

# RANCH RECORD

*Official Newsletter for the Steiner Ranch HOA*

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 7

JULY 2009



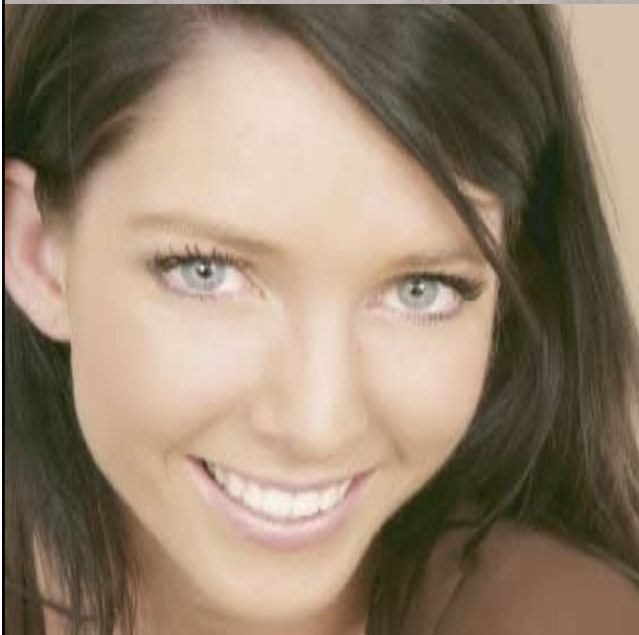
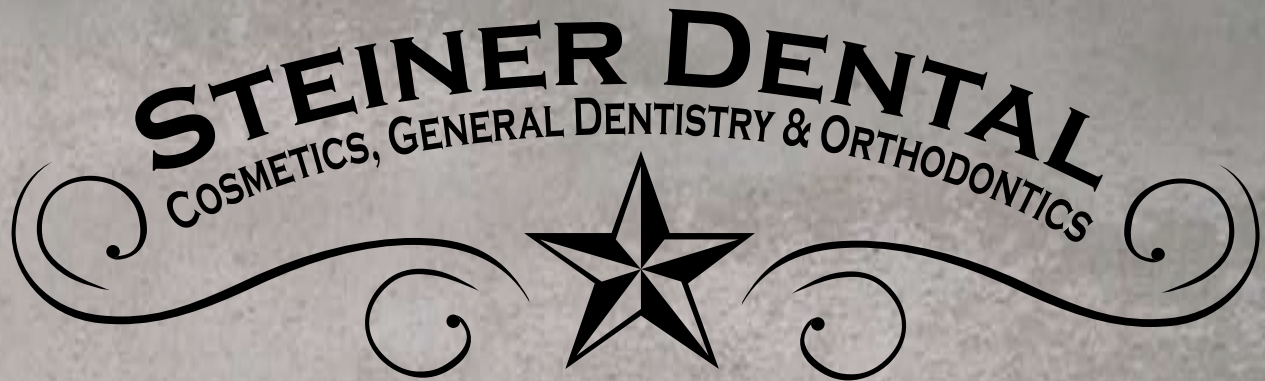
SEE PAGE 4 FOR DETAILS



## RANCH RECORD

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## COMMUNITY INFO

---

### STEINER RANCH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS OFFICE

12550 Country Trails Lane  
Austin, Texas 78732  
512-266-7553 – Telephone  
512-266-9312 – Facsimile  
www.steinerranchhoa.org

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday thru Thursday ..... 1:00pm – 5:00pm  
Friday ..... 10:00am – 5:00pm  
Saturday (during summer) ..... 9:00am – 3:00pm

### STAFF

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#### Front Office Coordinator

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#### Maintenance Technician

Angel Alvarado

#### Maintenance Technician

Macedonio Salazar

---

## MISSION STATEMENT

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### Peel, Inc. Community Newsletters

Our goal 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."*

---

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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### EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY ..... 911  
Fire ..... 911  
Ambulance ..... 911  
Sheriff – Non-Emergency ..... 512-974-0845  
Travis County ESD No.6/Lake Travis Fire Rescue  
Administration Office ..... 512-266-2533  
Travis County Animal Control ..... 512-972-6060

### STEINER RANCH CONTACTS

Steiner Ranch Community Association Office ..... 512-266-7553  
Development Office ..... 512-328-8866

### SCHOOLS

Leander ISD ..... 512-434-5000  
Vandegrift High School ..... 512-570-2300  
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  
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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 & Recycle) ..... 512-282-3508  
Austin/Travis County Hazardous Waste ..... 512-974-4343

### OTHER NUMBERS

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

### NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

Peel, Inc. .... 512-263-9181  
Editor ..... James Plasek  
Advertising ..... advertising@peelinc.com

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## Welcome to the New RANCH RECORD

Welcome to the new *Ranch Record* published by Peel, Incorporated Community Newsletters. Since 2006, Peel, Inc. has published *The Star* for the Steiner Ranch community while the HOA has distributed the *Ranch Record*. We have joined forces with the Steiner Ranch HOA have combined both publications to better serve you - the Steiner Ranch residents. Peel, Inc.'s mission is to provide the Steiner Ranch community with one source of local news content. Our goal is to help build Steiner Ranch by connecting local businesses with residents and residents with relevant neighborhood information.

Kelly Peel  
Peel, Inc.  
VP Sales and Marketing  
Steiner Ranch Resident

## ADVERTISING INFO

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

## ARTICLE INFO

The Ranch Record is mailed monthly to all Steiner Ranch residents. Residents, community groups, churches, etc. are welcome to submit 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 consideration please email it to [steinerranch@peelinc.com](mailto:steinerranch@peelinc.com). The deadline is the 8th of the month prior to the issue.




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## Great Hills Baptist Church SUMMER ACTIVITIES

Children's Fine Art Workshop | **July 6-10**

Veggie Tales Day Camp | **July 27-31**

Middle / High School Camps at  
Baylor University | **July 27-31**

Celebrate Recovery | **Mondays, 7 pm,**  
**2nd floor of building A**

### Regular Sunday Schedule:

**9:30 & 11 am**  
Bible Life Groups for all ages

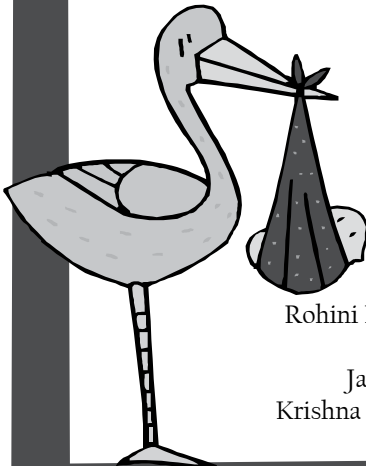
**9:30 am**  
Celebration - Connection  
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**11:00 am**  
Life - Connection  
Worship Band

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# Around Steiner

## Stork Report in Steiner Ranch



baby  
boy

Gavin Kyle  
8 lbs 5 oz; 20 3/4" inches  
Arrived: January 29, 2009  
Proud Parents:  
Susan and David Kinard

Ronith Kiran Reddy  
8 lbs 5 oz; 22 inches  
Arrived: May 5, 2009  
Proud Parents:  
Rohini Reddy & Arun Reddy Kuppam  
Proud Grandparents:  
Jayamma and Mopu Reddy  
Krishna Kumari and Raghunatha Reddy



baby boy

Submit your information on the arrival of your little one to [steinerranch@peelinc.com](mailto:steinerranch@peelinc.com).

## 2009 Steiner Ranch Social Committee Events

July 4 – Parade

Aug 22 – Steiner Ranch Concert in the Park

Sept 12 – Garage Sale

Sept 26 – Steiner Palooza

Oct 16 – 18 – Scrap-A-Thon

Oct 30 – Halloween Event

Nov 7 – Holiday Sales Event

Nov 14 – Camping on the Ranch

Dec 4 – Holiday Wine Social

*All Events are tentative and subject to change or cancel*

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## Semi-Annual Assessment Due for 2nd Half of 2009

Semi-annual assessments for July - December 2009 were due on July 1, 2009. Statements were mailed to each homeowner at the mailing address on file in mid-June. If you did not receive a statement, please contact the Community Associations Office at 512-266-7553 and ask for Mindy Stout. *You are not exempt from paying assessments or late fees even if you do not receive a statement.* Payments received after July 31, 2009 **for any reason** are subject to an initial \$40.00 late fee per association, and a \$15.00 late fee for each additional month that the assessment remains unpaid. **Please note that the assessment must be received by July 31st, not simply postmarked by July 31st.** Your escrow account does not pay your assessments.

**\*\*\*Please note that if your assessments are not current, you may lose resident privileges such as pool access, facility rental, and attendance at, or registration for, social functions and children's programs.\*\*\***



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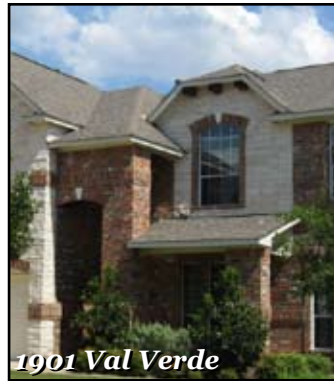
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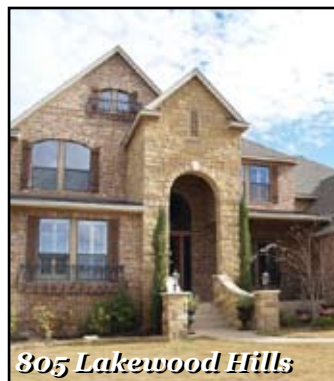
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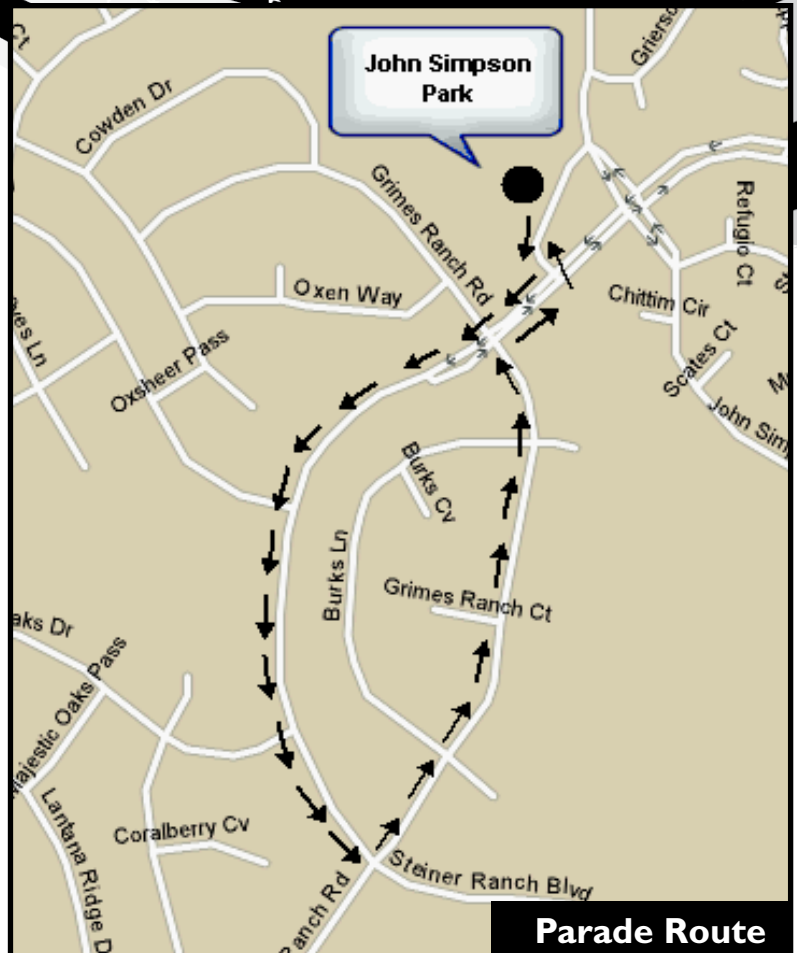
# Around Steiner

## Annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade

The Annual Steiner Ranch 4th of July Children's Parade will be held on July 4th at 9:00am at the John Simpson Community Center, 3506 John Simpson Trail.

All neighborhood children are invited to decorate their bikes, wagons, scooters, and other modes of transportation in a patriotic theme to celebrate this nation's Independence Day. The Parade will start and end at the John Simpson Park. Ice Cream provided by Cups and Cones will be served at the end of the Parade.

Please remember that fireworks are not allowed in Steiner Ranch. If you see anyone violating this ordinance, please contact the Community Association Office twenty-four hours a day at 266-7553.



**Parade Route**

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## FIREWORKS / FIRECRACKERS PROHIBITED

### *Steiner Ranch Fireworks Policy*

The Steiner Ranch Master Association (SRMA) and the Steiner Ranch Residential Owners Association (SRROA) have heard from an increasing number of homeowners concerning fireworks and firecrackers in Steiner Ranch.

All homeowners are reminded that Section 2.14 of the Steiner Ranch Master Association Development Area Declaration and Section 3.13 of the Steiner Ranch Residential Owners Association Covenants, Conditions & Restrictions (CC&R's) titled Hazardous Activities SPECIFICALLY forbid fireworks within Steiner Ranch, unless prior written board approval has been granted for professional pyrotechnic shows meeting all mandated safety requirements.

There are a number of reasons for this prohibition.

1. The usage of increasingly powerful fireworks places homes at serious risk of fire.
2. The topography and green space of Steiner Ranch are conducive to major fires.
3. Federal rules regarding management of the BCCP (which borders Steiner Ranch) impose significant restrictions on activities that may affect the wildlife therein. Serious penalties for their violation can be imposed by federal officials.
4. Homeowners are entitled to the peaceable enjoyment of their property.

Fireworks and firecrackers are and will remain prohibited in Steiner Ranch for the reasons above. Your Board has authorized a warning for the first violation and a \$250 fine for the second violation of Section 2.14 and/or Section 3.13. Violations,

once finalized after appeal, are permanent; repeat violations are subject to a \$500 fine. Professional patrols are in place to assist with the implementation of this policy.

Your Board reminds all homeowners that each of us has the ability and the responsibility to enforce the CC&Rs of Steiner Ranch whenever we feel that a violation is occurring. In the matter of fireworks and firecrackers, please contact the Association Office, at (512) 266-7553 as soon as possible during or immediately following an occurrence. Physical and/or photographic evidence is very helpful in substantiating a violation.

Should you have any questions or comments on this policy, please contact the Compliance Coordinator at the Association Office at (512) 266-7553.



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## Open House, 10am-12pm Saturday, July 18 & August 15!

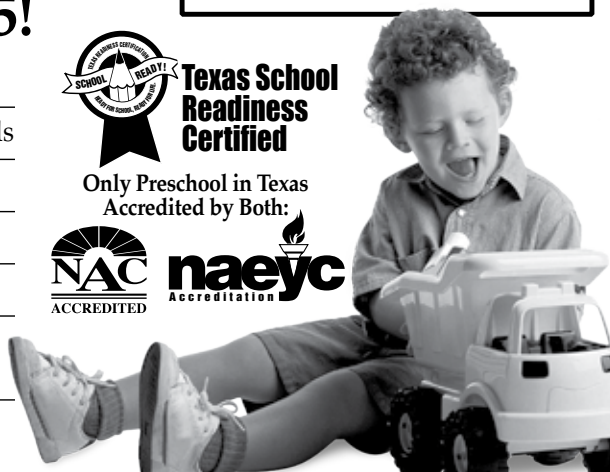
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## Steiner-Palooza

### *A Call for Steiner Ranch Bands & Musicians*

Austin City Limits, SXSW, FunFunFun Fest... as "Live Music Capital of the World", Austin is home to many fantastic music festivals, and we are looking to organize our own event that features the talent of Steiner Ranch residents. We have scheduled a date of Saturday Sept. 26th for our first annual Steiner-Palooza, which we will be staging at the Bella Mar community center. This will be a family-friendly event where residents can kick back by the pool, and enjoy live music performed by our local community talents. Accordingly, we are currently looking for bands and musicians from the community who are interested in performing at this fun event. Musicians should be residents of Steiner Ranch, (at least one member, for bands), and capable of performing anywhere from 20-40 minutes of material in front of an audience. All styles of music are welcome. To reserve a spot on the bill, please contact Donny Payjack by e-mail at [devildog66@austin.rr.com](mailto:devildog66@austin.rr.com).

## Summer Office Hours

Summer hours at the Community Associations Office  
12550 Country Trails Lane

Monday - Thursday 1:00 – 5:00pm

Friday 10:00am – 5:00pm

Saturday 9:00am – 3:00pm

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## SUMMER POOL USE & CLOSURES



Please make a note on your calendars that the Bella Mar pool facility is closed every Monday until 2:00pm during the summer season and the John Simpson Pool facility is closed every Monday beginning at 1:00pm.

**The entire Bella Mar facility will also be closed for the Steiner Stars Red Swim Team** so they can host their last meet for the year on July 11th until 2:00pm

### Partial Pool Closures

**Bella Mar:** The swim team will also be using the lap pool & pavilion area only (leaving the splash pool open for resident use on the following dates/times:

Red Team-	July 1st, 2nd July 7th – July 10th (Tue – Fri) 7:30am – 12:30pm
Blue Team-	July 7 – July 9th (Tue – Thur) 4:30pm – 9:30pm
Shooting Stars- Team	July 14th – August 6th (Tue – Fri) 8:00am – 12:00pm

**Towne Square:** The water aerobics class uses the Towne Square pool (shallow end only) on Mon/Wed 6:45 – 7:45pm and Tue/Thur 9:15 – 10:15am all summer long.

The following camps will be using the pool area on the following days:

Kidventure Camp:

June 29 – July 3, July 6 – 10, August 3 – 7, Aug 10 – 14

They will be supervised by camp counselors and you are welcome to use the pool while they are there.

**John Simpson:** Swim lessons will be using the John Simpson pool throughout the summer from 10:00am – 5:30pm. They will be in one lane, leaving the remainder of the pool for recreational use. Adult Group Swimming will be using 3 lanes throughout the summer every Wednesday night from 8:00pm – 9:00pm.



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## No Diapers Allowed

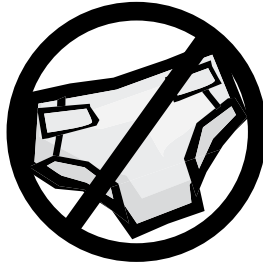
### Pool Policy regarding children who are not potty-trained:

Children who are not potty-trained and who use swim diapers are not allowed in the Bella Mar Lap Pool.

### All other community pools:

Double diapers (swim diaper + plastic pants) must be worn by children who have not been completely toilet trained.

This policy is in place to help keep accidents from happening and reducing the need to close pools due to contamination.



## Pool Procedures BATHROOM BREAK!

Last summer the Steiner Ranch Community Pools had to shut down on several occasions due to "accidents". These types of problems will cause a pool to shut down for many hours, sometimes all day, so the pool can be treated and given time for the water to "turn over".

Parents, please help keep the pools clean by taking your children on frequent bathroom breaks. The lifeguards will have the kids get out of the pool during Adult Swim to give kids this opportunity. Children who wear swim diapers should be checked often and if necessary, should be changed in the bathroom and not at poolside.

## Summer Swim Lessons

Steiner Ranch will once again offer swim lessons for children beginning June 10th at the John Simpson Pool. Each session will consist of 8 thirty-minute lessons, held Tuesday – Friday. Only Steiner Ranch residents with a Facility Tag and in good standing with the Association will be allowed to take swim lessons.

\$85 per session

\$10 registration fee per student

For more information including session dates, times and lesson levels please visit our website [www.steinerranchhoa.org](http://www.steinerranchhoa.org).



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## SUMMER CAMPS

Offer Fun Activities for Kids

**Steiner Ranch offers many camps during the summer for all ages!**

### Steiner Tennis Camp

Co-Directors Lori Cusano & Beverly Bowes-Hackney have a combined 20 years of teaching experience, are USPTA certified and recent winners of the Coke Open and the Nationals 30's. Their mission is to give the kids tools to help them succeed quickly.

(Ages 4 and up.)

July 13 – 17

August 3 – 7

### Tap~N~Toes Dance Camp

Tap/Ballet camps will teach students fun ways to move their feet while learning coordination during tap, stretching and pointing toes while moving gracefully across the floor during ballet time. (Ages 6 - 8)

Level III Tap/Ballet Camp

August 3 – 7

### Tap~N~Toes Hip Hop Camp

The Hip Hop Camp is very popular. Dancers will learn choreographed dances to their favorite pop groups, like Hannah Montana, Jonas Brothers & Cheetah Girls!!! Dancers will develop skills needed to learn how to memorize choreography, move to the beat and most importantly how to move as a dance team. (Ages 7 – 9)

July 6 – 9

July 20 – 24

### Sportball Camps

Sportball camps generally run for 3 hours in the morning or afternoon for 1 week. Parents can book for ½ days and/or full days and even multiple weeks. Join the Sportball team for a summer camp experience that you child will never forget! Children participate in the skills and games of seven different ball sports. Camps also incorporate arts and crafts, music, games, snack time & theme days. (Ages 3 – 7)

July 13 – 17

July 20 – 24

July 27 – 31

August 17 – 21

### Brown's Gymnastics Camp

Gymnastics camp for boys and girls. Fun, fast-paced and upbeat. There is floor tumbling such as cartwheels, round offs, hand stands, front & back handsprings and back tucks. We will work on the balance beam, bar and mini trampoline. Children should wear comfortable clothes and bring a snack and water. Camp enrollment is flexible to accommodate siblings, schedules and skill levels. All campers will receive a t-shirt.

July 13 – 17 (Ages 5 - 8)

July 27 – 31 (Ages 5 - 9)

August 17 – 21 (Ages 6 - 11)

### Skyhawks Sports Academy Camp

This year Skyhawks will offer their popular Mini-Hawk Camp and new to Steiner will be a golf camp. Skyhawks Mini-Hawk allows young children to explore soccer, baseball and basketball in a ½ day program setting. There is no pressure – just lots of fun while these young athletes participate in all three sports through unique Skyhawks games. Golf focuses on building the confidence of young athletes through training in proper technique and foundational skills utilizing the SNAG technology. The SNAG equipment includes oversized plastic club head and “mini tennis balls” to help build confidence and to have fun. Please do not bring clubs.

Mini-Hawk: July 20 – 24 (Ages 4 - 7)

Golf: August 3 – 7 (Ages 5 – 8)

### TrevAthlete Triathlon Camp

Join us for summer Triathlon camps for kids. Your child will exercise, make new friends, and have fun while learning swim strategy, bike safety, speedy transitions, run pacing, nutrition, hydration, mental focus and more. We will stage a mini-triathlon race on the last day of camp. Child must have a bike, a properly fitting helmet and be able to swim one length of the pool. (Ages 5 – 15)

July 6 – 10: 1:00 – 4:00pm

July 13 – 17: 1:00 – 4:00pm



The  
Children's  
Center  
Of Austin

## Joe McDermott IN CONCERT!

**FREE** Neighborhood Concert featuring Joe McDermott  
Saturday, July 11th from 10:00 am - 11:00 am

The Children's Center of Austin  
4308 North Quinlan Park Road, Ste. 100  
(512) 266-6130 \*Refreshments will be provided

*Summer Camps- (Continued from Page 14)*

### Spanish Camp

This camp is in the Montessori environment so your child can experience the Spanish culture and language in a natural way. We want to offer a camp with a relevant theme, so while the children are immersed in the Spanish language, they will also gain knowledge of Nuestra America and will have a chance to make connections with other children in different countries through pictures, drawings and scribbles. (Ages 3 – 6)  
August 10 -14

### Kidventure Camp

Kidventure camps are FULL day, 9am – 3pm, for kids entering grade 1 – age 13. Each themed camp week features a variety of unique events, activities, special guests, trips and more. No two weeks are the same and each provides incredible opportunities for fun, learning and memories. Detailed weekly newsletters will be emailed to you for each week attending!  
July 6 – 10: Upside Down, Inside Out  
August 3 – 7: Survivor Island  
August 10 – 14: Walk of Fame

### KidzArt Camp

For a fun-filled week of KidzArt Camp, your young artist will delight in creating beautiful drawings and fun art projects throughout the week. They will track their artistic journeys in their very own sketchbook journal and portfolio and their creative endeavors will culminate in a GRAND EXHIBIT at the week's end, certain to thrill you and your kids! Grades 1st – 5th  
July 20 – 24: Art through the Ages  
August 3 – 7: Caribbean Adventure

### Mad Science Camp

Mad Science has awesome week-long summer camps for children. All of our camps have 2 instructors and are limited to no more than 25 children per camp. Our 3-hour camps are either 9am – 12pm or 1:30pm – 4:30pm and our 6-hour camps are 9am – 3pm.  
July 13 - 17: Red Hot Robots (Ages 7 - 12)  
July 27 - 31: Spy Academy (Ages 6 - 12)  
August 10 - 14: Wings and Things (Ages 6 - 12)  
August 17 - 24: Moving with Science (Ages 6 - 12)  
For detailed information and for registration information, visit the HOA website at [www.steinerranchhoa.org](http://www.steinerranchhoa.org).

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**261-3391**



# Around Steiner

## Workshop Series - July

We've heard from you that the Workshop Series is something you want the Steiner Ranch Homeowners Association to continue and add more opportunities for you. If you or someone you know can provide education opportunities for Steiner Ranch residents, please contact Sharon Adams at [sharon@steinerranchhoa.org](mailto:sharon@steinerranchhoa.org) or 512-266-7553

**July 8th - Tri Training Lecture Series, Part 3: Endurance Nutrition**, by USA Triathlon certified coaches and Steiner Ranch residents, Rebekah and Chris Trevelise – They will be discussing climate influences during training, races and recovery.  
6:30pm BMCC - Free

**July 9th – Intergenerational Living – Options at Steiner Ranch**, by Jennifer Slayton of Longhorn Village Retirement Community – Love to have parents and grandparents nearby for more than a short visit, but not living with you in your

home? Multi-generational living takes on a 21st Century twist with the opening of Longhorn Village. Join us for an informative presentation on how grandparents, parents, and children can all live, love and play together at Steiner Ranch, with independence today and the added peace-of-mind of health care support long-term. Learn about the unique interaction between Longhorn Village, Steiner Ranch, and the Texas Exes, and what it can mean to you and your family.

7:00pm TSCC - Free

**July 14th – ABC's of Talking to your kids about Money**, by Rich Keith - Here we work with parents of teens as a partner towards the end goal, which is educating teens about financial matters. We will stress the importance of attitude and goal setting as the building blocks for success in any endeavor. Together we can greatly impact the next generation. Plus, every parent/couple

that attends the workshop will receive a complementary copy of the ABCs of Making Money 4 Teens book, based on the international best seller The ABCs of Making Money.

7:00pm BMCC - Free

RSVP: 632-0162

**July 15th - Tri Training Lecture Series, Part 4: Off-Season Training**, by USA Triathlon certified coaches and Steiner Ranch residents, Rebekah and Chris Trevelise – They will be discussing Winter Sports for the Off-Season fitness.

6:30pm BMCC - Free

**July 23rd – ABC's of Making Money 4 Teens**, by Rich Keith - In this free workshop for teens, we explore Attitudes, Behaviors and Creativity surrounding money. Parents are welcome to attend part or all. Plus, every teen who attends the workshop will receive a

*(Continued on Page 17)*



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**Workshop Series-** (Continued from Page 16)

complementary copy of the ABC's of Making Money 4 Teens book.  
Some of the key elements of the book:

- 96 pages of full color
- Inspirational stories of teens that have made a difference
- Lots of hands on exercises and creative money solutions
- A section on the dangers of carrying credit card balances
- The power of compound interest, the Rule of 72
- How to approach employers for jobs, and more

7:00pm BMCC - FREE

RSVP: 632-0162

For additional information go to [www.steinerranchhoa.org](http://www.steinerranchhoa.org) or contact Sharon Adams, Community Coordinator at [sharon@steinerranchhoa.org](mailto:sharon@steinerranchhoa.org).

## **SPEEDING IN STEINER**


## **PLEASE SLOW DOWN!**

Speeding has become a MAJOR problem in our community. Whether on the public roads or behind the gates in the private neighborhoods, speeding violations are on the increase. Also on the increase is the number of accidents on the roads.

Speeding can result in accidents, injuries and far worse. The Association receives many complaints on a regular basis. The solution is simple – PLEASE SLOW DOWN. Everyone at one time or another is guilty but the solution is simple. Think about your neighbors, think about the kids and think about safety and PLEASE SLOW DOWN.

Please help us keep Steiner Ranch beautiful and SAFE by not speeding!



  
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## **SUMMER CAMPS**

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## IT'S VEGAS BABY... CASINO NIGHT!



On Saturday, May 16th at the Towne Square Community Center, residents enjoyed a taste of Vegas ...in Steiner Ranch. Everyone had a great time playing Black Jack, Craps, and Texas Hold'em.

The three Texas Hold'em tables were packed throughout the evening and were definitely a crowd pleaser! The Craps table was buzzing with excitement and there was a constant stream of cheers and applause at the Black Jack table. All of the great Vegas style gaming was supplied by Casino Knights.

Everyone who attended the event was given 20,000 in chips to start off the evening, and at the end of the night traded in their winnings for raffle tickets for a chance to win some of the many items generously donated from area businesses!

As always, we owe a big thank you to the Steiner Ranch Social Committee Volunteers - event chairperson, Jannine Farnum and her husband Robert, and volunteers Karin and Dave Wilkinson.

Mark your calendars for our next social events - There are lots of fun summertime events coming up. These events are a great opportunity to meet new friends and neighbors, and be a part of your community!

As always, please consider joining the Social Committee, or volunteering for any of the scheduled events. We are always looking for fun, new event ideas - so do not hesitate to let us know if you have a suggestion! The social committee meets the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM in the Towne Square Community Center, and residents are welcome to attend!

### **Raffle item donations included:**

- UT Golf Course
  - Round of Golf for 2
  - Dinner at the new clubhouse
- Four Points Family Chiropractic
  - Gift Basket and Complete Spinal Check-up
- Young Carpet Cleaning & Repairs
  - \$100 off whole house cleaning
- Tek Chik
  - IPOD
- Armadillo Roofing & Exteriors
- Apricot Lane
  - Gift Certificates
- Rising Stars Pre-School
  - Camp Enrollment
- Maids by Melissa
  - 4 hours of maid service
- Café Blue
  - Gift Certificate
- Steiner Ranch Steak House
  - Gift Certificate
- Health Yes!
  - Free Health Screening
- Salon Platinum
  - Gift Certificate
- Martha Moring Photography
  - Free Head Shot session
- Austin Toros
  - Tickets for (4)
- The Mighty Ant
  - One year of Home Maintenance Service



*More Pictures on pg 21*





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# Around Steiner

## Steiner Ranch History Corner

*Submitted by Rich Keith*

Did you know that Stapp Court and several other streets in Steiner Ranch are named after famous Texans? Here we look at Elijah Stapp (1783-1843), a pioneer settler in the original DeWitt's colony and a signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence. Stapp was born in Virginia in 1783. He married Nancy Shannon in 1811 and moved to Missouri. There he met the famous Green DeWitt. DeWitt had been awarded a land grant in 1825 by the Mexican government to establish a colony of 400 Anglo-Americans on the Guadalupe River near Gonzales and adjacent to Stephen F. Austin's, subject to the Mexican Colonization Law of 1824. DeWitt wrote a letter of introduction to Stephen F. Austin on Stapp's behalf in 1826. Apparently Stapp was among the few who visited the settlement by July 1826.

Having investigated the new land, Stapp brought his wife and six children to settle in the colony about 1830. Later three more children were born. In 1831 Stapp was issued a Spanish title to a league of land now in Victoria County. By 1835, however, Stapp was providing leadership in meetings of settlers of Navidad and Lavaca to discuss growing dissatisfaction with the Mexican government. He was appointed second judge of the new Jackson Municipality

in 1835 by the General Council of the provisional government. He was later elected to represent Jackson in the Convention of 1836 at Washington-on-the-Brazos, where he signed the Declaration of Independence. After the convention Stapp and those of his family not serving in the army were forced to flee from their homes during the Runaway Scrape, when Santa Anna began his attempted conquest of Texas in February 1836.

Stapp was involved in frontier legal matters. For example, Stapp wrote a letter of character in 1836 to interim president Burnet in defense of a Mr. John J. Linn, who had been arrested erroneously as a spy. Stapp was later elected justice of the peace of Jackson County, Republic of Texas, in 1839, and in 1840 he was postmaster at La Baca, Jackson County. That year he owned 4,428 acres in Victoria County. Stapp died on March 21, 1843, in Jackson County. In 1936 the Texas Centennial Commission erected a monument in the Russell Ward cemetery in his honor. His son William Stapp served in the disastrous Mier raiding expedition into Mexico in 1842 and was captured. After trying to escape, William survived the Black Bean Episode (where every tenth man who attempted escape was to be shot

*(Continued on Page 26)*

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# CASINO Night



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## ***You Are Invited To Our Open House Event Sunday, August 2nd from Noon to 4pm***

Join us for a Complimentary Lunch buffet at Noon followed by 9-Holes of Fabulous Golf. Also enjoy Tennis activities, poolside games with a DJ, and **we will have a special performance at 1pm by a children's entertainer!**

Come see everything River Place has to offer!

## **2009 SUMMER JUNIOR PROGRAMS**

### **Pre-School Programs (Ages 2 - 4)**

Beginner Tap, Ballet and Tumbling,  
Abakadoodle Art Classes, Tennis, Swimming, Tot Camp

### **Elementary School Programs (Ages 5 - 12)**

Tap, Ballet and Tumbling, Hip Hop, Cheerleading, Karate, Golf, Tennis, Abakadoodle Art Classes, Magic Camp, Computer Explorer Camps, Rock Camp, Swimming, Camp River Place Sports Camp

### **Teen Programs (Ages 12 and up)**

Karate, Golf, Swimming, and Tennis

Please call Raquel Hebben, the Membership Director if you would like to receive information regarding Membership, Summer Programs, or to RSVP to our Open House Event!

The Dominion  Golf Group River Place • The Dominion • Onion Creek • Twin Creeks

## Around Steiner

### Nominate Your Favorite Yard for The Yard Of The Month



Do you know a neighbor who takes excellent care of their property or a neighbor who has added something new to their yard?

It could be as simple as a neighbor whose grass is green all year round.

Nominate them by emailing the address to [steinerranch@peelinc.com](mailto:steinerranch@peelinc.com). Please include a photo if possible.

*Congratulations to The Yard of The Month for June!*

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## American Red Cross Babysitter Training Course

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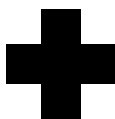
Only 12 kids per class, so sign up early!



Classes for 2009

July 25th

October 17th



Towne Square Community Center  
12550 Country Trails Lane

If you're 11 to 15 years old, you can get the knowledge, skills and confidence to care for infants and school-age children. Combining video, a participant's handbook, activities, hands on skills training and discussion for a complete learning experience, this course shows you how to—

- Respond to emergencies and illnesses with first aid, rescue breathing and other appropriate care
- Make decisions under pressure
- Communicate with parents to learn household rules
- Recognize safety and hygiene issues
- Manage young children
- Feed, diaper and care for infants

Bring a sack lunch!

Space is limited. Prior registration is required and forms are available at [www.steinerranchhoa.org](http://www.steinerranchhoa.org)

## Newcomer Orientation

Welcome, newcomers to Steiner Ranch! If you have recently purchased a home here, you will receive an invitation to the Newcomer Orientation on Thursday, August 6th at 7:00pm in the Towne Square Community Center at 12550 Country Trails Lane. You will have the opportunity to become better acquainted with your new community, as well as with other new homeowners. A brief presentation will be given on the history of Steiner Ranch, the organization of the homeowners associations, the homeowner committees, the assessment rates, and community rules and regulations. A representative from the developer, Taylor Woodrow Communities/Steiner Ranch, Ltd., will be available to answer questions about the future development plans for Steiner Ranch. Light refreshments will be served.

Have you lived here a while and never attended an orientation? Do you want to know more about Steiner Ranch? We would love to have you come and join us.

Please RSVP to 266-7553 or to Sharon Adams at [sharon@steinerranchhoa.org](mailto:sharon@steinerranchhoa.org).

If you would like to attend an orientation, but can't come on August 6th, we have upcoming Orientations to which you are cordially invited on October 1st and December 3rd.



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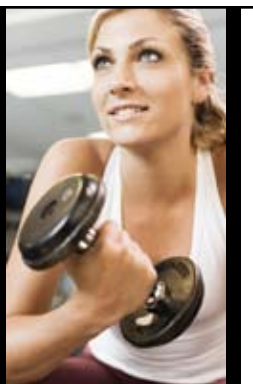
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# Around Steiner



## I Didn't Know.....

When the Steiner Ranch HOA puts on an event, activity or program....we hear, "I didn't know about this" all the time. Well, the best way to receive the latest information about what's going on in Steiner Ranch is to sign up for our email alerts.

How?

1. Go to [www.steinerranchhoa.org](http://www.steinerranchhoa.org)
2. Enter your email address in the "Join/Edit" the Steiner Ranch mailing list box and press "go".
3. Enter your email address in the list you'd like to receive:
  - a. Activities
  - b. Safety
  - c. Lost/Found Pets
  - d. Community
4. Once you've signed up, you will need to respond to an email to confirm.

## Trampolines

Trampolines are permitted in Steiner Ranch, but they must be located at least ten feet (10') from any property line and may not be placed in the front yard. Trampolines in violation of these requirements must be relocated or the homeowner may be fined.

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# Trail News

*Submitted by Rich Keith, Trails Committee Chair*

Summer weather is here and that means you and your family should remember sun protection when you're out on the trails. Also keep your pets on leash at all times. Snakes are on the move when it is hot so it's important to be aware of your surroundings. Please remember, the Steiner Ranch trail system is totally private and is for the use of Steiner Ranch residents and their guests only.

Have you have seen the numbered signs on some of our trails? The HOA congratulates Scout Brent Borman for his efforts at installing trail signs in Steiner Ranch. Brent has completed Phase 1, which is about safety: the EMS now has the GPS location information for every sign. That way EMS knows exactly where a caller is if they need medical help on the trails. Phase 2 is informative: Phase 2 will design labels showing the trail names, the distance to the nearest exit and the way out. Want to help us design Phase 2? Contact your trails committee member below.

**What can you do to help?** You can sponsor a trail. You can volunteer for one of our open positions or just help out. If you like to organize, the positions below are just that. You don't have to do the work; instead you gather motivated people to accomplish the task. If you just want to help, call us!

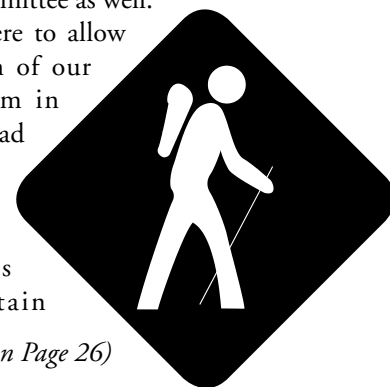
- Monthly Hike & Bike manager (open)
  - Engage the community for our two monthly hikes.

- New Member manager (open) - Enroll and orient new members in the Trails Committee.
- New Resident Manager (open) - Hand out maps at HOA's new residents meetings.
- Newsletter article manager (open) - Ensure a community interest article appears 12 times yearly.
- Signs and Markers manager (open) - Expand and improve our signage system.
- BCCP (Preserve) issues, Works with the preserve manager on trail issues. Bob McDonnell
- Boy and Girl Scouts manager, Organizes Scout efforts for community service. Keith Shaw
- Trail Violations manager, Documents and reports unlawful cutting, dumping, building, etc. Tom Forshee
- EMS liaison, Works with local EMS to familiarize them with Steiner trails. Bill Sleep
- Maps manager, Works with HOA / developer to keep maps up to date. Dave Campbell and Bryan Bunch
- New Trails manager, Works with HOA / developer to install new trails in Steiner. Dave Campbell
- Trail Maintenance manager, Looks after trails, obtains bids for repairs. Steve Puhlovich

**Ongoing events:** Neighborhood Bike & Hike Day - Now meeting at John Simpson Park on the first Saturday of each month at 8 am. Also, Trail Introduction Day, a guided walk/run/bike is hosted by the Trails Committee on the third Saturday of each month. Bring comfortable walking shoes or your bike, sun protection and water. Families welcome! (see schedule below).

**Trails are private** - If you see Austin bike shops or fitness clubs publishing trail maps please contact the HOA. We request that all of you readers keep private the information about the trail system, and the location of the trailheads. Avoid widely publicizing the trail system through blogs, email forums and posting on hiking and biking trail review sites. No GPS beacons, no public GPS treasure hunts, no maps published anywhere. This request comes down from our developer Taylor Woodrow Communities, and both homeowner's associations, and from your Trails Committee as well.

If we were to allow promotion of our trail system in a widespread fashion, soon we would have hundreds of mountain



*(Continued on Page 26)*



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# Around Steiner

## **Steiner Ranch History Corner -** (Continued from Page 18)

after drawing beans from a jar) and captivity in Mexico's Perote Prison, where he was forced to perform common labor. Later William wrote *The Prisoners of Perote* (1845), an account of his experience that remains valuable for its detail and insight into the tensions between Mexico and Texas.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:** Louis Kemp, *The Signers of the Texas Declaration of Independence* (1959). Texas House of Representatives, *Biographical Directory of the Texan Conventions and Congresses, 1832-1845*; L.W. Kemp at [tshaonline.org](http://tshaonline.org).

## **Trail News-** (Continued from Page 25)

bikers, hikers and trail runners from all over the country showing up on any given Saturday morning. This would certainly ruin our trail system, and is to be avoided through proactive measures. Thank you in advance for your support.

**Protect our trails** - Motorized vehicles of any type are prohibited on all our trails. Residents who are caught with any such vehicle are subject to criminal trespass and fines under our Homeowners Association bylaws. Please take a camera on all trails with you and if you see riders, take their photograph and contact the Travis County Sheriff at 854-9770 and your HOA at 266-7553. Also, no bikes on the BCCP preserve lands. This is well-marked.

**Report a problem** - Downed tree? Trail erosion? Mud? As always, you can report problems or issues on the trails using the HOA website <http://www.steinerranchhoa.org> under "Report a Problem."

**You can contribute** - The Steiner Ranch Trails Committee is working with the developer to add even more trails as our subdivision expands. If you are interested in getting involved in this or any effort above, come to the next meeting of the Trails Committee. You may also join the Steiner Ranch Trails Yahoo! Group by sending E-mail to Rich Keith at [richardk@austin.rr.com](mailto:richardk@austin.rr.com). All meetings are posted on the HOA website at <http://www.steinerranchhoa.org/community-calendar>

- Neighborhood Bike & Hike, Saturday July 4, 8am, JS Park (1st Saturday)
- Trails Committee meeting, Thursday, July 9, 7 pm, Bella Mar meeting room
- New Trail Introduction Day, Saturday, July 18, 8am, TSCC pavilion (3rd Saturday)
- Neighborhood Bike & Hike, Saturday August 1, 8am, JS Park (1st Saturday)
- Trails Committee meets, Thursday, August 6, 7pm, Bella Mar
- New Trail Introduction Day, Saturday, August 15, 8am, TSCC pavilion (3rd Saturday)

*Have fun on the trails!*



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# Around Steiner

## Steiner Teams Advance to State Playoffs

*Submitted by Tonya Frederic and Amber Janak*

We have some exciting results to report for Steiner Ranch tennis teams. Lest you forget just how happenin' is Steiner tennis, this spring the adults formed five women's USTA teams, nine WTTA teams, one mixed ATL team, and two casual women's neighborhood leagues. For juniors, five different teams met the needs of kids ranging from young beginners to experienced 14 year-olds.

Our 14-and-under USTA Comp 1 team had another fabulous season. With several returning players, this spring the team again played their way into the state playoffs in New Braunfels, May 16-17. The kids experienced a crazy first day of play as thunderstorms hit after the first round. When play resumed, all matches for the next two rounds were reduced to nerve-racking 10 point tie-breaks that went into the night. Our players rose to the challenge and won their flight to move into the top bracket the following day. Their first match was against the team that had won the Texas playoffs in the fall, and unfortunately this team defeated our Steiner team and went on to place 1st again. Our kids rallied after their loss and played excellent tennis to win their final match and place 3rd in the state of Texas. We are very proud of their sustained efforts and the great team spirit they showed throughout the tournament. Of note, Ethan Frederic was awarded the boys Sportsmanship Award based on nominations by opposing teams.

The Steiner Stars Comp 2 junior team also had a stellar season, placing first in the Austin league and bringing home trophies. Team members were Ryan, Hayley, and Aidan Boddington, Gabriella and Nicolas Cusano, Hope Gilbert, Kyle Jacob, Haden Janak, Alec Masterson, Chase McCullough, Jake Nowak, Kelly Schriener, and Haley Walz.

On the ladies' front, our 3.0 USTA team captained by Julie Schaper, the Kickin' Aces, won a spot in the city playoffs at the UT Whitaker Courts. They competed on May 20th and 21st against the 3.0 North Weekday Division and came away with wins against Riverplace and Berry Creek. They then had to play the 3.0 Weekend Division winners, Circle C, on May 30th to determine who would represent Austin at the Texas Section Tournament. Congrats to the Kickin' Aces for bringing home a win! Wish them luck as they battle all the states' champs on the hot courts in Dallas July 30 - Aug 2nd.

Also traveling to the Texas Section Tournament in July is our beginning women's team captained by Susan Pyle, the Steiner Ranch Serve Aces and Limes. These ladies won the USTA Lonestar Tournament March 28th at the Polo Club in an impressive fashion, never dropping a set! They would like to credit pros Lori Cusano and Andres Torres for their coaching and support. Congrats, and best of luck as you compete against other Lonestar teams from across Texas.

Finally, our longstanding ATL team captained by Lou Cusano has been steadily moving up the division ladder. They placed first the previous two seasons and placed 2nd in their division this spring, so they may again move up a division. If there were state playoffs for ATL, this team would have gone several times!

If interested in getting involved in Steiner Ranch team tennis, you will find contact information in the team section of the tennis directory at <http://www.reserve.kgbinternet.com/reserve/login.jsp>.



**A)** Steiner Stars USTA Comp1, back: Julie Muzy, Revanth Madina, Yongjin Maeng, Ethan Frederic, Coach Tonya Frederic. Front: Maria Popov, Dustin Hoang, Kelsea Janak, Ashley Heffernan **(B)** Tried and true doubles partners Kelsea Janak and Maria Popov. **(C)** Seasoned doubles partners Dustin Hoang and Revanth Madina.. **(D)** Julie Muzy delivers one of her powerful serves. **(E)** Jashley Heffernan smacks a backhand return during a convincing singles win. **(F)** Singles player Ethan Frederic received the boys Sportsmanship Award.





Left: *Kickin' Aces 3.0 USTA team: Julie Leavell, Dana Williams, Kerry Reedle, Sharon Chesnutt, Elif Lyriboz, Ilse Connell, Gaynell Meyerholtz, Julie Schaper, Chris Jalufka, & Kay Gerken*



RIGHT: *Serve Aces, Lonestar Tourney winners: Julie Stephens, Mindy Struhsaker, Melanie Ludick, Susan Thompson, Susan Pyle, Jeanine Bischoping, Jennifer Martin, Tresse Maatz*

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## Steiner Stars Swim Team Off to a GREAT Start

The Steiner Ranch Stars Red team has been on FIRE this season with many new swim records being broken and a record number of Invitational qualifiers.

The first meet was held on May 30th against the Hurricanes. The Stars proved too much for the Hurricanes with a team win over 360 points! In addition, there were 38 swimmers who qualified for the Invitational meet to be held at the UT Swim Center on July 12th, as well as several records broken.

The next meet was the Stars first home meet on June 6th against the Forest North Stingrays. The Stingrays were a much tougher opponent, but the Stars still shined, beating the Stingrays by only 19 points!!! It was a tough meet, but even more Stars records fell and an additional 23 swimmers qualified for the Invitational meet.

The swim team will have their final swim meet on July 11th against the Forest North Stingrays and the Anderson Mill Barracudas. You are welcome to come out to the Bella Mar Pool and cheer on the Stars.

The Steiner Stars Blue team is completing their first month of evening practices and will hold their first swim meet June 27th at the Bella Mar Pool. Look for an update on how they did in the August issue of the Ranch Record.

For more information about the Steiner Ranch swim programs, visit the Stars website at [www.steinerstars.org](http://www.steinerstars.org)





## Steiner Ranch Chargers take Steiner Ranch and All-City Flag Football Championships



On May 23rd, the 1st and 2nd graders of Steiner Ranch's Charger's flag football team took on the Austin's best talent from Round Rock, Pflugerville, Cedar Park, SW Austin, and Georgetown. They navigated through the tough field in a 7-0 record (1 bye) to take home the All-City Championship!! Despite having only 7 (some games only 6) of the 11 team's players and having to play 6 games on a long, hot day, the team stayed tough and focused; only giving up 2 touchdowns on defense while racking up 109 points on offense.

James "the Jet" Kinnett was awesome on several breakaway TD runs and many game saving flag pulls. Luke "the Laser" Hindman and Mike "the Missile" Hildner were throwing bullets all day. Luke broke up several opponents' passes and Mike was relentless on the blitz. Brendan "the Bullet" Bennett and Bryson "Blazin" Brown had great hands pulling down unbelievable catches. They were also the backbone of the defense holding off threat after threat from opposing offenses. Pranav "the Plunderer" Batra and Matthew "the Marauder" Wagner were the secret weapons with super effective surprise attacks on offense. They were also staunch on defense, hounding the opposition and being stingy with each yard.

Joined by the rest of their team (Ethan "Excellent" Schaper, Luke "the Legend" Sloan, Quinn "Quick" Gayle, and Kale "Killer" Kitlowski), the Chargers also avenged a previous loss to a previous 2 season unbeaten Falcons team to capture the Steiner Ranch Super Bowl 12-6. The game was a defensive battle, but the kids managed to hold off the powerful attack of the Falcons. Every teammate played a key part in the win.

*Congratulations to the entire team!! Go Chargers!!!*

*1st Row: Matthew Wagner, Luke Hindman, Mike Hildner. 2nd Row: James Kinnett, Pranav Batra, Brendan Bennett. 3rd Row: Coach Tom Hildner, Coach Don Kinnett. (Not pictured: Bryson Brown)*

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# Around Steiner



## Vandegrift Cross Country Teams Kick Off Inaugural Season

Vandegrift High School does not officially open its doors until August 24th, but the Viper girl's and boy's cross country teams have already started their summer workouts. The teams have three scheduled workouts each week through the end of June and four practices each week in July before starting daily workouts in early August. Practice locations will rotate in the Four Points area between Steiner Ranch, Riverplace and Vandegrift High School.

If you will be either a Sophomore or Freshman at Vandegrift High School next fall and are interested in building a lasting tradition of cross country success please contact Coach Keith Pierce at (940) 395-3369 or [Kpierce@alumni.rice.edu](mailto:Kpierce@alumni.rice.edu).



## River Ridge Elementary Meet & Greet

Calling all new River Ridge students and their families to come meet Principal Rose and your fellow classmates.

**Saturday, August 15th\***  
**5-7pm**

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## Fall Field Lottery

*Are you planning on coaching a team in the Fall?*

**Need a place to practice?**

The fall youth sports schedules will begin in late August. If you are planning on coaching a youth team and would like to use one of the Community fields, you must now register your team prior to the Fall Field Lottery. The lottery will be at the Towne Square Community Center on Tuesday, August 18th at 6:30 pm.

### Lottery Procedures:

1. Register your team\*\*\* by sending an email to [sharon@steinerranchhoa.org](mailto:sharon@steinerranchhoa.org). I must have your registration by 5:00pm on Monday, August 17th with the following information:

- Name
- Coach name (if different)
- Address
- Phone number
- Organization (CC United, Town & Country, etc.)
- Sport (soccer, baseball, etc.)
- Age group
- Name of Team (if you have it)
- How many days you want to practice

2. If you are coaching more than one team, please list each team separately.

3. On Tuesday, August 18th, I will contact you by email with your order of draw.

4. At 6:30 pm, you will choose your field in the order given. Anyone who has not registered or not present at the time your number is called will go to the end of the line.

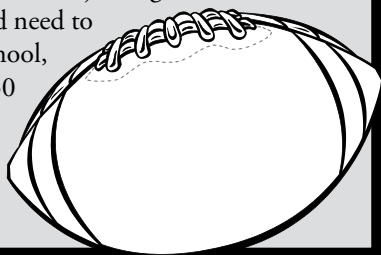
\*\*\*If you are with Neighborhood Sports (soccer or flag football), you do not need to register your team or participate in the lottery. Representatives will be attending the lottery in your behalf.

Only one representative per team is allowed to participate. For more information, please contact Sharon Adams at 512-266-7553 or [sharon@steinerranchhoa.org](mailto:sharon@steinerranchhoa.org).

## Attention Laura Welch Bush Elementary School Parents

If your child will be playing Pop Warner Football in the fall, please keep track of your child's final report card. You will be asked to provide a copy of it when joining a team. If you misplace it and need to request a copy from the school, this process can take up to 30 days to fulfill.

*Have a great summer!*  
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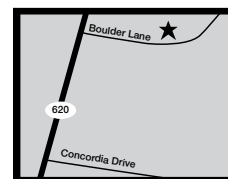


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## COMMUNITY GROUPS

### WAYS TO BECOME INVOLVED IN STEINER RANCH

#### Girl Scout Registration is Open

*Submitted by Carmen Tucker*

Girl Scouts of Central Texas registration is open year-round to girls in grades K-12. Now is the perfect time to register in order to take advantage of summer experiences like overnight camp, robotics day camp, backpacking trips and more. Registration is \$10 per year and girls can choose to join a troop or participate as individuals.

Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place. Through fun, informal and educational experiences girls can discover their potential, connect with others and take action to make the world a better place. Girl Scouts provides a wide variety of experiences for interests such as the arts, science, technology, nature, athletics, community service, health, leadership and more. To learn more or to register, contact Carmen Tucker at [CarmenT@gsctx.org](mailto:CarmenT@gsctx.org) or (512) 490-2360. Discover Girl Scouts online at [www.gsctx.org](http://www.gsctx.org).



#### 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 [david@austin-technet.com](mailto:david@austin-technet.com) and join LinkedIn Groups Steiner TechNet.

#### Steiner Scrappers

Do you love to scrapbook? Then get ready for our monthly scrapbooking sessions and come to the Towne Square Community Center, grab a table, and bring a snack or beverage to share and scrapbook the night away.

The room will open for your use at 6:00pm sharp on the following nights:

2009

Jul 10, Aug 21, Sept 18

Oct 23 – 25 Scrap-a-thon

All sessions are free with the exception of the Scrap-a-thons.

#### Pack 203

*Welcome all Steiner Ranch Boys!!*

*Grades 1st–5th*

Do you know what Cub Scouts and Scouting is all about? Pack 203 at LWBE does fun things with fellow scouting friends every month? We get together as a PACK to wear our cool uniforms, show off our scout spirit, and participate in exciting scouting activities. As a cub scout, you will get to go camping with your family, shoot BB guns, sleep over on a real Naval Aircraft Carrier and do archery! We play all kinds of sports and build cool race cars and spaceships to race. Do you want to learn the secret scouting code and earn really cool patches? Do you want to learn more about nature and your community? Then, come find out how enriching being a Cub Scout can be!

Contact Kim Skelton for more information at [nelson2930@austin.rr.com](mailto:nelson2930@austin.rr.com)



#### 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](mailto: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 [steinerranch@peelinc.com](mailto:steinerranch@peelinc.com) and it will be included in each issue. Feel free to submit post event write-ups and photos.*



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## A Sensible Plan for College Funding, Part I

*Submitted by Rich Keith*

As a parent, you may feel a moral obligation to fund your children's education, but you don't want to sacrifice your current lifestyle or rob your future retirement in order to fund education costs. Well, to make funding both their education and your retirement a non-issue, you must consider how to:

- Maximize your cash flow so that you can invest funds in education and retirement accounts. This includes both reducing debt and lowering expenses.
- Utilize the numerous education tax incentives provided by the IRS to reduce taxes and produce so-called "tax scholarships" for your family.
- Qualify for merit and need-based financial aid offered by colleges

If you can maximize the benefits produced by the above strategies, you may not have to compromise your education and retirement goals. Remember that college really costs you more than you think because it is paid with after-tax dollars. And depending on which tax bracket you are in, the amount you must earn to pay for college is a good deal more because you must first pay the IRS...before you pay the college. And college costs are increasing at 2 to 3 times the Consumer Price Index inflation rate.

We will explore this topic in future columns, how to make a sensible, methodical plan for funding college expenses. First, though, there are some brand-new tax laws which you should be aware of which offer more "tax scholarships." Remember to consult your tax professional to make sure you qualify. So if you have a Section 529 college savings plan or are paying college bills this year, here are a few recent developments you may find helpful.

### Investment Changes:

A Section 529 plan normally may allow an account holder to change the investment strategy selected for an account only one time per year and when a new beneficiary is designated. However, given the extreme volatility in the economy and the stock market, the IRS has loosened this rule somewhat. For calendar year 2009 only, a plan may permit two changes in investment strategy, as well as a change if a new beneficiary is designated. The goal is to give people a little more flexibility with their plan investments.

### Computer Costs:

Section 529 plan distributions are tax free if used for qualified higher education expenses. In addition to tuition and fees, these expenses

*(Continued on Page 37)*



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**A Sensible Plan-** (Continued from Pg. 36) generally include room and board for students who attend at least half-time, books, supplies, and equipment required for enrollment or attendance, as well as expenses for special needs students. For 2009 and 2010, tax-free withdrawals are also allowed to pay for computer technology, equipment, and related services, including Internet access. (Some restrictions apply.)

**American Opportunity Tax Credit:**

Also for 2009 and 2010, the Hope Scholarship Credit has been renamed the American Opportunity Tax Credit and made more generous — up to \$2,500 per student per year. The income phase-out ranges also have been raised. The new credit phases out for taxpayers with modified adjusted gross income (AGI) between \$80,000 and \$90,000 (\$160,000 and \$180,000 on a joint return).

## 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 Thai Harmony in Steiner Ranch. Visitors are welcome! If you are interested in visiting a meeting please contact Mark Taylor at [marktaylor@actioncoach.com](mailto:marktaylor@actioncoach.com) for more information or visit [www.BNIAustin.com](http://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](mailto:Amy@Lending360.net) or visit [www.BNIAustin.com](http://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](mailto:dscarborough5@austin.rr.com), 512-589-3678.

Did you know that **Chiropractic Care** is safe and effective for many of the aches and pains during pregnancy?

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# Business Section

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**LESS THAN A PENNY:** You can run a business classified in the Ranch Record and reach all of Steiner Ranch for less than a penny per home. Call 512-263-9181 for details.

**SCIENCE & MATH SUMMER CLASSES @ STEINER RANCH:** • Small groups • One-on-One. High School: Chemistry, Algebra 1& 2, Geometry, Biology. Middle/Elementary School: Basic Math, Pre-Algebra, Math Enrichment. Math competitions, Problem Solving Strategies • For details, contact Dr. Anjali Sharad @ 512 853 9624 or [excel.science@gmail.com](mailto:excel.science@gmail.com).



View the Kids' Club Contest Winners online each month at [www.peelinc.com/kidsclub.php](http://www.peelinc.com/kidsclub.php)

### Classified Ads

**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 [steinerranch@peelinc.com](mailto:steinerranch@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](mailto:advertising@PEELinc.com).

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**2701 Rio Mesa \$375,000**

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Steiner Ranch Market Statistics			
Price Range	As of June 9, 2009		Mar-May '09
	# For Sale Avg L\$/sf Avg DOM	# Pending Avg L\$/sf Avg DOM	# Sold Avg \$\$ / sf Avg DOM
\$200K-\$300K	32/\$114/86	13/\$105/83	16/\$111/67
\$300K-\$400K	59/\$122/95	11/\$129/59	9/\$109/83
\$400K-\$500K	36/\$135/64	8/\$128/53	7/\$124/106
\$500K-\$600K	20/\$147/138	4/\$137/107	4/\$133/44
\$600K-\$700K	23/\$153/94	4/\$169/193	5/\$143/66
\$700K-\$800K	12/\$191/214	2/\$165/99	2/\$146/33
\$800K-\$900K	10/\$196/220	1/\$174/128	2/\$175/58
\$900K-\$1M	1/\$234/53	0	0
\$1M-\$2M	4/\$287/161	1/\$180/189	0
\$2M and up	2/\$438/43	0	0

\*statistics based on the Austin MLS



**SOLD**

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# Calendar of Events

JULY 2009						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>WCID #17 Mandatory 2 Day Per Week Watering</b> • odd numbered addresses will water Wednesdays and Saturdays • even numbered addresses will water Thursdays and Sundays. Residential customers will be required to adhere to this schedule May 1 through September 30.			1	2	3	4
						9:00am – 4th of July Parade (JSCC) Independence Day
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC) 7:45pm – Just Dance (TSCC)	6:30pm – Facility Committee Meeting (TSCC)	6:30pm – Tri 101, Part 3 (BMCC)	7:00pm – Inter- generational Living Workshop (TSCC) 7:00pm – Trails Committee Meeting (BMCC)	6:00pm – Scrapbooking (TSCC)	6:00am – 2:00pm – Stars Red Team Divisional Home Meet (BMCC)
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	5:00pm – 8:00pm – Stars Swim Team End of Season Celebration (BMCC) 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC) 7:45pm – Just Dance (TSCC)	6:30pm – Social Committee Meeting (TSCC) 7:00pm – ABC's of Talking to your kids about Money (BMCC)	6:30pm – Tri 101, Part 4 (BMCC)		7:00pm – Knitters and Quilters Club (TSCC)	8:00am- New Trail Introduction (TSCC)
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC) 7:45pm – Just Dance (TSCC)			7:00pm – ABC's of Making money for Teens (BMCC)		9:00am – 4:00pm – American Red Cross Babysitting Training Course (TSCC)
26	27	28	29	30	31	
	6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC) 7:45pm – Just Dance (TSCC)	3:30pm – SRMA Board of Directors Monthly Meeting		6:00pm – SRROA Board of Directors Monthly Meeting (TSCC)		



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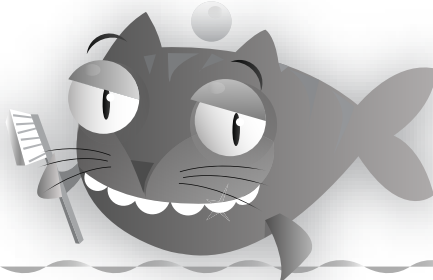
# AUGUST 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>WCID #17 Mandatory 2 Day Per Week Watering</b> • odd numbered addresses will water Wednesdays and Saturdays • even numbered addresses will water Thursdays and Sundays. Residential customers will be required to adhere to this schedule May 1 through September 30.						1
2	3 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC) 7:45pm – Just Dance (TSCC)	4 6:30pm – Facility Committee Meeting (TSCC)	5 7:00pm – How Money Works (BMCC)	6 7:00pm – New Owner Orientation (TSCC) 7:00pm – Trails Committee Meeting (BMCC)	7	8
9	10 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC) 7:45pm – Just Dance (TSCC)	11 6:30pm – Social Committee Meeting (TSCC) 7:00pm – Women & Finance (BMCC)	12	13	14 7:00pm – Knitters & Quilters (TSCC)	15 8:00am- New Trail Introduction (JS) VHS Band March-A-Thon 5:00pm – 7:00pm – River Ridge Elementary Meet & Greet (TS Fields)
16	17 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC) 7:45pm – Just Dance (TSCC)	18 6:30pm – Fall Field Lottery (TSCC) 7:00pm – Education Funding (BMCC)	19	20	21 6:00pm – Scrapbooking (TSCC)	22 Concert in the Park (TS Fields)
23/30	24/31 24 – First Day of School 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC) 7:45pm – Just Dance (TSCC)	25 3:30pm – SRMA Board of Directors Monthly Meeting	26	27 6:00pm – SRROA Board of Directors Monthly Meeting (TSCC)	28	29

CALL TODAY TO SCHEDULE YOUR SUMMER APPOINTMENT phone: 402-9996

## Meet the dentist!

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## Installing Video Cameras for your Home

We know you want to feel safe at home and you should. Maybe you've tried trimming foliage, increasing exterior lighting and installing a home security system. Maybe you've even considered installing video cameras outside your home to feel more secure.

Before you invest in a high-tech video system, there are a few things to consider. Personal safety and privacy are two ideals everyone wants in a community, but they can collide. Association policies weigh both these concerns, while also taking local and state laws into consideration.

Installing any security equipment, including cameras, is considered an architectural alteration of the home's exterior and therefore requires written approval from the association. In addition, the installation will only be approved after the neighbors' right to privacy and quiet use and enjoyment of their property has been considered. We may also ask the association attorney to review your application.

If you chose to install video surveillance, the camera needs to be placed in the least intrusive or least visible location, and it can only be focused on your property—never directed at windows of adjacent structures, neighboring or common property.

Applications to install a security camera must include a plot plan showing the camera's location in relation to neighboring structures, a property survey and specifications on the size, shape, camera range and field of view of the camera. Any changes from the application, such as altering the location, equipment or field of view of the camera may require a new application.

Before deciding to install a security camera system, think about why you want to monitor particular views. Ask yourself:

- What do I achieve by installing cameras?
- Are the lighting conditions (night and day) good enough?
- How much video do I want to store before the system records over itself?
- Do I want to monitor cameras myself, access them via the Internet or keep a recording for investigative purposes?

Many homeowners are going beyond motion-detecting lights and in-home security systems, and installing video cameras for safety. However, our association must—at the same time—balance your desire to feel secure and your neighbor's need for privacy.



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## Britt's Book Buzz

### The Story of Edgar Sawtelle

*Submitted by Brittany Jedrzejewski*

#### The Best Breed of Book

The more I find myself referencing the book I am currently reading (or have read) to friends, family and co-workers, the more I realize how much I've enjoyed it. Well, I've been talking about *The Story of Edgar Sawtelle* by David Wroblewski quite a bit and not because the author and I share long Polish last names.

I'm a sucker for human-dog stories and this is a unique and unforgettable journey between a young boy and his dogs. The main character, Edgar, is born unable to talk. He creates his own form of sign language, allowing him to communicate with his parents and their dogs (his family breeds a custom specialty of dog) until something happens that really rocks Edgar's secure world.

The book captures the love and devotion between dogs and humans and communicates the personality in every creature. I enjoyed reading about dog training and its related terminology and how much companionship and loyalty define our outlook on life. The family unit, prior to Claude, was truly special and the drama that ensued post-Claude entering the scene left you waiting for disaster.

This book is truly an adventure with the best breed of companionship. There's little dialog since a majority of the book is spent on Edgar's journey (both literally and figuratively), which is engaging every step of the way. It's heartbreaking to witness his relationship with Almondine, his best friend.

I have two points of contention with the book, parts of which were told in the voices from the main characters in the book (one of them being Edgar's dog, which I thought was really great). Edgar's mom, Trudy, shared her frame of reference, but it was so poorly portrayed. The author did a good job of developing her character, but either hadn't fully developed Trudy's voice or severely lacked experience in the mind of a woman. It was shallow and weak and didn't correlate to the character he built for her.

My second point of contention was how the book ended. I have never truly complained about the way a book ends, but I feel strongly enough to say that I hoped the author would have found a more creative end. In the end, was it all for naught?!

Feel free to comment on this review, your thoughts on the book or suggest a book for me to review on my blog: <http://brittsbuzz.blogspot.com>.

## PERSONAL CLASSIFIED

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**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](mailto:advertising@PEELinc.com).

### Send Us Your Event Pictures!!

Do you have a picture of an event that you would like to run in the Ranch Record? Send it to us and we will publish it in the next issue. Email the picture to [steinerranch@peelinc.com](mailto:steinerranch@peelinc.com). Be sure to include the text that you would like to have as the caption. Pictures will appear in color online at [www.PEELinc.com](http://www.PEELinc.com).

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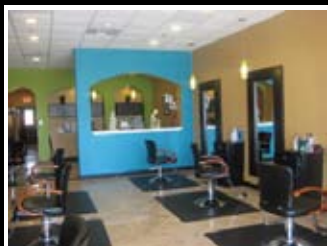
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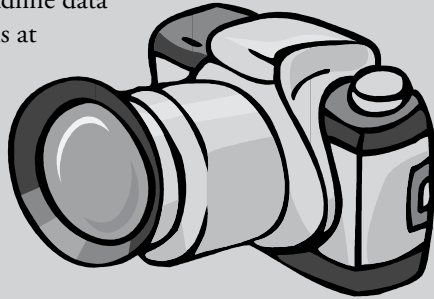
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## Cover Photo

*Do you take great photos?  
Would you like to see your photo published?  
We are looking for great cover photos for  
upcoming issues of the Ranch Record.*

This issue's cover was taken by Steiner Ranch resident, Kelly Bauch. The deadline for submitting photos is the 8th of the month. Photos should be submitted electronically by the deadline date in high resolution to Sharon Adams at [sharon@steinerranchhoa.org](mailto:sharon@steinerranchhoa.org).

By submitting your photo you agree to allow your photo to be published in future issues of the Ranch Record or other Steiner Ranch publications.



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SR

# - Kids Stuff -

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

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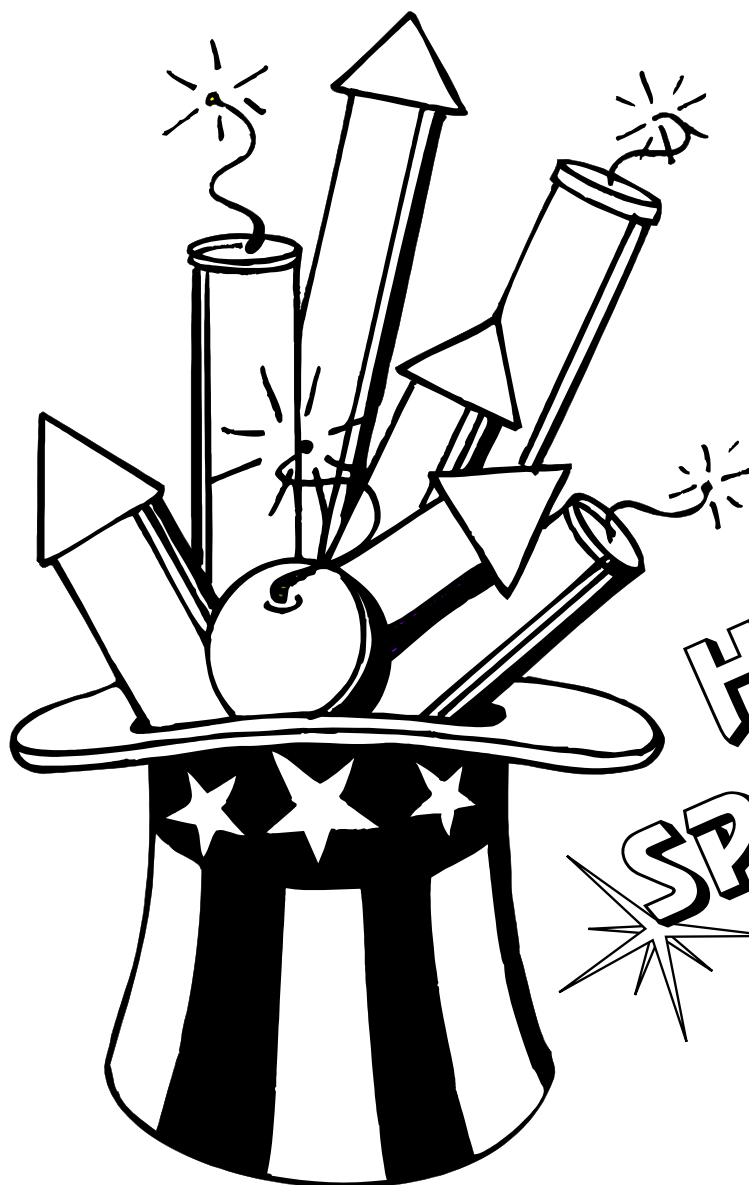




## Attention KIDS: Send Us Your Masterpiece!

Color the drawing below and mail the finished artwork to us at  
Peel, Inc. - Kids Club  
311 Ranch Road 620 S, Suite 200  
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We will select the top few and post their artwork online at [www.PEELinc.com](http://www.PEELinc.com). DUE: July 31st



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"When we decided to sell our home, we knew the biggest decision we would make would be choosing the right Realtor. Elicia Rudberg had the market knowledge, marketing plan, and long term experience that we were looking for. And, she proved it by selling our home in only 10 days - and made us a profit! We cannot thank you enough Elicia!"  
-Michael and Dina Molyneux



11600 Hunters Green Trail  
\$550,000

- 4 Bedrooms, 3.5 Bathrooms, 3582 Sq. Ft.
- Game Room, Media Room, 2 Covered Patios
- Views of Hill Country and UT Golf Course
- RARE .35 Acre, Greenbelt, Cul-De-Sac Lot
- Huge Three Car Garage, Two Covered Patios
- Cast Stone Fireplace
- Taylor Morrison Venice Plan
- Gourmet Kitchen & Butlers Pantry
- Designer Paint & Lighting Throughout
- Gorgeous Stone Exterior

WANT TO SEE YOUR HOME FEATURED HERE? *Call Elicia!*