FourthFest parades. It's a very personal parade for me. I train for it, you know.

The way I cover the parade is to take pictures as it passes by, starting with the Boy Scouts and the fire engines, then wait until most of the walkers and baby strollers at the end pass, then run to the head of the parade and do it again, in search of better shots.

It is a source of personal pride that, beyond my own half-century mark, I can still do this. Weeks before the parade, I'm puffing along, getting ready. I'm puffing a lot more every year, but I can still do it.

This year, with a new parade route, I thought I had it made. From the start of the parade on Sauls Drive, I could cut across an empty field to get back to the beginning of the parade, in no time. Piece of cake.

I am running through the empty field. Breathing regular. Nice pace. I'm cookin'. I have visions of Daniel Day Lewis slicing through the forest in *Last of the Mohicans*

In the distance, I hear some MUD board members, who shall remain blameless, in the lead cars of the parade, cheering me on. The county commissioner and the congressman, I suppose, are watching my progress, too.

Call Madeline Stowe; I'm on my way.

There is a little hill — no, not even that; it's just a rise — in the middle of the field. I'm on it before I know it. On the other side, much to my ever-lovin' surprise, there's a pretty pronounced little drop. Nothing to do, I realize, but jump.

I land. For a second, I think it's going to be okay but then the 50-year-old ankle realizes it's supposed to have Independence Day off. It buckles.

Forget Daniel Day Lewis. This is Jim Brown in *The Dirty Dozen* Splat.

I am muddy but unbowed. I raise my camera.

I hobble back to the parade, which is mercifully slowing to close up its ranks.

FourthFest is always worth it. It's the joyful essence of patriotism: people building families, building neighborhoods, building communities, building a nation. With pride.

Next year, though, I'm wearing an ankle brace.

MUD board to discuss budget at Sept. meetings

Wells Branch MUD directors will work on the district's FY2003 budget at their Sept. 3 and Sept. 17 meetings.

The MUD Board's Finance Committee has been crafting the budget and will discuss details during the two meetings.

The budget determines the maintenance and operation portion of the district's tax rate. MUD officials are hopeful they can lower the tax rate after a year that included major improvement projects, such as the Indoor Recreation Center.

The MUD board meets at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 3 and Sept. 17 at the Community Center.

Compost guidelines

1. Place your container(s) of grass clippings, leaves and brush at curbside by 8 A.M. MONDAY. Items placed at curbside after 8 a.m. cannot be picked up.
2. Please place grass clippings in the containers, NOT IN PLASTIC BAGS.
3. Place limbs which are too large for the containers on the ground next to the containers. Please cut the limbs — about 6 feet is an ideal length.
4. Do not put rocks, ashes, lumber, animal waste or other trash in the containers.
5. If you need additional tubs or information, call 251-9814.

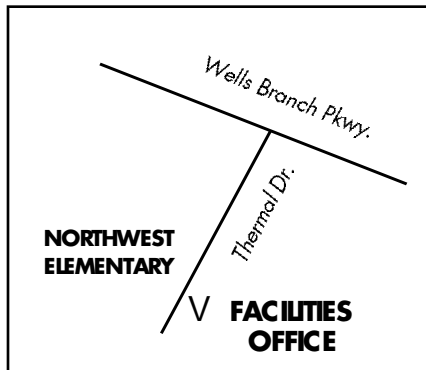
WELLS BRANCH WORD

Wells Branch Municipal Utility District
2106 Klattenhoff
Austin, Texas 78728

PRESORTED FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
AUSTIN, TEXAS
PERMIT NO. 1696

<http://www.wellsbranchmud.com>

e-mail: mud@wellsbranchmud.com



**DUMPSTER AVAILABLE FOR
LARGER-THAN-USUAL ITEMS**
2nd Saturday of every Month
Facilities Office, 13905 Thermal

Curbs can look gutterly awful

Restrictive covenants in Wells Branch require proper maintenance of your home.

A little attention at curbside can make a big difference in appearance and show you're a good neighbor.

Take a look at these photos to see what a difference a little string-trimming can make.

As you get your lawn ready for fall, take a few extra minutes to make the extra effort. It'll keep your neighbors from getting edgy.



Upcoming fun in Wells Branch

**Sept. 1 — Concert in the Park, 5-7pm
Labor Day Party, 7-10 p.m.,**

Community Center . Join your neighbors for live music, games for the kids and our annual casino night.

**Sept. 14 — Dog Days, 9 am-noon,
Katherine Fleischer Park** . Bring your pet to compete for plenty of pooch prizes — including Canine King and Canine Queen — and lots of people fun, too.

**Sept. 15 & 29 — Concert in the Park
5-7pm, Community Center** .

**Oct. 19 — Youth Fishing, 9 am-noon,
Mills Pond.** Children up to age 17 can learn to fish in this catch-and-release tournament. Bring your gear or use ours.

For information on these events, call the MUD at 251-9814.