

THE STAR

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2009

Concerts in the Park

DECEMBER 13TH, 2008

Submitted by Kristi Lee-Nordin

In the midst of a warm and blustery December afternoon, local residents enjoyed a Holiday Concert in the Park. The event was hosted by local businesses, the Steiner Ranch Homeowners Association and local non-profit organizations in celebration of the holidays and as a culmination to the Steiner Ranch Concert in the Park series. A big attraction was Santa who was on hand for pictures and perhaps a bit of whispering in the ear as to what was most desired in stockings or under the tree this year.

The Central Texas Blood and Tissue Center collected approximately 24 donations throughout the afternoon while the Four Points Business Association and other businesses accepted donations for the Travis County Sheriff's Association Brown Santa program. The Canyon Ridge Middle School choir, directed by Courtney Riskind, and the Austin Christian Fellowship band, under the leadership of J.R. Taylor, provided musical entertainment throughout the afternoon. Two intermissions featured demonstrations by the local studios of Villari's Martial Arts of Texas and Ernie Reyes World Martial Arts showing attendees that this form of fitness training is unbound by age. Plans are underway for the 2009 concert series. Comments and suggestions are welcomed and appreciated at kleenordin@cup-and-cones.com.



Santa and Carley Taurus



Games Provided by Games 2 U



*Neil Cooper and Kristin Dunderstadt,
Chefs at Lakeside Pizza and Grill*

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY	911
Fire.....	911
Ambulance	911
Sheriff – Non-Emergency.....	512-974-0845
Hudson Bend Fire and EMS	
Emergencies.....	512-266-1775
Information	512-266-2533

SCHOOLS

Leander ISD.....	512-434-5000
Cedar Park High School.....	512-435-8300
Canyon Ridge Middle School	512-424-7500
Laura Welch Bush Elementary.....	512-435-4750
Steiner Ranch Elementary	512-434-7100

UTILITIES

Travis County WCID # 17.....	512-266-1111
City of Austin Electric.....	512-494-9400
Texas Gas Service	
Custom Service.....	1-800-700-2443
Emergencies.....	512-370-8609
Call Before You Dig.....	512-472-2822
AT&T	
New Service.....	1-800-464-7928
Repair.....	1-800-246-8464
Billing.....	1-800-858-7928
Time Warner Cable	
Customer Service.....	512-485-5555
Repairs.....	512-485-5080
IESI (Trash).....	512-282-3508

OTHER NUMBERS

Lake Travis Postal Office.....	512-263-2458
--------------------------------	--------------

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

Peel, Inc.	512-263-9181
Editor - Kelly Peel	thestar@peelinc.com
Advertising.....	advertising@peelinc.com

MISSION STATEMENT

The Star, For Steiner Ranch

The mission of The Star is to provide the Steiner Ranch community with one source of local news content that is provided by Steiner Ranch residents. Our goal is to help build Steiner Ranch by connecting local businesses with residents and residents with relevant neighborhood information.

"Be the Community."

ADVERTISING INFO

Please support the advertisers that make The Star possible. If you are interested in advertising, please contact our sales office at 512-263-9181 or advertising@PEELinc.com. The advertising deadline is the 10th of the month prior to the issue.

ARTICLE INFO

The Star is mailed monthly to all Steiner Ranch residents. Residents, community groups, churches, etc. are welcome to include information about their organizations in the newsletter. Personal news for the Stork Report, Teenage Job Seekers, recipes, special celebrations, and birthday announcements are also welcome.

To submit an article for The Star please email it to thestar@peelinc.com. The deadline is the 9th of the month prior to the issue.



Custom Interior & Exterior Painting

- Traditional Interior & Exterior Repainting
- Custom Striping
- Faux Finishing

Every room, area, and outside of your home reflects your personality, presence, individuality and sophistication.

We take great pride in our work

FREE Estimates



Erick Erdeman

512-745-0706

Steiner Ranch Resident
15 Yrs. Experience
Trusted Member of the
Steiner Ranch BNI Referrals Group

Table of Contents

FEATURES

- 12 Locks of Love
- 15 Bowl for Kids' Sake
- 16 Eagles Jr. Pop Warner Football Team
- 18 Sunsets for Children's Cancer Center
- 28 Nursemaid's Elbow

AROUND STEINER

- 4 Wine Social
- 6 Steiner Ranch History Corner
- 7 Stork Report in Steiner
- 8 Steiner Ranch BNI Chapter Celebrates
- 10 Travis County Tax Bills
- 11 Steiner Ranch Fantasy Football
- 11 Spanis Train
- 14 Community Groups
- 19 Steiner Social Networking

BUSINESS SECTION

- 22 Creating Strong Vibrant Community
- 22 529 College Savings Plan
- 23 Three Business Networking Groups
- 23 Free Education Seminars

NEWS YOU CAN USE

- 24 What's at Stake
- 24 January Events at the Wildflower Center
- 26 Nature Watch
- 30 A New Year's Resolution for your PC
- 32 Adoption Coalition

KIDS SECTION

- 33 5 Second Rule
- 34 January Coloring Page
- 35 Kids Corner

IN EVERY ISSUE

- 19 Personal Classifieds
- 20 Calendar of Events
- 22 Business Classifieds
- 31 Teenage Job Seekers



Assisting Buyers & Sellers
with their real estate needs for
over 31 years.

Let MY experience make
YOUR experience a good one!



Check out my Steiner Ranch Neighborhood Website

www.steinerranchneighbors.com

This website was created for use by all Steiner Ranch neighbors for their needs and interests.

The website contains lots of neighborhood & area information. Please enjoy this website created just for you. Thanks! Diane

Take control of your own retirement!

- Are you tired of watching your IRA disappear every month?
- Would you like to have more control of your investments?
- Did you know that there are ways to use your IRA to buy real estate?
- Would you like to see what the growth potential of your \$60K in an IRA mutual fund is, compared to a \$150K real estate investment?
- Do you look at the "deals" to be made in real estate and wish you had money to invest?

If you answered "Yes" to any of these questions, let me help you learn about "self-directed" IRA's and the lenders who like them.



\$299,900

Reduced

- Beautiful Hill Country Views
 - Backs to Greenbelt
 - 3 car garage
 - 5 bedrooms, 3 baths
 - 2 Living + Bonus Room

Diane Kennedy, ABR, CRS

512-750-2950

Email: diane@dianekennedy.com

Website: www.makeaustinhome.com

www.steinerranchneighbors.com



Steiner Ranch Residents Enjoy Fun, Food & Wine at the Annual Holiday Wine Social

Submitted by Karin Wilkinson



Steiner Ranch residents enjoyed an evening of holiday cheer, amidst holiday decorations and breathtaking local artwork and great wines, delicious food, festive music and dancing and incredible door prizes at the annual Steiner Ranch Holiday Wine Social, December 5.

This year featured wines and food from FION Wine Pub and Bistro, delicious cheese party trays from The Market at Steiner Ranch, and Wildflower Bakery chocolate covered strawberries. DJ Mike Avilia, owner of Feel Good Muzik, was on hand to play festive holiday favorites, and local artist Chrissie Forbes livened up the walls with her beautiful paintings.

This event was made possible by our event sponsors, titanium sponsor Freedom Boat Club - Bill Marquardt, gold sponsors Wag*a*Bag and Armadillo Roofing - Mark Franz, and Silver Sponsor, Four Points Family Chiropractic - Dr. Ross and Dr. Harris. We also had many bronze sponsors who generously donated door prizes to the event.

In keeping with the season of giving, our residents donated an entire barrel full of toys to Brown Santa.

Pictures were taken by our own resident expert Sherwin Field of Field Photography. You can view more photographs of the event at www.fieldphotography.com.



A New Smile... A New You!



G. DAN DEVINE, DDS
COSMETIC DENTISTRY AND ORTHODONTICS

JULIA C. HAWTHORNE, DDS,
COSMETIC AND FAMILY DENTISTRY

We will gladly assist you with your dental benefits.

OUR HIGH QUALITY DENTAL SERVICES INCLUDE:

- PROFESSIONAL DENTAL CLEANINGS
FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY
- SEALANTS AND FLUORIDE
- ORAL CANCER SCREENINGS
- TEETH WHITENING
- CROWNS AND BRIDGES
- COSMETIC BONDING AND VENEERS
- TOOTH-COLORED FILLINGS
- ROOT CANALS
- ORAL SURGERY
- ORTHODONTICS AND INVISALIGN

Save \$50

On any Dental Services

New patients only.

Not valid with any other offer

(Limited One Per Patient)

Free Teeth Whitening for Life!

Why pay for Teeth Whitening

Our Patients get it FREE!

With completion of dental exam, cleaning, and
necessary x-rays. Available to new patients only.

(Limited Time Offer)

(512) 266-9585

2900 NORTH QUINLAN PARK RD. #160

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78732

Located in the new Shops at Steiner Ranch overlooking the UT Golf Course

Dr. Devine and Dr. Hawthorne are General Dentists

Steiner Ranch History Corner

Submitted by Rich Keith

As you are likely aware, the Texas Hill Country was settled by many Europeans. Here is a story about an interesting and unusual person. There is a street in Steiner Ranch named for Ferdinand Ludwig von Herff, who was a physician, and born at Darmstadt, Germany in 1820. He came from an aristocratic family, and his father was chief justice of the Hessian Supreme Court. While attending the University of Bonn, Herff lived with his uncle, the president of the university, and was able to meet many famous people. Studying under influential medical scientists and learning leading edge concepts and techniques, he began his medical education at Berlin and finishing in 1843. While a surgeon in the Hessian Army (1843-47) he developed ingenious techniques in plastic surgery and tuberculosis treatment.

Because of the political environment in Germany at this time, many Germans were emigrating, especially to America. In 1847 Herff helped organize a group composed mainly of university-educated professionals, Die Vierziger (the Forty), to found an idealistic commune in Texas. The commune was named Bettina and was located on the Llano River near what is now Castell. The enthusiastic settlers were ill prepared to cope with the harsh realities of the Texas frontier, however, and within eighteen months the commune failed. Herff returned to Germany convinced that Texas



would be his ultimate home. He married Mathilde Hoeffler in 1849. He rejoined the military, and his successes in treating battle casualties were attributed to his dexterity and his scrupulous attention to cleanliness which resulted in low infection rates. He returned to Texas, became a citizen, and dropped the nobility title "von" from his name.

He and his wife settled briefly in New Braunfels, then moved in 1850 to San Antonio, where Herff began one of the most prolonged careers in Texas medicine. There was no lack of patients, but most were poor, and Herff's philosophy that professional satisfaction was its own reward led to family hardships. Of necessity surgery was performed in homes, hotels, and even in open-air locations. His reputation grew as a result of remarkable medical feats, including the removal of two large bladder stones from a Texas Ranger, an operation which was Herff's

first use of chloroform and was witnessed by a crowd of onlookers which included Ranger William A. A. (Big Foot) Wallace; cataract removal resulting in the restoration of eyesight; the correction of a depressed skull fracture to alleviate traumatic epilepsy; and expert arrow removal (one victim traveled over 100 miles to obtain lifesaving relief). He also performed gastrostomy on a young person who had ingested lye, and at age eighty-four under primitive ranch conditions he operated on his daughter-in-law, who had an ectopic pregnancy.

Herff worked tirelessly to achieve high standards of medical practice. He helped organize the Bexar County Medical Society, the West Texas Medical Association, the Texas Medical and Surgical Record, and the Texas Medical Association and served on the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners. He was also instrumental in the establishment of San Antonio's first hospital. Herff shunned praise but he received many honors, including recognition from the University of Giessen and St. Louis College of Physicians and Surgeons. He died in San Antonio on May 18, 1912. For more information contact RKeith@primerica.com Rich Keith (512) 266-8498.

Sources: Dielmann, "Dr. Ferdinand Herff, Pioneer Physician and Surgeon," SHQ 57; Ferdinand Herff, ed. Laura L. Barber; Nixon, A Century of Medicine in San Antonio, TSH online.



YOUR NEXT MOVE SHOULD BE A HAPPY ONE

\$50⁰⁰ OFF

local Moove when you
mention this ad
(full mooves only)



SQUARECOW
MOOVERS

512.401.MOVE (6683)

WWW.SQUARECOWMOOVERS.COM

Stork Report in Steiner



Haylee Grace Pottichen

7 lbs. 1 ounces

19.5 inches long

Born:

October 23, 2008

Proud Parents:

Aaron & Tara Pottichen

Aidan Sweeney

8 lbs. 11 ounces

21 inches long

Born:

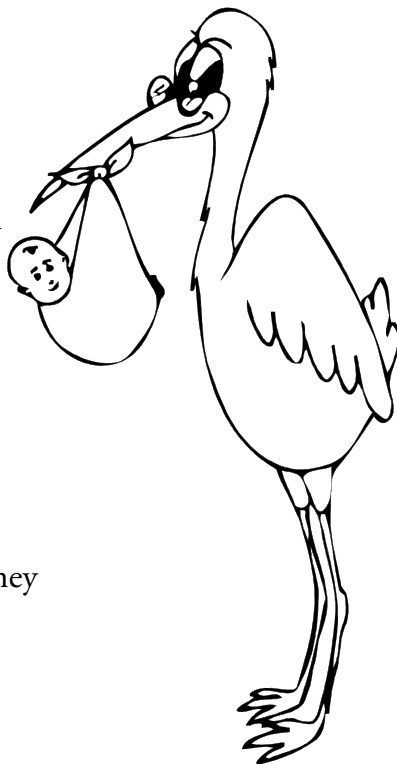
November 18, 2008

Proud Parents:

Orlondon & Lori Sweeney

Proud Grandparents:

Ruth & Bob Friedman



**With over 130 available
homes for sale in Steiner
Ranch it's to YOUR
advantage to know the
competition...**

**It's as easy as logging onto
www.Agent-Angie.com**

*Click on property search and
you'll have immediate access to
all available homes on MLS.*

Angie Noeth
THE Steiner Ranch
Realty Sales Specialist
(512) 695-7025
www.agent-angie.com


KELLER WILLIAMS
REALTY



Local Residents Celebrate the Holiday and Success for Steiner Ranch Businesses

Submitted by Karin Wilkinson / Photos courtesy of Field Photography

The local Steiner Ranch BNI chapter, Steiner Ranch Referrals, celebrated the holiday and their business success this December at a home built by one of their members, Premier Partners Homes. In a time when it seems more and more businesses are cancelling their holiday plans, local business owners were able to combine efforts and enjoy a great holiday celebration.

Businesses in Steiner Ranch are working together to create a better business environment, and having some fun along the way. Members of this group become very well acquainted with each others businesses, and this helps them promote one another through referrals.

If you are interested in being more successful in 2009, meeting other great business owners, and "refusing to participate in the recession" as BNI states, visit www.bniaustin.com for more information, and to see a list of our area businesses who are members of this fantastic organization.

The Steiner Ranch BNI group meets every Thursday morning at 8 a.m. at Cups & Cones, right here in our neighborhood. Please stop by and see what all the success is about!





Steiner Ranch Orthodontics

4302 Quinlan Park Road

(Across from the Welcome Center in the Vista Ridge Center)

266 8585

Come see the difference a Board Certified Orthodontist can provide. Dr. James Waters graduated at the top of his class from the University of Texas Dental School in San Antonio in 1996. He served a one year residency at the University of Nebraska Medical Center and practiced for two years as a General Dentist in Oregon. Realizing the complexities of Orthodontics, he sought to pursue ADA accredited advanced specialty education prior to offering this service to the public. As all specialists are required, Dr. Waters left his General Dentistry practice to attend a 30 month Post-Doctorate University. After graduating Valedictorian from the prestigious Saint Louis University Orthodontic Program with a Master's degree in Orthodontics, Dr. Waters moved to Austin in 2001 and joined the nationally recognized practice of orthodontist Dr. Robert Kaveff who pioneered many early treatment techniques and appliances over his 40+ years in practice. Dr. Waters worked side by side with Dr. Kaveff over the next year as he gained further invaluable experience from reviewing hundreds of cases and he learned techniques known only to those who have been in the specialty field for a lifetime. After retirement, Dr. Kaveff passed the torch to Dr. Waters who is pleased to open his new office to his neighbors in Steiner Ranch.

Come in and see our new office and see what Contemporary Orthodontics from a trained specialist can do for you and your family. *We provide more than just a smile!*

Meet Dr. Waters and receive your Complimentary examination today.
All insurances Accepted. Visa/MC/Discover.



Around Steiner

SIGNED, SEALED, AND DELIVERED:

TRAVIS COUNTY TAX BILLS FOR 2008 SHOULD BE IN YOUR HANDS!

If you own property in Travis County, chances are you already received a 2008 property tax bill. And if you are among the 114,497 homeowners who escrow through a mortgage company or lending institution, don't worry the mortgage company probably received the bill and will pay your property taxes. But you might want to check to be sure.

"All taxpayers or their mortgage companies should have received their bills," said Travis County Tax Collector Nelda Wells Spears. "Especially for owners of multiple properties, this is the time of year to make sure you have received all bills."

Spears said many taxpayers want the advantage of federal tax deductions that require paid taxes by the end of the year. Any payment postmarked by December 31 will be recorded as a December payment and the receipt issued will show the same.

"Some taxpayers believe that if they do not receive a bill, they are not liable for tax payment," Spears said. "Taxpayers are responsible for requesting a tax bill if they do not receive one."

Spears said anyone who needs a tax bill can download a copy at www.traviscountytax.org or call (512)-854-9473 to request a mailed copy.

Over the past several weeks, 258,543 bills hit mailboxes, Spears said. Seniors and disabled taxpayers may take advantage of a special provision in the law that allows for installment payments. Last year 2,427 persons participated in the program. She urged taxpayers to call (512)-854-9473 for details on what the law allows for seniors and disabled persons.

"If you can't pay all of your tax bill, please call or come in and make arrangements," Spears recommended. "Taxpayers will find it much cheaper to contact us than to wait for our office to contact them."

The deadline to pay 2008 property taxes is February 2, 2009. Those who want a tax receipt showing payment in calendar year 2008 must make payment on or before the last day of the current calendar year.

The Travis County Tax Office main location is 5501 Airport Boulevard, between Koenig Lane and 53½ Street. The office opens at 7:30 a.m. and closes at 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Drive-through service and two deposit boxes for non-cash payment are available.

Satellite offices offer convenience to those in East Austin, Oak Hill, Pflugerville and near Austin-Bergstrom International Airport. All satellite offices open at 8:00 am and close at 5:00 pm.

East Austin – 4705 Heflin Lane at Springdale and MLK Blvd (drive through service)

Oak Hill Office – 8656 Highway 71W Building B, second floor

Pflugerville Office – 15822 Foothill Farms Loop (drive through service)

Southeast Office – 4011 McKinney Falls Parkway (drive through service)

Call (512) 854-9473 for assistance at all locations.

See Graphic of Average Tax Amount - <http://www.traviscountytax.org/pdfs/081204.pdf> See Tax Office Vital Statistics - <http://www.traviscountytax.org/pdfs/081204.pdf>

Your Steiner Ranch Triathlon Coaching Firm

TrevAthlete.com

Train Smart... Race Fast!!!



- Train Where You Live!
- Beginners, Elites and Youth
- Private, Group and Online
- USA Triathlon Certified
- USA Cycling Certified

www.TrevAthlete.com

512-266-0432

STEINER NUTRITION 2009
THE DAILY SHAKE

New Years Wellness Challenge!

Challenge yourself to improve your health!
Join "Wellness Coach" Pharol Wheeler for a

- **FREE 16 oz. Smoothie** (Healthy, delicious meal replacement!)
- **FREE 16 oz. Energy Drink** (Fast, awesome energy!)
- **FREE "Wellness Evaluation"** (Reveals vital health information!)

Challenge yourself and let Pharol help you with your personal wellness goals...lose weight, increase energy, improve overall health...and more!

Pharol can show you how to "hit" your daily personal protein factor & daily caloric needs!



Take the "Wellness Challenge"...You're Worth It!



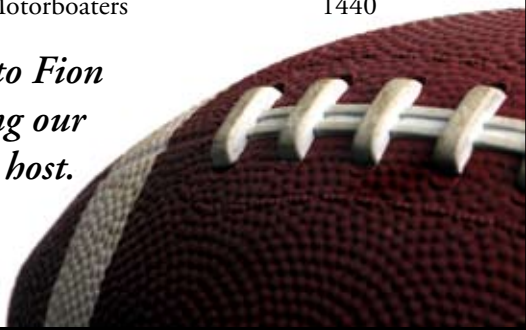
STEINER RANCH FANTASY FOOTBALL LEAGUE

www.steinerranchfantasyfootball.com

Steiner Ranch Fantasy Football Standings (As of Week 14)

Team	Total Points
Young Guns	2377
Bobblehead Wobblers	2343
McLovin	2273
One Asterisk	1988
Fat Toads	1968
Flux Capacitors	1899
The Scramblers	1850
Barrel of Monkeys	1825
Flying Monkeys	1799
Vikedaws	1783
Ask Abby and Dennis	1752
Motorboaters	1440

*Thanks to Fion
for being our
weekly host.*



Spanish Train

On Tuesday, Dec. 2nd, parents, grandparents and children from the Spanish Train Mother's Day Out program got together to celebrate the beginning of the Advent season. Mrs. Jade Polk and children Elizabeth and Thomas reading about the meaning of the Advent wreath.

Serving Lakeway, The Hills, Flintrock, Alta Vista, Bee Cave and Steiner Ranch.

Lakeway
Pet Nanny
"Love & Care, When You Can't Be There"

**Pets Home Alone?
Not When We're Around!**

Free Consultation

- Family Owned
- References
- Insured & Bonded



CALL 261-6297
www.lakewaypetnanny.com



Stacey Hurley-Rider
Realtor ®

12104 Estrada Court
Austin, TX 78732

Stacey@MitzkatRealty.com
www.MitzkatRealty.com
512.423.8122

Excellence in Real Estate
Listening to what YOU want!

*Your greatest treasures in life
can be found wherever you
invest your time, attention
and resources.*



Central Texas Real Estate

Mitzkat & Associates



Locks of Love

Submitted by Sandi Bennett



"We didn't know what to expect. 'We were hoping for 25 or 30 girls and ended up with 87!!!"

- Sandi Bennett, owner of Pigtails and Crewcuts.

The city of Austin and its people are known for their generous, giving nature. Pigtails and Crewcuts stepped things up a bit on Sunday December 8, with the finale to a seven month long "Locks of Love" campaign. The campaign started back in May. "We didn't know what to expect," said owner Sandi Bennett. "We were hoping for 25 or 30 girls and ended up with 87!!! "It was amazing. We are very happy with the turn-out. For our first year, we more than exceeded our own expectations."

Through-out the seven months the girls were treated to fun get-togethers hosted by local businesses; ice-cream at Cups-and-Cones, Karate at Vallari's Martial Arts, and Girls Night Out at JW Tumbles. "We wanted to really show the girls what a special thing they were doing. All of these businesses were gracious enough to open their doors and show these girls a great time!"

Stylists Alexis DeBose, Linda Coulombe,

Jennifer Ballesteros, and Michelle Lasher donated hours of time to cut miles of "locks" on Sunday, December 8th. A total of 38 girls and mothers were treated to FREE haircuts and styles by donating their hair to this worthy charity. These "locks" will be turned into hairpieces by Locks of Love Charity for kids who are in need.

Locks of Love is a charity dedicated to helping children, who have been stricken by disease that causes them to lose their hair, get new "hair" and a fraction of the cost. "It is a fabulous charity that children of all ages can be directly involved with," says Sandi Bennett. "The girls all looked so proud of their accomplishment, when they saw those long ponytails getting bagged. This year was a huge success and next year will be even bigger."

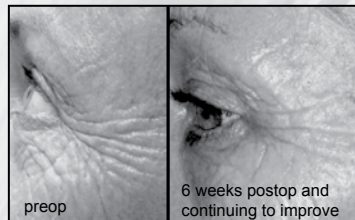
Signups for next years event will begin on May 1st 2009. Call Sandi Bennett at 512-372-3500 for more information.

New Year...New You- Look and feel your best in 2009!

SmartXide DOT Thereapy and Smartlipo Laser Liposuction

Lawrence D. Broder MD

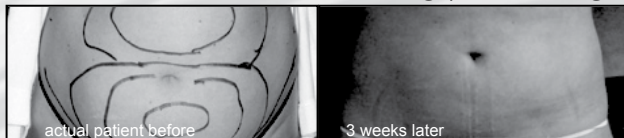
SmartXide DOT Therapy®



SmartXide DOT Therapy induces immediate skin tightening and stimulates new collagen growth, improving the skin's texture and tone to fight fine lines and deep wrinkles, and even acne

scars. One of the favorite procedures of Hollywood stars, it is taking laser skin resurfacing to a whole new level, making these stars look 15 years younger in a lunch-time treatment. WebMD has called it the #1 anti-aging procedure of 2008.

SMART LIPO™



Ask about our
SMART LIPO™

New Smart Lipo Laser Body Sculpting that melts fat and tightens skin. Perfect for those areas that don't respond to diet and exercise.

Mention The Peel, Inc Ad and Receive

\$500 OFF
INITIAL TREATMENT

SmartXide DOT® Expires 2/15/09

Mention The Peel, Inc Ad and Receive

BUY **ONE** AREA AND RECEIVE
\$250 OFF 2ND AREA

Expires 2/15/09

SMART LIPO™

www.BelezaMedicalSpa.com



beleza
medspa

CALL FOR FREE CONSULT...512.342.1911

10601 FM 2222 Suite L, AUSTIN, TX (In the Shops at River Place center across from 3M)

WE WANT YOUR BUSINESS!

Dear Friends,

Please forgive the direct approach, but far too many people are beating around the bush about what they want these days. So, here it is...

You've seen us in the newsletter for almost 6 months now and many of you have used our services and have even given us permission to use your words of encouragement in our website. We appreciate your business, but for the rest of you... **We want to be your Heating & A/C company**, and you will be well served when you let us be your company of choice.

We will charge you for our services, but the price will be fair and the value will be high! We also guarantee our work and will be there when we say. (Won't that be a bit of fresh air, no pun intended)

Like you, we work and live here in the same area, and want a fair bargain with no tricks and no games. What you see is what you get!

With us, you will know who we are; **This is from your friends who do your neighbors' Heating and Cooling and hopefully yours soon!**

Sincerely,

Will Hawkins, King of Comfort

We are also proud to announce we have opened our Plumbing Division! So you can now have the same great service that you get with our Heating and Cooling side. Our new plumbing manager's name is **Don Files**, he has been in the plumbing trade for over 30 years. If he can't fix your problem, no one can. It's the same number
512-328-2000.

This picture kind of looks like Don. Although, he is a little shorter and heavier, and his face is different. And doesn't have as much hair.



This is the Slowest time of the year for us. Needless to say, this economy isn't helping. So in order to keep my techs busy I am willing to pass on some great deals to you. **It's a win, win** for both of us. You get a great deal, my guys get to work!

So here it is...

46 point furnace tune up & cleaning, duct inspection, A/C check.

For only \$49! (The Total Tune!)

For an additional \$20 We will do a water heater tune up as well!

Just Call 512-328-2000



Master Lic. M19259



TACLB17866E

COMMUNITY GROUPS

WAYS TO BECOME INVOLVED IN STEINER RANCH

Steiner TechNet Wants You!

Submitted by David Dyke

If you work in technology and live in Steiner Ranch, we have a new community for you. This includes a quarterly social mixer in Steiner with opportunities to meet new neighbors, discuss business issues, find job opportunities and share best practice ideas, etc.

For more information, email David Dyke at ddyke@i-hire.com and join LinkedIn Groups Steiner TechNet.

Steiner With Out Kids Social Group (SWOK)

Submitted by Paula Kaisner

Did you know there is a social group in Steiner called Steiner w/o Kids (SWOK). We have been established since January 2006 and have had many couples join who've made new friendships. Whether you've never had kids or you have grown children you are welcome to join this fun social group. We get together once a month at someone's home in Steiner for food and drinks along with making new friends and/or enjoying old friends! It's a great way to meet other couples and form new relationships with people who also don't have children at home. For more information please email Paula Kaisner at paula@kaisner.org

Steiner Ranch Community Groups & Organizations

Are you a member of a community group or organization here in Steiner? Email the information about your group to thestar@peelinc.com and it will be included in each issue. Feel free to submit post event write-ups and photos.

Your Ship has Come In!

Experience the cruise vacation of a lifetime with these special offers from Holland America Line

Panama Canal

14-Day Panama Canal Cruise
ms Oosterdam 2/28/09
San Diego to Ft. Lauderdale

\$1,499* Interior Cabin
\$1,799* Ocean View Cabin
\$2,199* Balcony Cabin

Alaska

7-Day Alaskan Explorer Cruise
ms Westerdam 7/26/09
Seattle Roundtrip

\$999* Interior Cabin
\$1,319* Ocean View Cabin
\$1,749* Balcony Cabin



Holland America Line

A Signature of Excellence

Cruise Holidays is the oldest and largest chain of cruise specialty stores in North America. Take advantage of our passion and expertise in creating the perfect cruise experience for you - call us today!



Cruise Holidays of Northwest Austin

9901 North Capital of Texas Hwy #220, Austin, TX 78759
512-338-8880
diana@cruiseholidays.com
www.cruiseholidays.com/northwestaustin

*Prices are per person, based on double occupancy in the minimum categories, cruise only and in US dollars. Taxes and fuel surcharges are additional. Additional sailings and rates are available. Cruise Holidays is not responsible for omissions or printing errors; all pricing is current at time of printing and subject to change.



**EVERY PLAY,
EVERY GAME.
EVERY SUNDAY.**

Never miss a game with our NFL Football package

Come by and hang out for the game, enjoy the outdoors on our patio, or take it to go with our quick online ordering!

KIDS EAT FREE TUESDAYS

Valid with the purchase of one adult entree. Limit of three free meals per ticket.



*Now offering
Weekend Brunch!*

Hours:

Mon. - Thurs. 11am - 10pm
Sat. and Sun. 10am - 10pm

512.266.2330

www.lakesidepizzagrill.com

Bowl for Kids' Sake

Submitted by Connie Anderson

It's almost time to lace up your bowling shoes, don your Mardi Gras attire, and roll a strike to benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Texas (BBBS). For more than 25 years, Bowl For Kids' Sake (BFKS) has been Big Brothers Big Sisters' largest annual fundraiser. To thank participants for their contributions, BBBS hosts a free, fun-filled bowling party with team prizes! The 2009 Mardi Gras themed celebration (PG rated) will be held at Highland Lanes on February 27th, 28th, and March 1st.

Big Brothers Big Sisters mission is "to help children reach their potential through professionally supported, one-to-one relationships." This year BBBS of Central Texas has served more than 1,500 children and has been "ranked among the top five [agencies] in the country!" This success wouldn't be possible without community support, especially that of BFKS participants. "One hundred percent of the proceeds support the recruitment and screening of volunteers, and the professional support staff that check in with each child, parent, and volunteer on a regular basis."

Come learn more about BFKS at the official Kick-Off Party Monday, January 19th at Trudy's North Star, 8820 Burnet Rd, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. There will be door prizes, games, trivia, fundraising

tips, and team registration. Be sure to brush up on your bowling and Mardi Gras knowledge!

If you're unable to attend the kick-off party, there are several ways to be a part of Bowl For Kids' Sake. Gather your friends, family, neighbors, and coworkers to form a team of five (maximum) or register individually at <http://austinboxn.kintera.org>. The registration deadline is February 19th.

There are also corporate sponsorship opportunities and group/industry bowling sessions listed on the website.

For more information about BFKS or the Kick-Off Party, contact Meghan

Jones by phone at 512-472-5437 or email at meghan@bbbscentraltx.org.



I'LL BUY YOUR CAR!!

Fast, free appraisals; I will come to your business or home. I have been buying cars in Austin for over 15 years. Why drive all over town? I'll buy any make, model or year vehicle. Please call Patrick for your fast, free appraisal. (512)750-8289



**Down
Under**
Auto Sales

**Your
Steiner Ranch
Auto Specialist**



- ❖ Full Landscape Design/Installation
- ❖ Flagstone Patios
- ❖ Outdoor Kitchens, Pergolas, Fireplaces
- ❖ Water Features
- ❖ Masonry, Stucco, Rockwork, Brick, Concrete
- ❖ Outdoor Lighting



OL'YELLER
LANDSCAPING, INC.

512-894-0013
WWW.OLYELLER.COM

Eagles Jr. Pop Warner Football Team

Submitted by Ashley Goolsby



Titles won by LCP Pop Warner Div. 1 JPW Eagles during the 2008 season:

- Central Texas National JPW Division 1 Champions
- Central Texas JPW Division 1 Champions
- Southwest Region JPW Division 1 Regional Semi-final Runner Up
- (3rd in SW Region - Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Colorado, New Mexico)

We are so proud of their success not only athletically but also academically as over 85% of the team of 24 boys had a grade average of 93 or higher. Their record was 11-2, only losing one game during the regular season by 2 points and one game during the playoffs.

PHOTO CAPTION:

Back Row: Coaches: Tim Hargreaves, Richard Segina, John Dopson, David Bell, John Randolph, Allen Skinn, and Chance Mock
2nd Row: Gray Goolsby, Paxton Segina, Tom Harrison, Bailey Middleton, Nathan Steichen, Ethan Bell, Jacob Rockefeller, Travis Brannan, and Carson Skinn
3rd Row: Blake Killinsworth, Nolan Hargreaves, Reed Randolph, Garrett Anz, Erik Orta, Beveren Means, Ryan Dopson and Parker Ausley
4th Row (sitting): Jason Clemmer, Sean Dehne, Daniel Conte, Jordan Sproull, Conner Eskelsen, Cole Northcutt, and Zak Schoonover

Lakeway Pediatric Associates



Come meet the doctor for a no charge, no obligation visit. Call 512-328-2266 to schedule an appt.

- Friendly, personalized and professional pediatric care.
- School and camp physicals, sick and well child exams for your children from birth through late adolescence.
- Board certified physician.
- Accepting new patients and contracted with most insurances.

Shubha Adeni MD; FAAP

900 RR 620 South, Suite C 201, Lakeway, Texas 78734

Phone: 512-328-2266 Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9 AM to 5 PM

It's Tax Time! Call Jim

Tax Preparation Services

- e-Fax
- Reasonable flat fees
- Prompt service

Don't overlook those deductions and credits to which you are entitled. Even if you use a computer software program, there is no substitute for the assistance of an experienced tax professional.

Bookkeeping Services

- Hourly or monthly fees

James, E. Longmire, III CPA

512-970-2449/jlongmire@austin.rr.com

ABS, ABS & MORE ABS

Morning and Mid-Morning Classes!

NO EXCUSES

STEINER RANCH BOOTCAMP!

January 5 - January 30

Early Morning Class • M, W, F • 5:30 am - 6:30 am

***NEW!** *Mid-Morning Class • M, T, Th • 8:00 am - 9:00 am*
Child Supervision and Activities for Kids Ages 3 to 5

John Simpson Park

\$190.00 per Individual / \$290.00 per Duo

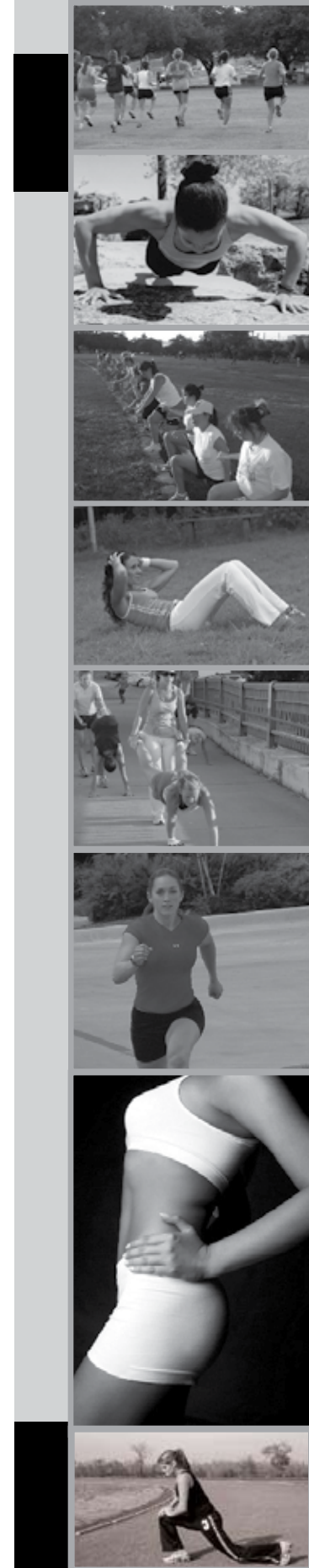


**You will drop weight. You will be tougher.
You will feel better. You will have a blast!**

512.656.2626

sarge@resurgencefitness.com

www.resurgencefitness.com



Sunsets for Children's Cancer Center in Austin

Submitted by Bill Marquardt



You could win the best Valentines Day Present ever. Freedom Boat Club in Austin Texas is raising money for the Austin Children's Cancer Center (www.AustinCancerCenters.com). We will be raffling off a Sunset Cruise for two on Lake Travis. Imagine toasting the Lake Travis sunset with a glass of champagne; all the while knowing that you are supporting in the fight against children's cancer.

Included: (\$900 Value)

3-Course Catered Dinner for 2

(Includes Wine and Champagne)

2-Hour Cruise on a 26' Sea Ray Sundeck

Tickets are only \$10. The Drawing will be held on Feb 10th in Steiner Ranch. You will have the option taking the cruise anytime this year with sufficient notice. (Excluding some major boating holidays)

100% of the money raised will be given to the Children's Cancer Center.

Let's fight cancer \$10 at a time. Email or call Bill Marquardt to purchase your tickets today. bmarquardt@freedomboatclub.com or 512-828-1666.

 AUSTIN TELCO FEDERAL CREDIT UNION		FREE CHECKING 200+ FREE ATMs
WWW.ATFCU.ORG		512.302.5555
HOME EQUITY LOANS 4.95% ^{APR} 5 Year Fixed Rate 5.40% ^{APR} 10 Year Fixed Rate 5.75% ^{APR} 15 Year Fixed Rate	AUTO LOANS 4.85% ^{APR} Up To 66 Months 5.20% ^{APR} 72 Months	COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE LOANS 5.99% ^{***} 5 Year Fixed Rate 6.29% ^{***} 10 Year Fixed Rate 6.49% ^{***} 15 Year Fixed Rate
MONEY MARKET 2.63% ^{APY} \$75,000 to \$124,999 2.84% ^{APY} \$125,000 to \$174,999 3.14% ^{APY} \$175,000 and ABOVE	SHARE CERTIFICATES Regular 3.44% ^{APY} 12 Months 3.55% ^{APY} 24 Months 3.65% ^{APY} 36 Months <small>A MIN. DEPOSIT OF \$500 IS REQUIRED</small>	Jumbo 3.65% ^{APY} 12 Months 3.75% ^{APY} 24 Months 3.85% ^{APY} 36 Months <small>A MIN. DEPOSIT OF \$5000 IS REQUIRED</small>
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center; flex: 1;"> <h1>14</h1> <p>LOCATIONS</p> </div>  </div>		
ACCOUNTS ARE NOW INSURED TO AT LEAST \$250,000.		
<small>*Annual Percentage Rate. All rates expressed are "as low as". **Austin Telco will pay all standard closing costs on Home Equity loans below \$100k. Additional non-standard fees will be the responsibility of the member. Credit qualifications apply. ***Rate applies to 1st lien commercial real estate loans with a loan to value of 80% or less; construction/development loan rates/terms may be different. No Pre-payment penalty. Please call for details. **Annual Percentage Yield. Penalties for early withdrawal may apply. Actual rate may vary depending on credit qualifications. All APRs, APYs and terms are subject to change without notice.</small>		

Peel, Inc.

Printing & Publishing

Publishing Community Newsletters Since 1991

Support Your Neighborhood Newsletter.

Kelly Peel
 Sales Manager
 Steiner Ranch Resident
 512-263-9181
kelly@PEELinc.com



Advertise your business to your neighbors.

512-263-9181

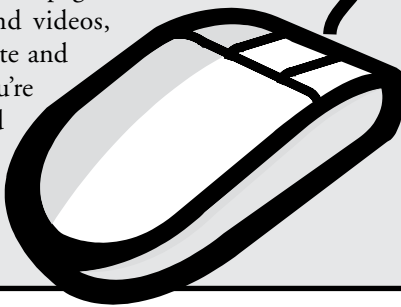
www.PEELinc.com

Introducing "Steiner Social": Steiner Ranch's Social Networking Website

Submitted by Peter Lubell

A website has been created for the residents of Steiner Ranch called Steiner Social. This free social networking website offers Steiner Ranch residents a new way to meet, network and socialize with your neighbors. Have a garage sale or block party you'd like to promote? Looking for people to join your poker game? Need one more person for a golf foursome? Want to put together a wine tasting, basketball game or book club? Want to just meet more people from Steiner Ranch? You can do it on Steiner Social!

Steiner Social allows you to create your own profile page, invite your friends and neighbors, share pictures and videos, send messages to your friends, post events, create and join interest groups and share local news. If you're interested in joining Steiner Social, please send an email request to Peter Lubell at palubell@sbcglobal.net. You will then receive an email invitation with the proper link to sign up. This site is for Steiner Ranch residents only.



PERSONAL CLASSIFIEDS

FREE SNAKE/REPTILE/CREEPY-CRAWLER REMOVAL for Steiner Ranch Residents. I will come to your house, capture, remove and relocate any/all snakes, lizards, spiders, scorpions, etc. for no charge, and with a smile. Call anytime. Snake specialist! 512-944-0633

FOR SALE: Violin, brand new, only used approximately 8 months. For info, call 658-7819

Personal classifieds (one time sell items, such as a used bike...) run at no charge to Steiner Ranch residents, limit 30 words, please e-mail thestar@PEELinc.com.

Business classifieds (offering a service or product line for profit) are \$50, limit 40 words, please contact Peel, Inc. Sales Office at 512-263-9181 or advertising@PEELinc.com.

New Solar Tax Credit

Save up to **70%** on your system.



By combining the new Federal Tax Credit with local incentives and our Steiner Ranch "Neighborhood Solar Program," it has never been more affordable to go solar. Contact us to see how purchasing solar with your neighbors is good for your wallet and good for the planet.

WHY GO SOLAR?

- Up to \$13,500.00 in city rebates
- 25+ years of savings
- Energy independence
- Tax free ROI

512.904.9006

| www.solarcommunity.net

| 2401 E Sixth St. Suite 4063

Calendar of Events

JANUARY 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 New Year's Day	2	3 Hike & Bike
4	5 Free Yoga	6 Facility Committee Meeting	7	8 Trails Committee Meeting	9	10
11 Dog Obedience Class	12 Free Yoga Organizing 101	13 Social Committee Meeting	14	15 Education Funding	16	17 New Trail Introduction
18	19 Free Yoga Martin Luther King Jr. Day	20	21	22 Retirement Strategies	23 Free Scrapbooking	24 Young at Heart Mix and Mingle
25	26 Free Yoga	27 SRMA BOD Meeting	28	29 SRROA BOD Meeting	30	31 Babysitting Training Dog Obedience Class

FEBRUARY 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Free Yoga Groundhog Day	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 Free Yoga	10	11	12 Estate Planning	13	14 Valentine's Day
15	16 Free Yoga Presidents Day	17	18	19 ABC's of Making Money for teens	20	21 Chili Cook-off
22	23 Free Yoga	24	25	26	27	28 Summer Camp Fair

ANNOUNCE YOUR EVENT

Are you a member of a community group or organization here in Steiner? Email the information about your group's event to thestar@peelinc.com and it will be included on the calendar.

The Steiner360 Team

No one knows your neighborhood better than your neighbors!

Kelly Thate

512.750.5777

ThateTeam@yahoo.com



Lenae Snow

512.636.1609

LSnow@austin.rr.com

*Let us assist you with all
your real estate needs.*

www.Steiner360.com



2701 Rio Mesa, \$405,000, Priced to sell fast!
*Gorgeous backyard, endless lap pool,
4 bedroom 3.5 bath*



12916 Appaloosa Chase, \$270,000, 1-story
*Open floor plan, true 4 bedroom,
walk to schools*



13113 Delphinus Walk, \$450,000, Greenbelt
*2007 barely lived in, over \$72K in upgrades,
huge backyard*



12525 Central Park, \$300,000, Greenbelt
*Rare 1-story with bonus gameroom
and half bath up*



13125 Zen Garden, \$262,000, Greenbelt Lot
*1.18 acres, uninterrupted panoramic
Lake Austin views*



1309 Horseback Hollow,
*Previously listed for over 1 year.
We sold this home in only 3 weeks!*

**57 homes sold in
Steiner Ranch during
the last 3 months.
Call for details!**



KELLER WILLIAMS
REALTY

Is Your Current Mortgage Rate Over 6%?

If so, **NOW** is the time to take advantage
of the lowest rates in five years!

**Call Joe Brown with Sente Mortgage
today for a quick estimate of your
monthly savings.**

Sente is an independent mortgage bank,
not a broker, that represents more than
50 lenders nationwide.

Joe has been a mortgage consultant in
Austin since 1985 and can be reached at
(512) 637-9108 or
joe.brown@SenteMortgage.com.

Austin Asset Management Co.

- Diversified investment strategy that complements your goals.
- Holistic approach to financial planning, we look at every aspect of your financial life.
- Fee-only services, we recommend what is best for you.
- You will always have more than one professional in the room to give you advice.

W. Eric Hehman, CFP®, CEO

512-453-6622

eric@austinassetmanagement.com
www.austinassetmanagement.com

*This advertising spot is offered as a free service to Steiner
Ranch residents. We are not affiliated with and do not
endorse any services shown here.*

Creating Strong Vibrant Communities

It's a fact of our global economy that consumers are drawn to the internet because of convenience. Why it is important to "Think Local Business First?"

1. Local businesses are often collectively our largest local employer. The largest growth of jobs is from small business owners.
2. When one dollar is spent at a local business, economists indicate it is circulated four to seven additional times in the local economy.
3. Every dollar spent locally generates up to 75% more tax revenue to our community and State.
4. Local businesses are often the largest financial supporters of neighborhood school programs, local charities and youth sports activities.
5. Strong local businesses help maintain property values and contribute to the character of our community by offering a diverse selection of goods and services.
6. Local businesses are most often the first job for our children and also the first introduction into the "real world" of economics.
7. Small businesses often innovate quicker and thus grow faster and can have a greater impact on our community.

Support the businesses in your community and "Think Local Business First."



Our clients look great in public, because they train in private.



10601 FM 2222, Suite N • (512) 241-1700 • www.ftaustin.com

529 College Savings Plans Make Sense

Submitted by Rich Keith

With college savings plans, students of all ages can save for all college costs, including tuition, fees, room, board, textbooks and computers. It's not just for kids: If you are considering going back to college or graduate school, you can open a college savings plan for yourself. You will save on taxes, and if you end up not going to school, you can always transfer the money, tax-free, to another 529 plan for your children or spouse.

Withdrawals from college savings plans can be used at most colleges and universities throughout the country, including graduate schools. Some foreign education institutions also may be eligible. Many states now offer at least one college savings plan that has no residency restrictions. You can live in Ohio, contribute to a plan in Maine, and send your child to college in California. However, if your state offers state tax advantages to residents who participate in the local plan, you'll miss out if you opt for another state's 529 plan.

College savings plans typically cover all "qualified education expenses" at eligible colleges, universities and other post-secondary institutions, including tuition, fees, books and supplies, equipment, room and board.

When you invest in a college savings plan, you pay money into an investment account on behalf of a designated beneficiary. Contributions can vary and are only limited by the maximum and minimum contributions limits set by most plans. Although the maximum contribution amount differs from state to state, in the majority of states offering college savings plans, the maximum amount that you can contribute for one beneficiary exceeds \$200,000. To further increase the amount of contributions you can make, you can open a second college savings plan in another state.

Most states also offer very flexible minimum contribution limits. Many require a \$250 initial contribution with subsequent contributions of as little as \$50. Typically, each plan gives you a number of investment options that allow you to invest in various

(Continued on Page 25)

BUSINESS CLASSIFIEDS

FOUR POINTS TUTORING, offers one-on-one tutoring in all core academic subjects. We serve all ages, pre – kindergarten through adult. Our tutors are experienced educators that are passionate about helping students learn! For further information contact us at 512-497-4355 or Fourpointstutoring@sbcglobal.net.

Science & Math Tutoring @ Steiner Ranch: College/High school: CHEMISTRY, all MATH, PHYSICS. **Middle/Elementary School:** Math Homework Help, PACE, TAKS, Math Enrichment Programs. Many References! **Dr. Anjali Sharad** @ 512 853 9624 or excel.science@gmail.com

Three Business Networking Groups in the Area

Are you looking to grow your business in 2009? If so, you might be interested in a few of the business networking groups in the area. There are a few to choose from: **Steiner Ranch Referrals BNI Group**

Meetings are on Thursday mornings from 8:00 to 9:30 at Cups and Cones in Steiner Ranch. Visitors are welcome! If you are interested in visiting a meeting please contact Elicia Rudberg at Elicia@AustinRelocationResource.com for more information or visit www.BNIAustin.com.

Four Points BNI

Meetings are on Wednesday at lunch from 11:30 to 1:00 at the River Place Country Club. Visitors are welcome! If you are interested in visiting a meeting please contact Amy Oehler at Amy@Lending360.net or visit www.BNIAustin.com.

A Business Referral Group Made Fun

Networking Northwest Austin is expanding its member base of businesses in our area. NWNWA members build close business and personal relationships. We believe in business by referrals and having a limited member base (not duplicating professions), so you will not see your competitors here. We have a caring, positive, involved group of people who not only wish to build their business, but also want to build the strength of our networking group. NWNWA meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday at Waterloo Ice House, 360 & FM 2222 from 7:00 am – 8:30am. And a fun happy hour once per month at a beautiful location. Come to a breakfast or call Dorothy Scarborough – President dscarborough5@austin.rr.com, 512-589-3678.

Free Educational Seminars in Personal Finance

- Education Funding, January 15
- New Retirement Strategies, January 22
- Estate Planning and Long Term Care, February 12
- ABCs of Making Money for Teens, Feb 19 (for teens)
- ABCs of Talking to Your Kids About Money, March 12 (for parents)
- Women and Finance, April 2
- Money 101 for your 401(k), March 26 - Satisfies IRS 404(c) educational requirements for employers.

All seminars are free, educational and with no obligation. Seminars are held in Steiner Ranch. To RSVP contact rkeith@primerica.com Rich Keith (512) 266-8498.

River Place Country Club
4207 River Place Boulevard
Austin, Texas 78730

RIVER PLACE
COUNTRY CLUB

Phone: 512.346.1114
Fax: 512.346.0527
www.riverplaceclub.com

Give the Gift of Membership

**Come and Enjoy Everything Membership has to offer:
Golf, Tennis, Fitness, Swimming, Dining and Social Events.**

Join Now through January 31st and receive (4) 30 minute Personal Training packages to start the New Year off right!

What are your Kids Doing after school? Join the Fun this Spring!

Junior Programs are offered after school every day from January through May. Our programs include: Golf, Tennis, Tap, Tumbling, Ballet, and Hip Hop.

***Membership is Not Required to Trial After School Programs
Visit us online to view our 2009 Spring Junior Programs.**

Please call Raquel Hebben, the Membership Director if you would like to receive information regarding Membership, Spring Junior Programs, or to schedule a personal tour of our facilities!

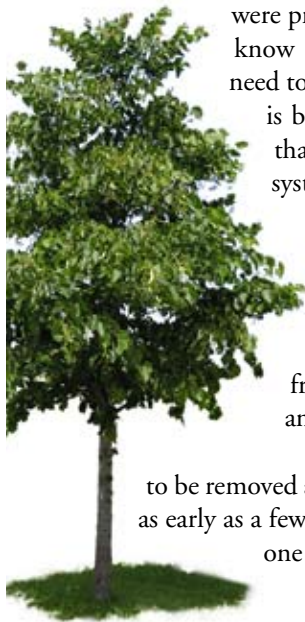
The Dominion



Golf Group

River Place • The Dominion • Onion Creek • Twin Creeks

What's at Stake? *The Health of Your Trees*



Most of us have trees in our front yards that were provided by our home builders. Did you know that the stakes supporting these trees need to be removed within the first year? This is because stakes provide artificial support that replaces a supportive trunk and root system.

Movement of the trunk helps strengthen the tree by thickening it and giving it taper from bottom to top. Trunk movement also stimulates root growth. The artificial support from the stakes leaves tree trunks weak and their root systems less developed.

Bottom line - all staking material needs to be removed after roots have established. This can be as early as a few months, but should be no longer than one growing season.

January Events at the Wildflower Center

Free Admission entire month of January

Rainwater Collection Weekend

Make the most of winter rain with the book and DVD, "Rainwater Collection for the Mechanically Challenged." Free bottle of fresh-from-the-clouds drinking water with each purchase of a rainwater collection product. Saturday and Sunday, January 10 and 11.

Keith Steber and Barbara Irwin Exhibits

Mixed media and oil paintings by Steber and found object flower art by Irwin in the store. January 17 through March 15

Tree Talk & Winter Walk

Find the trees and shrubs you need at the sale and learn all about Texas tree species with walks and talks led by Wildflower Center staff and local tree experts. Book signing at the store and 20 percent off tree books. 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday, January 24

Winter Clearance at the store

Final reductions on seasonal goods. Saturday, January 31

PERRY HOMES IN THE HIGHLANDS AT CRYSTAL FALLS

H I L L C O U N T R Y L I V I N G A T I T S F I N E S T



FROM THE \$270s - \$590s 2,500 - 7,000 SQ. FT.

Tour our Model Home and
receive a **FREE** gift.

512.260.2090

PERRYHOMES.com

Driving Directions: From Highway 183 / Austin, travel Highway 183 North and exit FM 1431. Turn left on FM 1431 and then right on Lakeline Boulevard. Take Lakeline Boulevard to Osage Drive and turn left into the community. Turn left on Highland Trail. The Sales Center is on the right.

Offers, plans, prices and availability are subject to change without notice. 12/08

529 College Savings Plan- (Continued from Page 22)

mutual fund portfolios. Some college savings plans offer age-based mutual fund portfolios. When the child is younger, the portfolio typically invests mostly in stock funds, which carry a higher risk, but higher return potential. As your child grows older, the asset allocation becomes increasingly conservative as it gradually shifts to bond funds and other fixed-income funds.

Many states also offer non-age-based investment options, allowing you to select portfolios with conservative, moderate and aggressive asset allocations. The IRS allows you to change your investment options once every calendar year in a college savings plan.

Investing in college savings plans does come with some risk. Unlike prepaid tuition plans, they don't lock in tuition prices. Nor does the state back or guarantee the investments. There also is the risk with most college savings plan investment options that you may lose money or your investment may not grow enough to pay for college.

Fees, charges and expenses. All 529 plans have fees and expenses. Not only do these charges vary among 529 plans, but also they can vary within a single 529 plan. It is very important to take fees and expenses into account when selecting a college savings plan. Slightly larger fees and expenses can make a big difference in the value of your investment over time. Let's say you invest \$10,000 in a college savings plan with a return of 8% before expenses. With a plan that had annual administration and operating expenses of 3.03%, after 18

years, you would end up with only \$22,966.81. If the college savings plan had expenses of 0.65%, you would end up with \$35,534—a 35% difference!

Before buying a 529 plan, you should find out about the particular plan you are considering, and be sure you understand the plan's description of fees and expenses. Work with your financial professional to help you make the right choices.



View the Kids' Club Contest
Winners online each month at
www.peelinc.com/kidsclub.php



Divorce Options

*An educational seminar
for individuals facing divorce*

Presented by
Independent Collaborative and
Family Law Attorneys

Amanda Andrae | 512.382.2989
Catherine Benouis | 512.479.7990
Amy Lambert | 512.472.1919
Cristi Trusler | 512.481.0330
Melissa Williams | 512.477.5448

the next **DIVORCE OPTIONS** seminar will be held on
Thursday, January 22, 2009
6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Mira Vista Building
2705 Bee Caves Road, Suite 300, Austin, Texas 78746

Divorce Options is an informational session about various divorce process alternatives available in Texas, followed by question and answer time.
No individual advice will be given.

Limited space available; reserve your spot by calling Erika at 512.477.5448

For more information: www.texasdivorceoptions.com



**The New Year's Resolution
You Need to Keep.**

*Find an Investment Advisor
that cares about my portfolio.*

At Solaris Private Wealth Management, we care about our clients and their financial well-being.
That's why we are an independent, fee-only
Registered Investment Advisor.

512.687.3184 www.SolarisPWM.com

9442 Capital of Texas Highway, Arboretum Plaza One #500 Austin, TX 78759

NatureWatch

by Jim and Lynne Weber

The Cunning Coyote

Although the coyote has been (and continues to be) one of the most persecuted mammals in human history, this is largely due to the common misconceptions and myths that surround the species. Add the fact that they are a highly intelligent animal with keen senses of hearing, sight, and smell, and you can easily see why they are the subject of such scrutiny.

About the size of a small German shepherd, the coyote weighs an average of 25 to 40 pounds, with long, slender legs, a bushy tail with a black tip, and large ears that are held erect. While its coat can vary, it is usually grey or buff-colored and its snout is long and slender. A strong swimmer, the coyote characteristically runs with its tail down, instead of horizontally



like foxes or up like wolves and dogs. Primarily nocturnal and very opportunistic, coyotes will eat almost anything, but in Texas they prefer rabbits, rodents, and insects. Because coyotes can utilize many different food sources and humans have all but exterminated its main predator, the wolf, coyotes have rapidly spread to all parts of the country, including urban and suburban areas.

Considered monogamous with pairs living together for several years, coyotes are usually shy and elusive, but are frequently seen individually, in pairs, or in small groups, especially when near food. A family group, more commonly known as a pack, consists of the parents, their pups, and, occasionally, the previous year's pups. Male and female coyotes pair up, establish a territory, and breed from mid-January to early March. Normally

(Continued on Page 27)

Flute Lessons

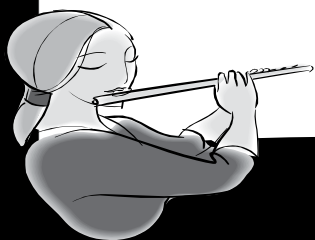
Now being offered in Steiner Ranch!

Sharon Davis has a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education and a Master's Degree in Flute Performance. She teaches at Austin Community College and plays Principal Flute in the Austin Civic Orchestra. She will be opening her studio to students in the Steiner Ranch Area beginning in January, 2009.

*Call now to reserve you or
your child's spot in the Flute Studio!*

512-447-1177

Or email to: SharonDavis100@hotmail.com



Start the New Year with a Whiter, Brighter Smile!

Get \$100 Off Your One-Hour Teeth Whitening



Offer Good Through 1/30/09

Includes Custom Trays

Serving Austin for Over 18 Years!



Four Points Dental, P.A.



Dr. Melinda S. Jones & Her Family

7301 North FM 620, Suite 150 • Austin

250-0506

**Comfortable Dentistry
You Can Trust & Afford**

Nature Watch- (Continued from Page 26)

utilizing a natural cavity or a den dug by another mammal, they will make the necessary renovations by excavating multiple escape tunnels linked to the surface. After a gestation period of 63 to 65 days, a litter of five to seven pups is born. During the weeks following the birth, the male will bring food to the family, but the female will not allow him inside the den. Coyotes normally may live from 10 to 12 years.

It is easy to get the impression that an area is overflowing with coyotes when one hears a family's howls. In reality, there are probably only 2-6 individuals in a pack! While some people may find it a bit unnerving, coyotes use howling as a means of communication to tell non-family members to stay out of their territory, to locate one another within their territory, to distract other coyotes away from young pups, and as a means for older pups to practice mimicking their parents.

Due to misconceptions and fears about coyotes, many people don't recognize the beneficial aspects that coyotes contribute to our ecosystem. Predators, such as the coyote, serve a valuable function in keeping prey species in balance with their habitat. Populations of small animals, such as rodents and insects, could increase out of control without predators. Coyotes can reduce the number of

small animals that homeowners and gardeners consider as pests. While coyotes may change ecological balances of predator and prey species somewhat, they will not eliminate other species from the environment. Many scavenger animals, such as foxes and vultures, benefit from coyote predation on other animals through increased food availability from leftover carcasses.

Coyotes are naturally afraid of people and their presence alone is not a cause for concern, though they can become habituated to rely on human-related sources of food. Simple steps you can take to peacefully coexist with them include keeping your garbage and recycling inside and secure until the morning of pickup, closing off crawlspaces under porches and decks, feeding your pets indoors, keeping your pets indoors at night (especially cats and small dogs), and educating your neighbors to do the same.

Like all wild animals, coyotes have a right to inhabit our wild places, including the preserves that border our suburban homes. If you do your part to help strike a proactive balance between humans and these wild creatures and respect their right to exist, you may well be rewarded with a familial chorus of howls on a moonlit night!

Send your nature-related questions to naturewatch@austin.rr.com and we'll do our best to answer them.

**AUSTIN
TEXAS**



**EST.
1999**

**Burgers • Salads • Catfish
Chicken Fried Steaks • Shrimp**

**BUY ONE DINNER
& GET ONE FREE**

Valid after 4pm Sun-Thurs
(of equal or lesser value & must purchase two drinks)
Not valid with any other offers.
One coupon per customer per visit.
Coupon must be presented when ordering.
Coupon expires 1/29/09

**www.BoatHouseGrill.com
Open Daily 11am-9pm
6812 North Ranch Road 620
One Block South of 2222/620
PHONE ORDERS PLEASE CALL
249-5200**



Experience the theater in your own home!

Innovation has always been a cornerstone of our company. Great pride is taken in our efforts to always be on the leading edge of technology while providing only the highest quality products and service at an affordable price. Our list of current services includes but is not limited to:

Home Automation • Home Theater • Media Rooms • Computer Networking
Security Systems • Plasma/LCD Displays • Telephone Systems

877-488-4897

Owned and Operated by Steiner Ranch Residents



We make technology simple for you!

NOT AVAILABLE ONLINE



Different by Design ... Better by Comparison!

Coming to your Neighborhood



Pre-Sale Memberships

Join Now & Pay

\$0

ENROLLMENT

Offer Expires 01.31.09

512.372.4000

www.anytimefitness.com
austintx@anytimefitness.com

Pre-Sale Hours:

Mon - Fri: 10AM - 7PM Sat - Sun: 10AM - 3PM

7300 FM 2222 & Jester Austin, TX 78730

- Private Adult Co-Ed Fitness Center ☐
- 24-Hour Club Access ☐
- Nation-wide reciprocity to all Anytime Fitness clubs - More than 1,000 locations! ☐
- Personal Training ☐
- Close to home and work ☐
- Secure, comfortable, and clean ☐

A New Year's Resolution for your PC

Submitted by Laurie Scott

The holidays are now behind us and we are all brimming with New Year's resolutions that are probably destined to fail, but I have a resolution you can actually keep.

I preach and preach to backup your computer's data to everyone I encounter, yet invariably someone will have a system failure and when I ask if their data was backed up, I'll get a great story about how they meant to purchase an external drive, or that have the drive, but never got around to setting it up. Well, it's a new year and time to commit to safeguarding your data. Stop and think for a minute about all you have on your computer. Maybe you have priceless photos from a vacation, or a birthday, or even wedding and honeymoon pictures. How would you feel if the hard drive suffered a catastrophic failure, or you were the victim of a break-in and your computer was stolen. You can never get those pictures back. Maybe you have important business or financial data, how would you get that back?

So here are a couple of inexpensive ways to protect your precious data. One way is to use an external hard drive that connects to your computer's USB port. You can find them for under \$100 and most of them come with some kind of backup software. A favorite backup software of mine is the free version of SyncBack, which can be downloaded at www.2brightsparks.com/freeware. It is easy to use, and

you can schedule it to run daily so you don't have to remember.

An even better choice is an online, off-site backup. This gives you access to your data from anywhere, and even in the event of fire your data is safe. If you have less than 2 Gigabytes of data, you can backup your information for free at mozy.com. My favorite is using a \$20 software package called JungleDisk. You download it from jungledisk.com. You use the software to easily upload your data to Amazon's secure servers designed just for storage. Your data is encrypted during transmission and while being stored – only you have access to the data because only you have your encryption code. The cost is only \$.15 per Gigabyte for storage and \$.10 per Gigabyte for transfer. You don't have to upload everything you have, just your most valuable files. Even if you have lots and lots of photos, you'll probably only pay 25 cents a month or less. The software lets you easily schedule what files and folders to backup, so you again can set it and forget it.

So this year, make a New Year's resolution to protect your computer's data and do daily or weekly backups. Once you set it up, your computer will keep your resolution for you and a year from now, you can look back and know that you kept at least one of your 2009 resolutions.



**YOUR OUTDOOR LIVING DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION SPECIALISTS.
CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE CONSULTATION AND QUOTE!**

:: PATIOS & DECKS
:: OUTDOOR KITCHENS
:: FIREPLACES AND FIREPITS
:: OUTDOOR LIVING AREAS

SOUTHWEST
Court yard & Stoneworks

:: SWIMMING POOLS
:: MASONRY
:: STORMWATER
MANAGEMENT

PHONE: 512.263.2220 :: INFO@SWCOURTYARD.COM



9811 FM2244 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78733 :: FAX: 512.263.1018 :: WWW.SWCOURTYARD.COM

NOT AVAILABLE ONLINE

Did You Know?

.... *Personal classifieds can be submitted to The Star for FREE by all Steiner Ranch Residents?* Email your personal classified to thestar@peelinc.com.

.... *Any Steiner Ranch resident or community group can submit an article to The Star? Photos and post-event write ups are welcome.* Email your article to thestar@peelinc.com (deadline is the 9th of the month prior to the issue).

.... *Kids Club winners are posted online?* Visit <http://www.peelinc.com/kidsClub.php> to see the current and past winners.

The Star is a private publication published by Peel, Inc. It is not sanctioned by any homeowners association or organization, nor is it subject to the approval of any homeowners association or organization, nor is it intended, nor implied to replace any publication that may be published by or on behalf of any homeowners association or organization. At no time will any source be allowed to use The Star contents, or loan said contents, to others in anyway, shape or form, nor in any media, website, print, film, e-mail, electrostatic copy, fax, or etc. for the purpose of solicitation, commercial use, or any use for profit, political campaigns, or other self amplification, under penalty of law without written or expressed permission from Peel, Inc. The information in the newsletter is exclusively for the private use of Peel, Inc.

DISCLAIMER: Articles and ads in this newsletter express the opinions of their authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Peel, Inc. or its employees. Peel, Inc. is not responsible for the accuracy of any facts stated in articles submitted by others. The publisher also assumes no responsibility for the advertising content with this publication. All warranties and representations made in the advertising content are solely that of the advertiser and any such claims regarding its content should be taken up with the advertiser.

* The publisher assumes no liability with regard to its advertisers for misprints or failure to place advertising in this publication except for the actual cost of such advertising.

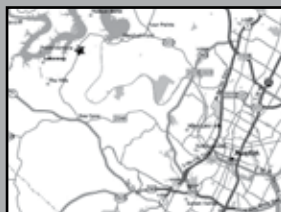
* Although every effort is taken to avoid mistakes and/or misprints, the publisher assumes no responsibility for any errors of information or typographical mistakes, except as limited to the cost of advertising as stated above or in the case of misinformation, a printed retraction/correction.

* Under no circumstances shall the publisher be held liable for incidental or consequential damages, inconvenience, loss of business or services, or any other liabilities from failure to publish, or from failure to publish in a timely manner, except as limited to liabilities stated above.

BECAUSE YOUR PET DESERVES THE BEST



Wellness & Emergencies



512-266-7VET

1901 RR 620 N



DENTALS STARTING AT **\$250⁰⁰**

INCLUDES EXAM,
ANESTHESIA, SCALING,
& POLISHING



50% OFF VACCINES



Expires
1-30-09



Meet Kendrell and Jonathan

DOB: October 1993 & October 1997

Kendrell and Jonathan want to find a forever family. They have a close bond; Jonathan looks up to his sister and Kendrell is very nurturing to her brother. They enjoy each other's company and play well together and other children. Kendrell and Jonathan do well in school and excel in sports. They are both wonderful children who appear shy or quiet when you first meet them, but both can also be strong-willed and determined.

Kendrell is outgoing, cheerful and makes friends easily. She enjoys running and doing typical "girl" things. She is engaging and talkative. Kendrell may present as a tough girl, but her foster parents report that underneath her tough exterior, Kendrell has a big and generous heart.

Jonathan is a happy, easy-going child. He is active and enjoys sports and drawing. He is smart and can watch someone doing something and it will only take him a few tries to be able to do it himself.

These children very much want to be adopted together and would contribute significantly to the happiness of a family. Jonathan would benefit from a positive male role model that will spend time doing mutually enjoyable activities. Kendrell would thrive in a home that allows her to be a teenager while guiding her in becoming a mature young woman.

If you would like more information on becoming an adoptive parent, please contact the Adoption Coalition of Texas at 512-301-2825 or info@adopttexas.org. For more information about Kendrell and Jonathan, please contact: Grace Lindgren, LMSW, Adoption Coalition of Texas/Wendy's Wonderful Kids Recruiter, Gracelindgren@adopttexas.org, 512-687-3209.



COME STAY, PLAY, AND LEARN

- RR 620 North, near Lakeway and Steiner Ranch | 512.266.3005
- South Lamar Blvd. at Barton Springs Rd. | 512.442.3416
- McNeil Rd. at Hwy. 183 | 512.258.5588
- Metric Blvd. at Parmer Lane | 512.832.1012

ASK ABOUT OUR
TRAIN-AND-PLAY PACKAGE!



Boarding • Training • Doggy Play Day
www.taurusdogtraining.com

- Kids Stuff -

Section for Kids with news, puzzles, games and more!

NOT AVAILABLE ONLINE



Attention KIDS: Send Us Your Masterpiece!

Color the drawing below and mail the finished artwork to us at

Peel, Inc. - Kids Club

311 Ranch Road 620 S, Suite 200

Lakeway, TX 78734

We will select the top few and post their artwork online at www.PEELinc.com. DUE: January 31st

Be sure to include
the following
so we can
let you know!

Name: _____

_____ (first name, last initial)

Email Address: _____

Age: _____

[This information will only be used
to notify you or your parents if
artwork was selected.]

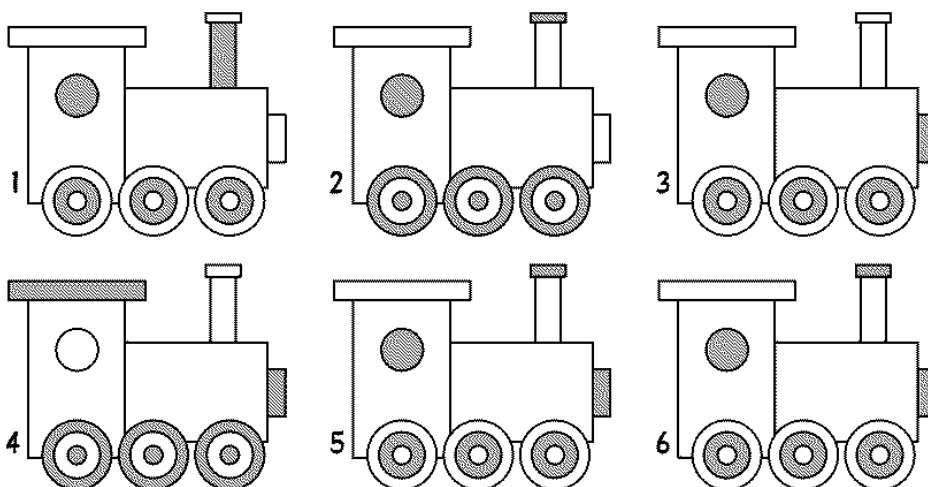


winter
wonderland

Steiner Ranch

FIND THE TWINS

WHICH TWO ARE EXACTLY ALIKE?



ANSWER: FIVE AND SIX

Advertise YOUR business
to YOUR neighbors for
less than 3¢ per home.

Effective Advertising, Done Right.

Call today to Reserve your space.

Peel, Inc.
COMMUNITY NEWSLETTERS

512-263-9181

www.PEELinc.com

SR

*Experienced. Trusted.
Bringing You the BEST Value!*



www.VallureRealty.com

VALLURE™
R E A L T Y

FULL-SERVICE
BUYER & SELLER
REPRESENTATION

Office #: 512-249-6299
Mobile #: 512-740-2300
Steiner Ranch Resident

Nicole Peel
Broker/Owner

**Why Not Get Paid for Your Efforts?
Earn a 2% Rebate* on Your Home Purchase!**

*See website for rebate guidelines. Rebate is subject to client consent.

Peel, Inc.

311 Ranch Road 620 S. Ste 200
Lakeway, TX 78734-4775

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PEEL, INC.

☎ **Voice 512-263-9181**

💻 **www.PEELinc.com**

SR