

RANCH RECORD

Official Newsletter for the Steiner Ranch HOA

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2009



SEE PAGE 4 FOR DETAILS



RANCH RECORD

Previously The Star

Photo provided by: Phillip Broughton

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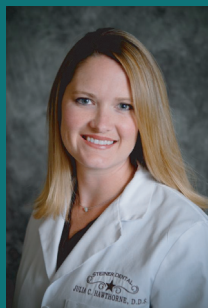
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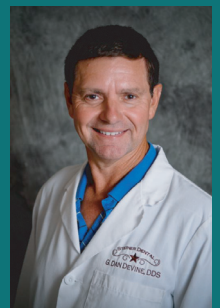
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COMMUNITY INFO

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

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Maintenance Technician

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MISSION STATEMENT

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

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 512-266-5833

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
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 & 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

GO GREEN! GO PAPERLESS!

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directly to your inbox.
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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 and 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. 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. The deadline is the 8th of the month prior to the issue.

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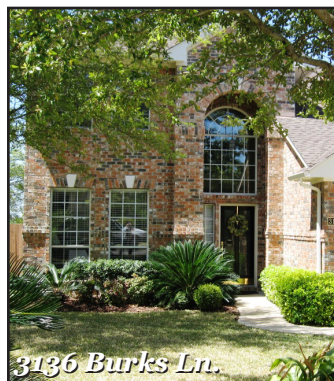
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KELLER WILLIAMS
REALTY

Developer's Corner

Developer's Corner August 2009

Subdivision Development

For the first time in many years, Taylor Woodrow Communities does not have any new lot development under construction. Builders are currently selling homes in all of the neighborhoods from 50' wide lots through 90' lots. Future phases of lots in the Bella Mar community should start construction later in 2009, depending upon home sales in the existing neighborhoods.

Custom lot sales continue in The Bluffs on south Quinlan Park Rd and Bellagio Estates on Lake Austin. For more information on these custom homesites and all other builder neighborhoods in Steiner Ranch you may contact the Welcome Center at 266-5833.

Commercial/Mixed-Use Development

Steiner Elementary School #3 – River Ridge – Construction is nearing completion for an August 2009 opening on the third Leander ISD elementary school in Steiner Ranch, located between the Tierra Grande and Monterrey neighborhoods and across Quinlan Park Rd from Sierra Vista. Please contact LISD if you have further questions about this new school.

Longhorn Village Retirement Community – The first residents should be moving into the new patio home units by July 2009 and the independent living apartment building with commons area and dining facilities should be ready for occupancy late Summer. In addition to the patio homes and independent living apartments, Longhorn Village will offer assisted living apartments and nursing care units, along with appropriate amenities. Please stop by the Longhorn Village sales information center on South Quinlan Park Rd if you have further questions about their community.

Longhorn Canyon Townhomes – Kemp Management has completed the first 8 of the 29 townhomes located along the 5th hole of the UT Golf Club course immediately across Quinlan Park Rd from the Towne Square Community Center. For more information on this development please call Kemp Properties at 441-1062.

Fairways at Steiner Ranch – Colonial Bank currently owns this site along the 3rd through 6th holes of the UT Golf Club course. Over the past few months they have completed clearing and grading on the site, and have installed additional landscape buffering along

(Continued on Page 7)

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Developer's Corner- (Continued from Page 6)

the golf course. We understand that the Bank is negotiating with a builder to be determined to build out the remainder of the 88 patio home units on this site. More information about the development and sales should be forthcoming in the near future.

Taylor Woodrow Communities continues to receive interest from various developers for the remaining mixed-use development sites in Steiner Ranch. Vintage Fine Homes has completed city/county site plan approvals to build approximately 20 patio homes on Tract #18 along Steiner Ranch Blvd. across from the Monterone apartments. With the slow down in the local housing market they have not announced a timeframe to begin construction on this site. Also, pre-leasing continues on the retail/office mixed use development on Tract #4 at the southwest corner of Quinlan Park Rd and Steiner Ranch Blvd. More information on these and other mixed-use sites will be available in the future as development plans progress.

Please visit or call the Welcome Center (266-5833) if you have any questions about home construction and development within Steiner Ranch, or just want to pick up a copy of the updated master plan map. You may also contact Robert Long directly (532-2129) if you have more specific construction or development status questions. Taylor Woodrow Communities recently moved the development office staff into the Welcome Center on Quinlan Park Rd where they are more readily available to answer questions from residents and prospective homebuyers.



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Around Steiner

Annual 4th of July Parade Celebration

We had a fantastic turnout for the annual 4th of July Parade. 26-Music sponsored Dr. Michael Holderer, Doctorate of Music from UT Austin, to start off the parade by singing the National Anthem which was amazing and enjoyed by all. The Lake Travis Fire & Rescue brought their fire engine giving the kids a chance to see a ladder truck up close. Chase Burris from Keller Williams Realty and the Four Points Business Association brought flags for everyone which helped keep everyone in the patriotic spirit.

Cups & Cones provided popsicles and ice cream for all to help keep cool. Thanks to Jennifer Mitchell for once again leading the Parade and continuing to chair this community event year after year. Great job Jennifer!

The Social Committee welcomes new members and ideas and will be planning the 2010 Calendar at the September 8th Social Committee meeting. Anyone interested in giving back to the Community through volunteering is welcome to attend.





Steiner Ranch Orthodontics

4302 Quinlan Park Road

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

266 8585

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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!*

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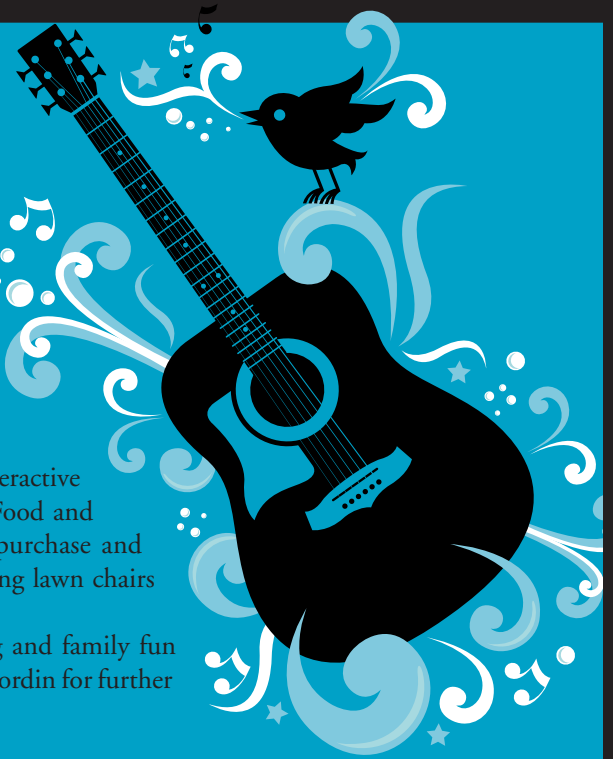
STEINER RANCH *Concert in the Park*

Let's get ready to go Back to School with The Steiner Summer Concert in the Park at the Towne Square Park on Saturday, August 22nd from 5:30-9:00 pm.

With music provided by local band 'Lost in Austin', the event will be hosted by businesses and organizations in the immediate Steiner Ranch and Four Points areas.

Games and activities for the entire family will include inflatables, interactive games, video games, face painting, a putting green and much more. Food and non-alcoholic beverages from local restaurants will be available for purchase and attendees are welcome to bring their own refreshments. Please also bring lawn chairs and/or blankets or anything else suitable for an evening in the park.

Join your neighbors and friends for a great time of music, dancing and family fun before school starts on the following Monday. Please e-mail Kristi Lee-Nordin for further information at kleenordin@cups-and-cones.com.



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WCID #17 Mandatory 2 Day Per Week Watering Starts May 1st

NO CALENDAR IS NEEDED, all you need to do is set your irrigation system to your two designated watering days.

Steiner Ranch residents:

- **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,
and encouraged to adhere to it the rest of the year.

*Systems such as the one used by the
Steiner Ranch HOA using reclaimed or recycled water
will not be subject to the restrictions.*

The time of day residents may water. To reduce wasting water through evaporation during daytime heat, watering with an automatic irrigation system is permitted before 10am or after 7pm. Watering with a hand held hose or bucket may be done any time of day or any day of the week. Other water uses such as washing cars or boats is not restricted to watering days unless increased conservation measures become necessary.

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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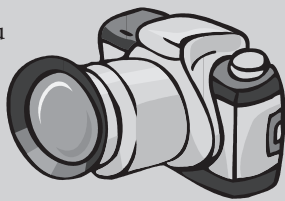
Would you like to see your photo published?

We are looking for great cover photos for upcoming issues of the Ranch Record.

All photo's submitted must be in Steiner Ranch and we'd love to have something that pertains to this time of the year in some way, such as a great back to school photo or end of the summer party or event.

Our September issue submittal deadline is August 6th and photos should be submitted electronically by the deadline date in high resolution to Sharon Adams at 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.



Steiner-Palooza *Steiner's own Music Festival*

Mark your calendars now for the fantastic Steiner-Palooza Music Festival & Pool Party that the Steiner Ranch Social Committee will be throwing on Saturday September 26th at the Bella Mar community center. Response to the call for community musicians has been fantastic, and we've got a tremendous array of talent assembled to perform for you & your families: Classic Rock bands, Country artists, nationally touring Singer-Songwriters, you name it! The Vandegrift Vipers High School Band Booster Club will be providing concessions, and the music will run from early afternoon into the evening. It's a family-friendly BYOB party, so throw on some sunscreen along with your dancing shoes, and we'll see you there!

Community Garage Sale

The Steiner Ranch Fall Community Wide Garage sale is scheduled for Saturday, September 12th from 8:00am – 12:00pm.

Place the items you wish to sale in your driveway or garage before 8:00am. It's that easy! We will do the advertising for you!

This is a well attended event and the best time of the year to clear out your home of unwanted items.

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2009 Steiner Ranch Social Committee Events

Aug 15 – Movie in the Park –
Race to Witch Mountain

Aug 22 – Steiner Ranch Concert
in the Park

Sept 12 – Garage Sale

Sept 26 – Steiner-palooza

Oct 16 – 18 – Scrap-A-Thon

Oct 31 – 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.*

Stork Report in Steiner Ranch



Bryce Andrew Rotellini
7 lbs 2 oz; 19 inches
Arrived: May 20th, 2009
Proud Parents:
Tim and Stephanie Rotellini
and Big Brother Tyler

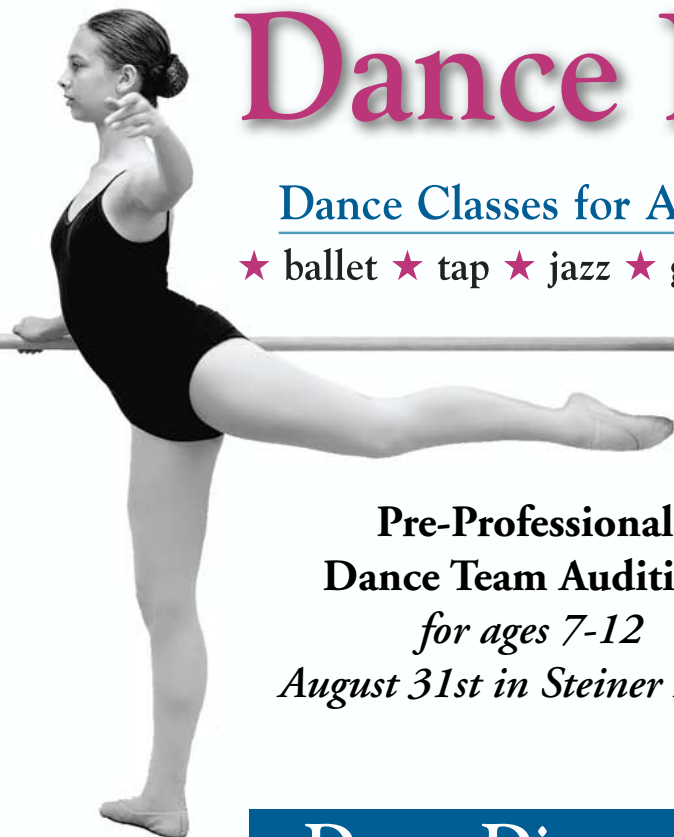


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Starlight MOVIE IN THE PARK



Steiner Ranch Movie in the Park

**Saturday, August 15, 2009
8:30pm (Movie starts at dark)
Towne Square Fields**

Come to the Towne Square Fields and enjoy a free movie! Michael Bennett of Bennett Technologies will be proving the movie equipment and The River Ridge Elementary PTA will be selling food, drinks, snow cones and cup cakes!

Race to Witch Mountain

Dwayne Johnson, Ciaran Hinds, AnnaSophia Robb
Walt Disney Studios; Directed
by Andy Fickman
Rated PG; 98 minutes; 2009

Jack Bruno is a cabbie who picks up two very special passengers. He ends up with young siblings who happen to have paranormal powers. The two are trying to get back to their space ship which is trapped inside Witch Mountain, a place where strange phenomena are known to occur. If the pair does not get to their ship in time, an alien invasion will begin.

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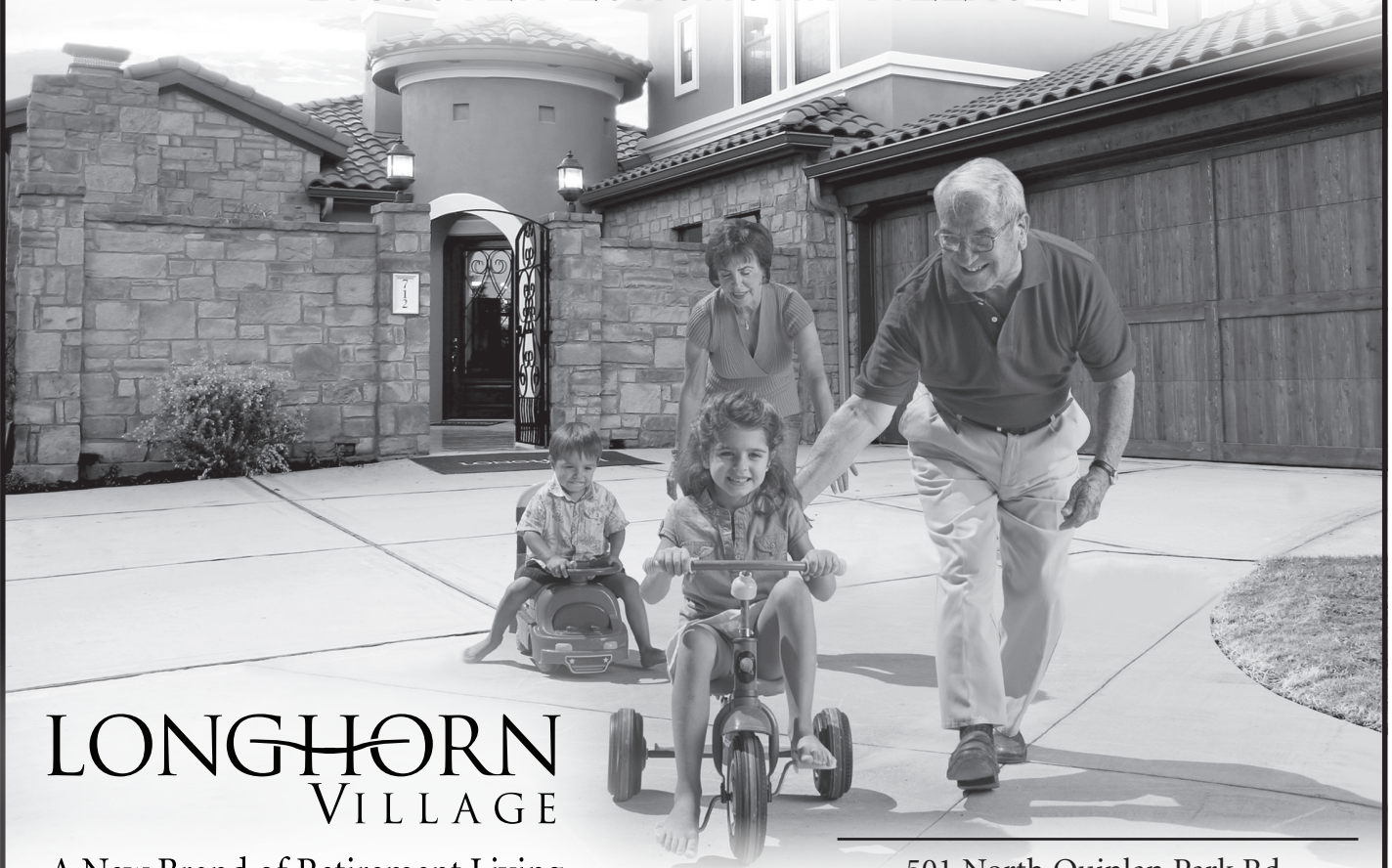
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SUMMER POOL USE & CLOSURES



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.

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:

Shooting Stars- July 14th – August 6th (Tue – Fri)
Team 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:

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.

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Sunday Schedule:

9:30 & 11 am - Bible Life Groups (all ages)

9:30 am - Celebration-Connection
(Worship Choir & Orchestra)

11:00 am - Life-Connection
(Worship Band)

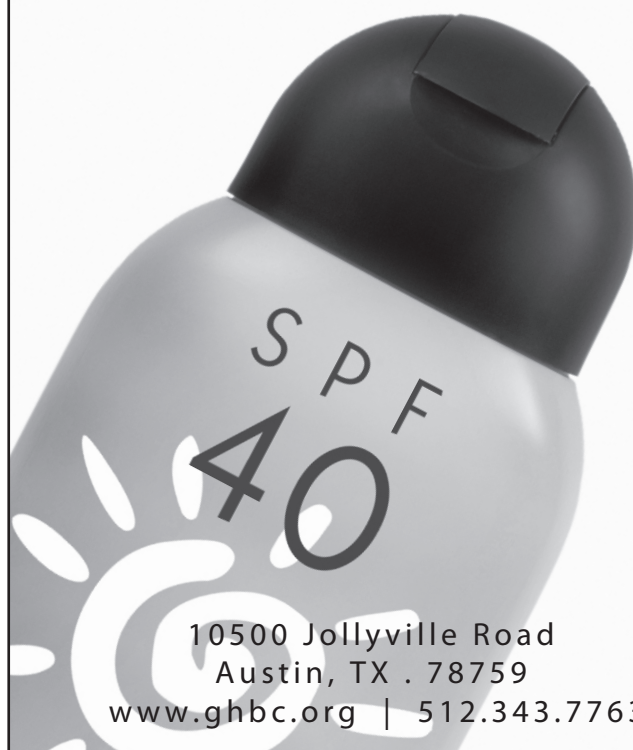
Classes Beginning September 20:

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Around Steiner

SUMMER CAMPS

Offer Fun Activities for Kids

Summer Camps Still Going Strong in Steiner Ranch

Summer camps have been keeping the kids busy and having FUN so far this summer. Steiner Ranch has been the host to 30 camps in June and July and the month of August will bring 11 more camps. It's not too late to register! Registration forms and current information are available on-line at www.steinerranchhoa.org.

Steiner Tennis Camp

We will have a Tennis Professionals teaching week long Tennis camps that will focus on the skill level of the player.

August 3 - 7

Tap~N~Toes Hip Hop Camp

Tap & Toes School of Dance will offer a week long Dance camps for girls of all ages. The camp will include instruction in tap, ballet and/or hip hop for ages 3 - 12.

August 3 - 7

Mini Hawk Camp

Skyhawks Sports Academy is back to offer their their very popular Mini-Hawk Camp (Soccer, Baseball & Basketball) for kids ages 4 - 7 and new this year a golf camp.

August 3 - 7 Golf

Kidventure Camp

August 3 - 8 • \

August 10 - 14



Sportball Camp

Sportball, one of the most popular camps, will offer half day and full day indoor Multi-Sport Camps for kids ages 2 - 7.

August 17 - 21

Science Camp

MadScience will hold their fun & interactive half day and full day Science Camps for kids ages 6 - 12.

August 10 - 14 • August 17 -21

Creative Art Camp

KidzArt will hold its creative Art Camp for elementary age children.

August 3 - 7

Gymnastics Camp

Gymnastics camp for boys and girls ages 4 - 12. August 17 - 21

Spanish Camp

August 10 - 14



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Steiner Ranch Fall Program For Adults & Children

The Steiner Ranch Fall Program for 2009 will begin in early September. Most of the programs were offered last spring, but we also have a few new ones that have been added to the already awesome Programs. The Fall Program Guide and registration information can be downloaded from our website at www.steinerranchhoa.org. Classes being offered this Fall are:

Children's Programs

- Sportball
- Tap/Ballet/Hip Hop
- Gymnastics
- Karate
- Tennis
- Art
- Soccer
- Flag Football
- Abacus Brain Study
- Spanish
- Music

Teen/Adult Programs

- Yoga
- Karate
- Tennis
- Master's Swimming
- Turbo Kick
- Stroller Strides
- Just Dance
- Camp Gladiator
- Art (teens only)

For questions or to obtain more information, please contact Sharon Adams at 512-266-7553 or sharon@steinerranchhoa.org.

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

Aug 21

Sept 18

Oct 23 – 25 Scrap-a-thon

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

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Around Steiner

Workshop Series - August

Steiner Ranch continues its monthly Workshop Series for the month of August. We are always looking for more workshops to offer residents so if you or someone you know can provide education opportunities for Steiner Ranch residents, please contact Sharon Adams at sharon@steinerranchhoa.org or 512-266-7553

August 5th - How Money Works, by Rich Keith - How money works and basic investing. Great for all persons new to investing. And this workshop satisfies the yearly Sec. 404(c) education requirement for employers. If you have employees with retirement plans who need to receive their yearly investment education requirement then this is the workshop for you.

RSVP (512) 632-0162 or send email to RKeith@primerica.com
7:00pm BMCC - Free

August 11th - Women & Finance, by Rich Keith - As our financial success continues to grow, so do our financial responsibilities. But for many women, meeting these financial responsibilities can be a far greater challenge than it is for men. We explore the challenges and the opportunities that are unique to women so you can create a financial road map that covers key areas of your life. With such a roadmap you can make better financial decisions. RSVP (512) 632-0162 or send email to RKeith@primerica.com

7:00pm BMCC - Free

August 13th - Full Circle Stretch Class, by Katherine Coffee - (see article on page 21).
7:00pm TSCC - Free

August 18th - Education Funding, by Rich Keith - We will explore your options to fund your children's education. It's not difficult once you know the ropes. Learn

about tax-advantaged programs that you and others can contribute to on an ongoing basis. Some programs are directed at education and some are for the benefit of the child and are not tied to education. Learn the advantages and disadvantages of each approach.

RSVP (512) 632-0162 or send email to RKeith@primerica.com
7:00pm BMCC - Free

August 25th - How to Beat Heart Disease and Lower Cholesterol, by Dr. Ross Coccimiglio & Dr. Bolden Harris -
RSVP: 6:00pm TSCC - Free

For additional information go to www.steinerranchhoa.org or contact Sharon Adams, Community Coordinator at sharon@steinerranchhoa.org.

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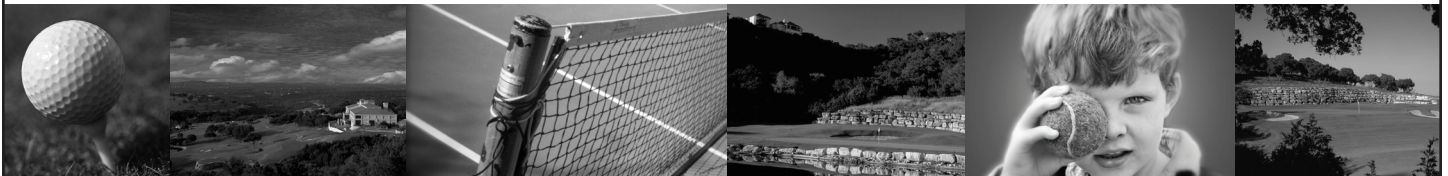
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What are your Kids Doing after school?

Join the Fun this Fall!

Junior Programs are offered after school every day from September through December. 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 Fall Junior Programs.



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

The Dominion



Golf Group

River Place • The Dominion • Onion Creek • Twin Creeks

Full Circle Stretch Class

Thursday, August 13th @ 7:00pm
Towne Square Community Center
FREE

Join fitness professional, Katherine Coffee in this full body stretch class appropriate for all fitness levels. Bring a mat, blanket or towel for comfortable seated stretches. Participants will receive a copy of Katherine's audio-led stretch CD with instructional poster to follow along with at home. Katherine is a fitness trainer/instructor at Lake Austin Spa Resort and is completing her master's degree from UT in health promotion. She is also a licensed stress management coach focusing on stress relief, revitalizing health, stopping emotional eating, and improving athletic performance. Katherine enjoys teaching a variety of activities from strength training and cycling to yoga and pilates. For more on Katherine, please visit her website at www.KatherineCoffee.com

Water Aerobics is here!

The Steiner Ranch water aerobics classes will continue through the end of September (or until the water gets too cold)

Towne Square Pool
 Monthly
 \$45 for 8 classes/month
 Mon/Wed at 6:45pm
 Tue/Thur at 9:15am
 Classes are 50 minutes long

Registration using the 2009 Program Registration form found at www.steinerranchhoa.org



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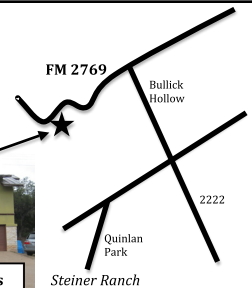
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Steiner Stars Swim Teams Finish the Season Strong

The Steiner Ranch Stars Red team has had another very successful season this summer and would like to Thank and recognize the sponsors who helped make it happen.

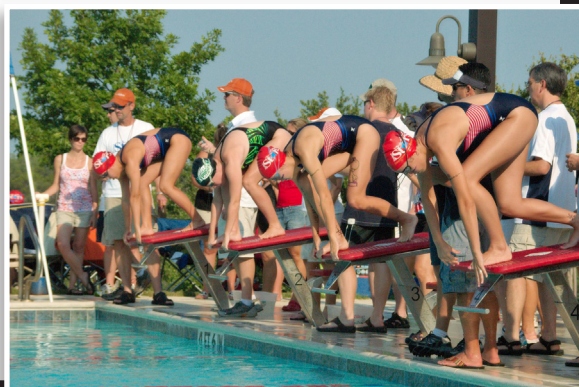
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- Stacey E. Miller, DDS, MS
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- Steiner Ranch Residential Owners Association
- University of Texas Gold Club
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- Tyke Bytes
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- Villari's Martial Arts

(Continued on Page 25)



The Steiner360 Team

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Steiner Ranch Market Statistics			
Price Range	As of July 7, 2009		April-June '09
	# For Sale	# Pending	# Sold
	Avg L\$/sf Avg DOM	Avg L\$/sf Avg DOM	Avg S\$/sf Avg DOM
\$200K-\$300K	30/\$113/99	8/\$110/101	25/\$108/74
\$300K-\$400K	44/\$125/107	19/\$117/97	15/\$113/75
\$400K-\$500K	32/\$134/78	7/\$123/85	11/\$123/70
\$500K-\$600K	13/\$144/159	1/\$136/109	6/\$128/79
\$600K-\$700K	19/\$156/94	7/\$151/114	4/\$141/155
\$700K-\$800K	11/\$190/236	2/\$164/116	2/\$147/103
\$800K-\$900K	9/\$199/240	2/\$184/152	2/\$166/87
\$900K-\$1M	1/\$234/81	0	0
\$1M-\$2M	5/\$276/156	0	1/\$164/189
\$2M and up	2/\$423/71	0	0

*statistics based on the Austin MLS



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Around Steiner

Nominate Your Favorite Yard for The Yard Of The Month



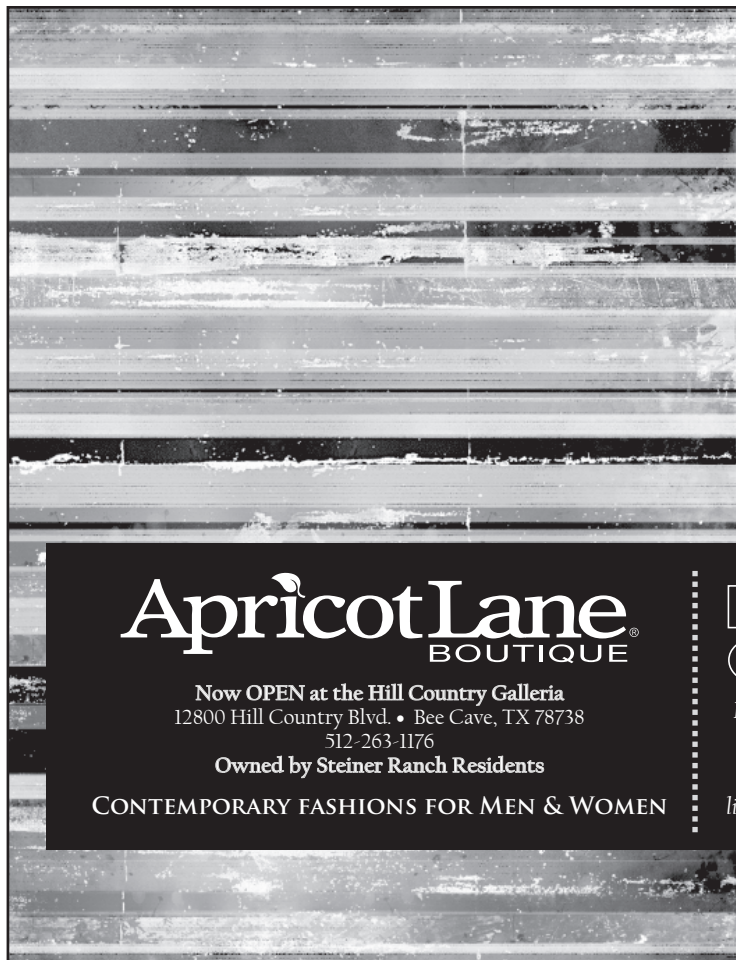
*Congratulations to
The Yard of the Month
for July!*

13116 COUNTRY LAKE DRIVE

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. Please include a photo if possible.



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Steiner Stars Swim Team- (Continued from Page 22)

Their were a total of 98 swimmers who qualified in 262 events for the Invitational Meet, held at the UT Swim Center on July 12th. They were:

Cole Adams	Steve Gerken	August Postiglione
Just Balarbar	Tom Gerken	Beckett Postiglione
Noah Balarbar	Grace Gossard	Mark Purvis
Davis Beal	Sunny Gupta	Kayleigh Rago
Rachel Bezella	Rebekah Harvey	Teresa Rago
Zach Bezella	Cierra Jacobsen	Colin Reeve
Jonathon Broughton	Isabelle Johnson	Emilie Reh
Hanna Brown	Forrest Keith	Sara Ross
Hailey Bye	Linnea Kennedy	Sarah Schaal
Wilson Chestney	Maria Krychniak	Garrett Schmuellen
Mia Chiarelli	Carder LaBrake	Jocelyn Schneider
Sam Chiarelli	Courtney Lorson	Jacob Schuller
Quin Collins	Brandon Maas	Quinn Sinnwell
Karla Connell	Alec Masterson	Scott Sloan
Zachary Conte	Linnea May	Sean Sloan
Sarah Cronin	Josh Maysonave	Brenna Smith
Tyler Cronin	Kyle Maysonave	Gretta Smith
Gabriella Cusano	Cameron McAfee	Kennedy Smith
Nicolas Cusano	Kayla McAfee	Lauren Stevens
Cameron Daniel	Michael Meador	Lindsey Thompson
Inga Dedow	Katelyn Morse	Rachel Tovar
Karl Dedow	Kylie Morse	Robbie Tovar
Jacob Denny	Thomas Naccarato	Eduardo Velasco
Sarah Devaney	Elizabeth Nelson	Isabella Voelkl
Brian Donohue	Gavin Nelson	David Wan
Patrick Doyle	Katherine Nissen	Nicholas Wasser
Haley Driskill	Evan Ormond	Cathryn Wheatley
Kiersten Dyke	Kayla Osborn	Alex Williams
Sabina Federlin	Ethan Palmer	Jack Woche
Nick Fionda	Avery Panoff	Zach Wolk
Andrew Fisher	Riley Phillips	Fischer Wunsch
Chris Flynn	Bailey Phillips	Jonathan Zhang
Quinn Gayle	Kelsee Pitman	

Congratulations Stars on another great season!

The Steiner Stars Blue team completed their first season as a "provisional" swim team on July 9th with their final meet. Next season they should be a full fledged member of the Northwest Swim Circute, competing against the other teams in that Circuit, including the Red Team! Check out their results on the website at www.steinerstars.org.

Planning for the 2010 season has already begun with the new swim team Boards. Look for information as it becomes available in the Ranch Record.

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Trails Update

Submitted by Rich Keith, Trails Committee Chair



Do you like to solve problems and design things? Your Steiner Ranch Trails Committee is actively seeking a volunteer or group of volunteers to design our sign markings for the entire trail system. You don't have to install them – you just have to design the markings. The image shows an example of a sign in the Walnut Creek trail system. We need similar markings for hikers on our trails. As a designer, your job will be to work out what labels to place at each sign location, and place an order for the labels using HOA funds. The markings have several purposes:

- Location: label the trail name on the sign.
- Show how far it is to the nearest trail exit in either direction (we have GPS coordinates to help here)
- At trail intersections, mark which trail continues and which trail branches.
- At trail exits, show the street name for that exit point.
- Show any special information such as steep trail, rocky, water crossing, view point, bench, etc.
- Show emergency information.
- Show special information when the trail is on the Balcones Preserve land.

Do you like to collaborate with another person or two? This is a great team project for a small team. If you want to accomplish something great which will impact your community for many years to come, this is your chance. Please contact richardk@austin.rr.com or call Rich Keith, Trails Committee Chair, at 266-8498.



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FACTS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT DROWNING

Drowning is the leading cause of unintentional injury-related death in children ages 1-4



DROWNING WILL AFFECT YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW

Drowning is the 2nd leading cause of unintentional injury-related death ages 1-14.

For more information, check out our website at

www.colinshope.org

DROWNING CAN STILL OCCUR EVEN IF YOU KNOW HOW TO SWIM

NO ONE is "drown proof" – no matter their level of swimming ability.

Falls, entrapments, and injuries lead to drowning regardless of swimming level.

A majority of people overestimate their own and their child's ability to swim, especially in a panic event.

DROWNING IS QUICK AND SILENT



Drowning occurs in as little as 2 minutes.



Irreversible brain damage occurs in as little as 4 minutes.



Most children are out of sight or missing for less than 5 minutes and usually in the presence of 1 or both parents.



Most children die who are submerged for as little as 6-10 minutes.

Children who drown do not **scream, splash, or struggle**. They silently slip beneath the water, even with adults & lifeguards present.

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. I must have your registration by 5:00pm on Monday, August 17th with the following information:

- a. Name
- b. Coach name (if different)
- c. Address
- d. Phone number
- e. Organization (CC United, Town & Country, etc.)
- f. Sport (soccer, baseball, etc.)
- g. Age group
- h. Name of Team (if you have it)
- i. 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.

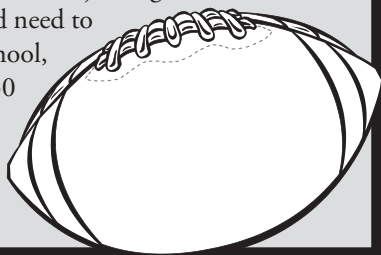
***If you are with Neighborhood Sports (soccer or flag football), you do not need to register your team or participate in the lottery. Representatives will be attending the lottery in your behalf.

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

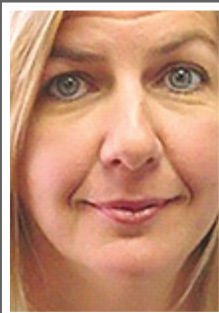
Attention Laura Welch Bush Elementary School Parents

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!
LWBE Staff*



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Around Steiner

Steiner Ranch History Corner

Submitted by Rich Keith

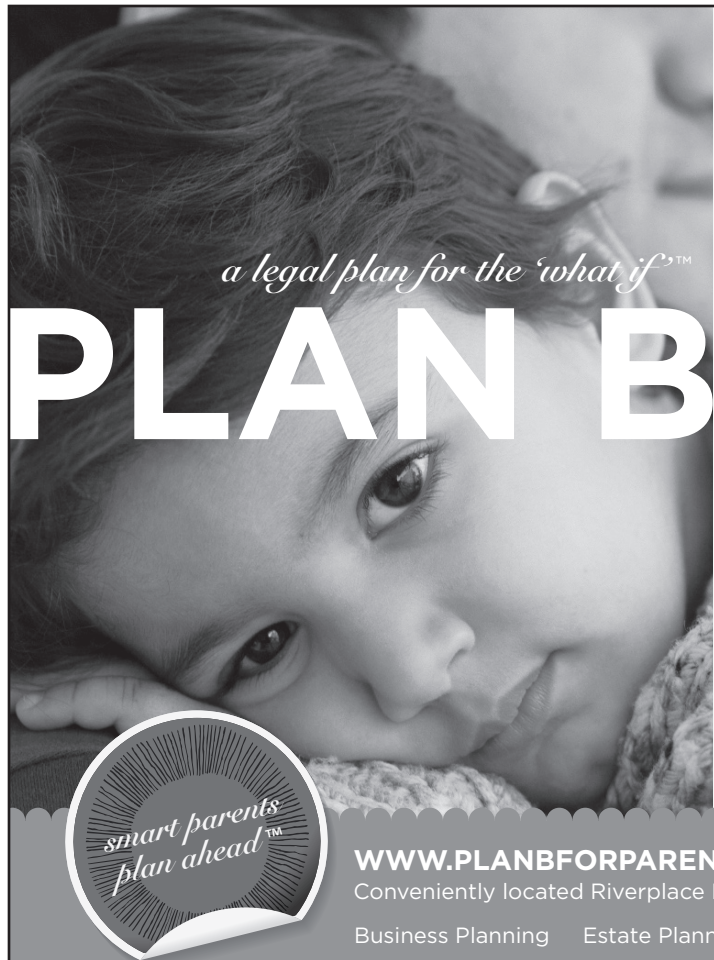
The water in Lake Austin was too cold for the guests of the Sunshine Nudist Camp, which was established on Lake Austin in the early 1970s, replacing a fishing camp that had been there since the '40s. The campers gritted their teeth for a few years, then decamped to warmer climates. Replacing them were rodeo clowns and cowboys learning the ropes at the Steiner Ranch Rodeo Camp. That venture lasted until 1979, when the Bermuda Inn, a so-called fat farm, opened its doors at this secluded spot. It would stay until 1997, undergoing two name changes (and substantial shifts in philosophy) during that time, becoming Lake Austin Resort in the 1980s and Lake Austin Spa Resort in 1994. Then, in 1997, the property was bought by its present owners, Michael McAdams and Billy Rucks, who kept the name but started changing just about everything else.

The current Lake Austin Spa Resort is incarnation number seven, and that seems to be the lucky number. By 2005 McAdams and Rucks had finished a seven-year renovation of the property. The current spa is the 25,000-square-foot LakeHouse Spa. It has 30 treatment areas, both indoors and out, with an extensive treatment menu. There are special menus for men and teens and a separate beauty salon with

a pedicure bar. The new facility, along with the property's other improvements, puts Lake Austin firmly on the destination-spa map. In fact, in 2008 they were named the #1 Destination Spa in North America by the readers of Conde Nast Traveler magazine.

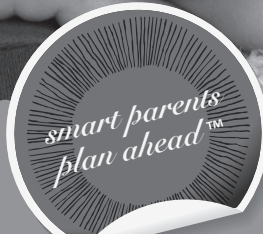
McAdams's ambition was to build a spa "that would be like your best friend's lake house," he says. However, "I worried that the LakeHouse Spa would be too grand," says McAdams. "I asked the design team to build in a funky factor to give it some whimsy." That took the form of large wooden shutters and a screened-in porch with Kennedy rocking chairs. Both give the building a down-home feel. The mood at Lake Austin is low-key. Many guests pad around in a robe all day and spend downtime in the rocking chairs outside their cabins. The tour of the extensive gardens, full of butterflies and birds, is popular. "If you want to ride horses and climb mountains, this wouldn't be your spot," says a staff member. "If you want to wear jewelry to dinner, this wouldn't be your place, either. If you want to wear no makeup and wear your robe to dinner and feel really comfortable, then you'll like it here."

(Continued on Page 29)



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Steiner Ranch History Corner- (Continued from Page 28)

The lake plays a major role in the exercise program, which includes hydro-biking, kayaking, waterskiing, wakeboarding, and sculling. There's also a yoga deck over the water, where tai chi classes are taught as well. The water is still very cold. But the feeling is warm.

Sources: Lake Austin Spa Resort; MSNBC article by Mary Bemis, Luxury SpaFinder Magazine contributor.

Pink Party at Fion's

Thursday, Aug. 27th at 7:00pm

Help fight breast and ovarian cancer.

Wear Pink or Teal to show your support!

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Fion's will donate a portion of all sales from the event to Facing Our Risks of Cancer Empowerment (F.O.R.C.E), which improves the lives of individuals and families affected by hereditary breast and ovarian cancer.

Steiner Birthdays

August 3rd - Matthew Poole
August 7th -Tori Botello
August 26th - Lauren Poole

Happy Birthday!
Send your Birthday announcements to
steinerranch@peelinc.com





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We'll Have a Special Section for Kids
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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 or (512) 490-2360. Discover Girl Scouts online at 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 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

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 and fishing with your family, shoot BB guns, sleep over on real U.S. Naval ships 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? Find out how enriching being a Cub Scout can be!

Contact Kim Skelton for more information 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

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 and it will be included in each issue. Feel free to submit post event write-ups and photos.

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 \$50,000.00 in city rebates
- 25+ years of savings
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From the Association Office

Greenbelt and Fence Line Inspections

Some of you may have recently received a letter from the Association notifying you of an upcoming greenbelt/fence line inspection that will be conducted in your neighborhood. Many of you might be questioning why is the Association doing this now, what exactly are they looking for, what is considered a violation? Below are a few common questions that have been asked of the Association since commencing this inspection and the answers that are most applicable:

Why is the Association conducting this inspection? As Steiner Ranch grows in size and as some homes are offered as a lease option, this has become an ever-growing necessity. Many Residents are not aware that the greenbelts and common areas are property of the Association; maintenance and repair of these areas are the responsibility of the Association as well. Unfortunately,

several areas in the greenbelt have been abused, unauthorized clearings, pathways cut into, forts erected and other private items stored or placed in for personal use. This type of activity is strictly against the covenants for the Steiner Ranch community. With the vast number of homes that are adjacent to the greenbelt, the Association is simply requesting the Residents to help in addressing these issues by allowing us open access to the rear of your property.

What is the Association looking for? We are looking for any activity intentional or not that could have a negative effect in the greenbelts, common areas and to your property. This would include but not limited to private gates, unapproved clearing, dumping of trash or building material, forts or tree houses, unapproved modifications, prohibited plant material, fencing in disrepair, etc. These activities

could result in a fine assessed against your property and could ultimately cause an increase in bi-annual assessments due to the Association having to incur the expense of repair for these areas.

What to do if my property is in violation? After the inspection the Association will communicate to you in writing if there were any violations found with your property. One of the most popular violations is a gate in the rear fence line leading to a greenbelt. The Association and Board of Directors will require for you to permanently close the private access gate by either welding or bolting the gate shut. Once the violation is corrected you may contact the Association to request a re-inspection and removal of the violation. If you have questions or concerns regarding the violations, please do not hesitate to contact the Association's office.

(Continued on Page 35)



Summer is here!

Now is the time to get rid of that unwanted hair, permanently. Make your appointment today to see Dr. Lain at Steiner Ranch Dermatology and be smooth for summer!

2 FOR 1

LASER HAIR REMOVAL

**BUY YOUR UNDERARMS AND
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CALL NOW TO BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT

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STEINER RANCH
D e r m a t o l o g y

*Excludes Brazilian Treatments - Offer expires 8/31/2009

Facilities Rental

Did you know that Steiner Ranch residents are able to rent the community facilities for picnics, birthday parties, and other events? The Lake Club, the Towne Square Community Center, the Towne Square Pool Pavilion, the Towne Square Veranda, the Bella Mar Community Center, the Bella Mar Pavilion, the John Simpson Pool Pavilion, and all of the community parks are available for you to use at very reasonable rates. To reserve a facility, please call 266-7553 at least one (1) week in advance of your requested date. We do not reserve outdoor facilities during holiday weekends and you must be in good financial standing with the Association in order to make a reservation. Following are the facility locations, amenities available at each location, and the costs for rental:

The Lake Club

Location: 11300 Riverbend Road
Amenities: Barbeque grills, Basketball courts, Day-slips for boats, Restrooms, Playground, Covered picnic area, and 6 Picnic tables. (There is a public boat launch next to the Lake Club.)
Fees: \$25.00 for 6 hours; \$50.00 all day
Entitlements: A reservation guarantees the resident exclusive use of 4 of the 6 picnic tables under the covered picnic area. The remainder of the Lake Club is available for general use.

The Parks

Location: Canyon Glen (Hughes Ranch Road); Majestic Oaks (Lantana Ridge Drive); John Simpson Park (3605 John Simpson Trail); Flat Top Park (Flat Top Ranch Road); Towne Square Park (12550 Country Trails Lane); Las Brisas (Capella Trail); Bella Mar Park
Amenities: Playground, Picnic tables, Water fountains, (Restrooms at John Simpson, Towne Square & Flat Top only; Grills at John Simpson, Towne Square and Las Brisas)
Fees: \$25.00 for 6 hours; \$50.00 all day
Entitlements: A reservation guarantees the resident exclusive use of 2 picnic tables. The remainder of the park is available for general use.

The Pool Pavilions and Veranda

Location: Towne Square Pool Pavilion and Towne Square Veranda (12550 Country Trails Lane); John Simpson Pool Pavilion (3605 John Simpson Trail); Bella Mar Pool Pavilion (12401 Bella Mar Trail)
Amenities: Covered outdoor area, Tables and chairs, Restrooms
Fees: \$25.00 for 6 hours; \$50.00 all day
Entitlements: A reservation entitles the resident to exclusive use of the pavilions or veranda. ***Please note that if you have a reservation at the John Simpson Pavilion, you will have swimmers and/or children from the playground entering the Pavilion to access the restrooms.

Community Centers

Location: Towne Square Community Center (12550 Country Trails Lane)
Amenities: Indoor party room (27'x 52'), Banquet tables, Round tables, 80 chairs, Full kitchen, Restrooms
Fees: \$100.00 for 6 hours or \$200.00 all day for a personal or social event; \$200.00 for 6 hours or \$400.00 all day for a business or "for-profit" event; (***Please note a \$300.00 damage deposit is required for all TSCC reservations.) In addition, a resident may reserve the Towne Square Pavilion and/or Veranda to use in conjunction with the TSCC. See rates under Pool Pavilions and Veranda.
Entitlements: A reservation entitles the resident to exclusive use of the TSCC.

Location: Bella Mar Community Center (12401 Bella Mar Trail)
Amenities: Indoor party room (27'x 27'), Banquet tables, Round tables, 40 chairs, Full kitchen, Restrooms
Fees: \$75.00 for 6 hours or \$150.00 all day for a personal or social event; \$150.00 for 6 hours or \$300.00 all day for a business or "for-profit" event; (***Please note a \$300.00 damage deposit is required for all TSCC reservations.) In addition, a resident may reserve the Bella Mar Pavilion to use in conjunction with the BMCC. See rates under Pool Pavilion.
Entitlements: A reservation entitles the resident to exclusive use of the BMCC.

Athletic Fields

Locations: Towne Square Fields; Flat Top Fields (Flat Top Ranch Road); Bella Mar Fields
Amenities: Athletic Fields (In addition, all fields have a playground area located next to them.)
Fees: None
Please note: These fields are reserved for teams by lottery system during the league seasons. Individuals needing a reservation for another reason (birthday party, etc.), should contact the Association Office at 266-7553 inquire about field availability.

****NEW****

Reservation calendars are available to view on-line at www.steiner ranchhoa.org under the "reservation" link.
Please check availability prior to calling the Association to reserve a facility.

From the Association Office

Tenant/Occupant Registration Requirement

There are over 3,300 occupied homes in Steiner Ranch, but not all are occupied by the actual homeowners. Some homeowners, for various reasons, rent or lease their home to tenants/occupants, and that is when challenges arise for the Community Associations Office staff. There are certain notification requirements placed upon the Association by the governing documents of Steiner Ranch. These notifications include but are not limited to:

- Semi-annual assessment statements
- Annual meeting notifications
- Deed restriction violation notices
- General correspondence

Not having a homeowner's absentee or off-site address for the notifications mentioned above can, unfortunately, cause fines or other fees to be charged to a homeowner's account for failure to pay assessments on time or for failure to correct violations on the property within a specified timeframe. When tenants/occupants are registered at the Community Associations Office, the Association has the homeowner's absentee address on file and is able to send all the required notifications directly to the homeowner.

Having tenants/occupants registered also helps to protect the homeowner and his/her Steiner Ranch property. If the Association

discovers that a tenant/occupant is not properly maintaining the landscaping or has caused some other violation on the property, a notice is sent to the homeowner informing them of the violation and a copy of the notice is sent to the tenant/occupant. Quickly correcting violations helps to ensure individual property values are maintained at their highest level, as well as the entire community.

Due to the challenges which have arisen as a result of rented and leased homes, the Association requires registration of all tenants/occupants in Steiner Ranch. In order for a tenant/occupant to receive access to the Steiner Ranch facilities, the homeowners must register the tenants/occupants via the Tenant/Occupant Registration Form and complete the Facilities Use Agreement. Once these forms are on file in the Community Associations Office, the Association will issue a "Facility Tag" to the tenants/occupants so they may enjoy all the facilities Steiner Ranch has to offer. Without the Facility Tag, tenants/occupants will not be able to enter any of the locked facilities, which includes the pools, tennis courts and the Lake Club.

Please be aware that Tenant/Occupant Registration forms must be completed by the homeowner and the responsible tenant/occupant. Forms signed by a property manager or other non-homeowner will not be accepted unless a power of attorney form is also submitted

(Continued on Page 35)



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Credit card not required in MA & PA. NFL SUNDAY TICKET subscription required to order NFL SUNDAY TICKET SuperFan. Add Superfan for an additional \$20/month. Blackout rules and other conditions apply to NFL SUNDAY TICKET and all SuperFan features and are based on eligibility of customers service address. *Eligibility based on service address. **Among the largest national cable & satellite TV providers. 2009 American Customer Satisfaction Index, University of Michigan Business School. PROGRAMMING OFFER: Featured package name and price: FAMILY \$29.99/mo.; PREMIER \$109.99/mo.; 2009 NFL SUNDAY TICKET billed in five monthly installments of \$59.99 each. In the sixth month, PREMIER package will automatically continue at the then-prevailing rate and DVR service will continue at \$6.00/mo.; unless customer calls DIRECTV to change service. NFL SUNDAY TICKET automatically continues each season at a special rate, unless customer calls to cancel prior to start of season. Blackout restrictions and other conditions may apply. DIRECTV System has a feature which restricts access to channels. In certain markets, programming/pricing may vary. HD DVR INSTANT REBATE: Advanced equipment instant rebate requires activation of the CHOICE XTRA package or above; MAS ULTRA or above; Jadeworld; or any qualifying international services bundle, which shall include the PREFERRED CHOICE programming package (valued at \$35.99/mo.), DVR service (\$6.00/mo.) and HD Access fee (\$10.00/mo.) required for HD DVR lease. LIMIT ONE ADVANCED EQUIPMENT REBATE PER ACCOUNT. INSTALLATION: Standard professional installation only. Custom installation extra. SYSTEM LEASE: Purchase of 24 consecutive months of any DIRECTV base programming package (\$29.99/mo. or above) or qualifying international services bundle required. FAILURE TO ACTIVATE ALL DIRECTV SYSTEM EQUIPMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE EQUIPMENT LEASE ADDENDUM MAY RESULT IN A CHARGE OF \$150 PER RECEIVER NOT ACTIVATED. IF YOU FAIL TO MAINTAIN YOUR PROGRAMMING COMMITMENT, DIRECTV MAY CHARGE A PRORATED FEE OF \$480. RECEIVERS ARE AT ALL TIMES PROPERTY OF DIRECTV AND MUST BE RETURNED UPON CANCELLATION OF SERVICE OR ADDITIONAL FEES MAY APPLY. VISIT directv.com OR CALL 1-800-DIRECTV FOR DETAILS. Programming, pricing, terms and conditions subject to change at any time. Pricing residential. Taxes not included. Receipt of DIRECTV programming subject to DIRECTV Customer Agreement; copy provided at directv.com/legal and in first bill. NFL, the NFL Shield design and the NFL SUNDAY TICKET name and logo are registered trademarks of the NFL and its affiliates. NFL team names and uniform designs are registered trademarks of the teams indicated. ©2009 DIRECTV, Inc. DIRECTV and the Cyclone Design logo are registered trademarks of DIRECTV, Inc. All other trademarks and service marks are the property of their respective owners.

Tenant/Occupant Registration- (Continued from Page 34)

naming the managing agent or other non-homeowner as authorized to sign legal documents on behalf of the homeowner.

The Tenant/Occupant Registration form is available at the Community Associations Office and online at www.steinerranchhoa.org. There is a \$50.00 tenant/occupant registration fee that must be submitted with the completed Tenant/Occupant Registration form in order for the Association staff to process the registration.

If you have any questions regarding the requirement to register tenants/occupants, please contact the Community Associations Office at 512-266-7553.

Greenbelt Fence & Line Inspection- (Continued from Page 32)

The greenbelts are a major amenity and asset to living here in Steiner Ranch. We are only asking for you to help us protect this shared interest.

Thank you!

Brandi Moegelin

Architectural Coordinator

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
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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and the will –
to succeed.**

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School News

Vandergrift High School



Dear Viper Students and Parents,

I am pleased to announce that we have hired Mr. Andre Clark to be the Vandergrift High School Choir Director. Mr. Clark will split his time between Cedar Park Middle School and Vandergrift High School for the 2009-2010 school year.

Andre Clark has taught in Georgetown ISD for the entire duration of his teaching career, as a founding faculty member of two campuses in addition to serving as Head Choral Director at Georgetown HS from 2006-2008. Mr. Clark is a member of TCDA, TMAA, and TMEA, currently serving as TMEA Region 26 Secretary. His undergraduate degree in Secondary Music Education is from Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos. Prior to teaching, he was the Choir Director at First Lutheran Church in San Marcos, later the Choir and Youth Director at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Yoakum, Tx. Mr. Clark currently resides in Georgetown with his wife, Kara. He is an avid off-road motorcycle enthusiast. We are excited to have Mr. Clark on our staff. He has the vision, experience and commitment to make Vandergrift Choir one of the best programs in the State.

Opening a 9th/10th grade campus poses many unique staffing challenges, especially in fine arts; however, with the full support of LISD for our creative staffing solutions we have been able to meet the needs of our growing campus and allowed us to hire the highest caliber of new staff. Please join me in thanking LISD Senior Administration and the LISD Board of Trustees for their long-range vision and continuing support of our fine arts programs and students!

2009 VHS Band March-A-Thon

The VHS Band March-A-Thon is the band's biggest and most important fundraiser of the year.

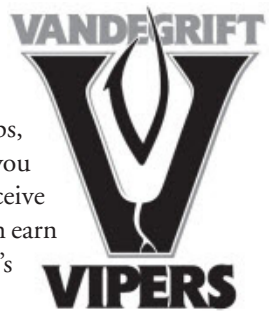
On August 15th, 2009, the inaugural Vandergrift Marching Band will set out at 8am and march the Steiner Ranch neighborhood for 4+ hours, providing music and entertainment in a highly mobile fashion as well as providing customized lawn concerts for those who donate \$100 or more to the band.

Contact Vandergrift Band Director Jeremy Spicer for more info on scheduling the band for your lawn. Note that you must be on the pre-established route to get a lawn concert.

You can donate online with the donation widget on the website, or you can send a check payable to VHS Band Boosters instead. Either give it to your favorite band student, bring it to a booster meeting or mail it to:

VHS Band Boosters
7301 RR 620 N. Suite 155, #267,
Austin, TX 78726-4359

Note that we accept funds towards this fundraiser all throughout the school year! Through fund raising activities, students earn and accumulate points that can be applied to band trips, banquet tickets, logo items, etc. If you would like a particular student to receive credit for your donation so that they can earn points, be sure to include the student's name in the payment notes.





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Vandergrift High School Band Events

August 1 - Pancake Breakfast and Campus Tour

As the incoming students and staff of Vandergrift High School anticipate their opening year, much of the community shares their excitement. Many of you may already have driven by the new high school to catch a glimpse of the outside progress made on both Four Points Middle School, where the students of Vandergrift will be located for their first year, and the high school with its new stadium.

For those curious about the interior of the facility, the Vandergrift High School Band will be hosting a pancake breakfast on Saturday, August 1, with student-led tours of Four Points Middle School and Vandergrift's stadium. This will be the very first look at the inside of our new school, and it is open to everyone, whether your children will attend Vandergrift next year or later on.

Admission is \$7 at the door, and pancakes, sausage, orange juice and coffee will be served. You can pre-order tickets online at www.vhsband.com. Tours of the campus are included in the admission cost. The pancake breakfast is very much a community event, and an opportunity to enjoy a wonderful breakfast with friends while seeing the new school and meeting some of the students.

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Save Lake
Travis.**



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New Classes Begin Aug 31st

AFTERSCHOOL

Multi-sport	3 - 4½ yrs	Mon	3:00 - 4:00pm
Multi-sport	4½ - 6	Mon	4:00 - 5:00pm
Multi-sport	7 - 9	Mon	5:00 - 6:00pm

THURSDAY MORNINGS

Parent & Tot	2's	Thurs	9:00 - 9:45am
Multi-sport	3 - 4½	Thurs	9:45 - 10:45am
Parent & Tot, Jr.	16 - 24mos	Thurs	10:45 - 11:30am

OUTDOOR SOCCER - Sept & Oct, Westridge Park

Parent & Child Soccer	2½ - 4 yrs	Sat	9:00 - 9:45am
Soccer	4 - 6 yrs	Sat	9:45 - 10:45am

REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.SPORTBALL.US

Questions? Call 608-2634

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MONEY MARKET

1.31% \$25,000 TO \$74,999	1.51% \$75,000 TO \$124,999	1.76% \$125,000 AND ABOVE
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minimum daily balance of \$2000 required

CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT¹

1.86% 6 MONTHS	2.07% 12 MONTHS	2.42% 24 MONTHS
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¹regular - minimum deposit of \$1000 required

CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT²

1.96% 6 MONTHS	2.27% 12 MONTHS	2.57% 24 MONTHS
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²jumbo - minimum deposit of \$95000 required

15 METRO LOCATIONS

School News



Coming soon.... *All New Canyon Ridge Middle School Spirit Gear*

Let the CRMS Spirit Gear
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Back to School items:

Jumbo Fabric Book Covers
T-Shirts

Quick draw ID holders

Sales begin at Eagle Camp 8/12/09

All Sales benefit the CRMS PTA

Family Night Fundraiser *Benefitting River Ridge Elementary*

Join Principal Rose, Fellow Students and their Families in
Celebrating our New School!

Saturday, August 15

5-7pm

Towne Square Fields

- Bring a blanket and pack a picnic OR
- Purchase Roppolos Pizza, Mmmpanadas, Kona Ice, and Hey Cupcake!
- Buy your Rattler fashions & RR spirit gear
- Bring your checkbook to join & donate to the PTA



Enjoy live music by Rod Williams

The River Ridge PTA invites you to support your school. Our mission is to fund educational programs, field trips, teacher grants, and donate a playground tarp, as well as many other events. As River Ridge opens its doors this September, the PTA will approach fundraising differently. Our approach will be efficient and simple. To raise money, we are not asking our parents to buy magazines, gift cards or cookie dough. Rather, come to our picnic, enjoy your neighbors, the music, and help build our new school into a great place for our kids to learn. Our goal is to have 100% parent participation. See you on the fields!



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Important Dates

First Day of SchoolAug. 24
 Last Day, First SemesterJan. 15
 First Day, Second SemesterJan. 19
 Last Student Day June 4

Major Holidays and Events

Labor DaySept. 7
 Rosh Hashanah..... Sunset Sept. 18
 Yom Kippur..... Sunset Sept. 27
 Columbus Day Oct. 12
 Veterans DayNov. 11
 Thanksgiving Day..... Nov. 26
 Hanukkah Sunset Dec. 11
 Christmas Day.....Dec. 25
 MLK DayJan. 18
 Spring Break March 15 - 19
 Good FridayApril 2
 Bad Weather Makeup DateApril 12
 Bad Weather Makeup DateMay 31
 Memorial DayMay 31

Proposed TAKS Dates

Oct. 20 - 23Exit Level TAKS
 March 1, 3 - 5.....TAKS All Levels
 April 6TAKS Grades 5 & 8
 April 26 - 30.....TAKS All Levels
 May 3 - 28.....HS End of Course Window
 May 18TAKS Retest Grades 5 & 8

Calendar Key

- Student/Teacher Holiday
- Staff Development/Student Holiday
- Bad Weather Makeup Day
- bold** First or Last Days - Semesters
- Proposed TAKS Testing Dates
- Last day, Nine Weeks Grading Period
- Last day, Six Weeks Grading Period
- E** Early Release Day

August 2009

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September 2009

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	E	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October 2009

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November 2009

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	E	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December 2009

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

January 2010

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	E	28	29	30
31						

February 2010

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

March 2010

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

April 2010

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

May 2010

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

June 2010

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Business Section

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 8:00am to 9:30am 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 for more information or visit www.BNIAustin.com.

Four Points BNI

Meetings are on Wednesday at lunch from 11:30am to 1:00pm 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 7:00am to 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.

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THROUGH JUNE 2009



RIVER PLACE

Number of homes sold	27
Average Sales Price	\$451,320
Average Price/SF	\$129
% of Asking Price	95%
Average Days on the market	88

STEINER RANCH

Number of homes sold	93
Average Sales Price	\$412,561
Average Price/SF	\$120
% of Asking Price	94%
Average Days on the market	96

WESTMINSTER GLEN

Number of homes sold	5
Average Sales Price	\$852,560
Average Price/SF	\$157
% of Asking Price	94%
Average Days on the market	182

GLENLAKE/RIVER POINT

Number of homes sold	1
Average Sales Price	\$900,000
Average Price/SF	\$416
% of Asking Price	92%
Average Days on the market	216

LONG CANYON

Number of homes sold	4
Average Sales Price	\$858,875
Average Price/SF	\$220
% of Asking Price	91%
Average Days on the market	81

GREENSHORES

Number of homes sold	0
Average Sales Price	N/A
Average Price/SF	N/A
% of Asking Price	N/A
Average Days on the market	N/A

TWIN CREEKS

Number of homes sold	19
Average Sales Price	\$319,133
Average Price/SF	\$106
% of Asking Price	95%
Average Days on the market	113

GRANDVIEW/THE PARKE

Number of homes sold	8
Average Sales Price	\$370,850
Average Price/SF	\$102
% of Asking Price	97%
Average Days on the market	81



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Journal, Large Group)

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Calendar of Events

AUGUST 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
WCID #17 Mandatory 2 Day Per Week Watering • 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.						
2	3 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC) 7:45pm – Just Dance (TSCC)	4 6:30pm – Facility Committee Meeting (TSCC) 26th Annual National Night Out	5 7:00pm – How Money Works (BMCC)	6 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 7:00pm – Full Circle Stretch Class (TSCC)	14 7:00pm – Knitters & Quilters (TSCC)	15 VHS Band March-A-Thon 5:00pm – 7:00pm River Ridge Elementary Meet & Greet (TS Fields) 8:30pm – Movie in the Park (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 6:00pm – How to Beat Heart Disease and Lower Cholesterol (TSCC)	26	27 6:00pm – SRROA Board of Directors Monthly Meeting (TSCC)	28	29



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SEPTEMBER 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Labor Day Association Office Closed	8 6:30pm – Social Committee Meeting (TSCC)	9	10 ♻️	11 7:00pm – Knitters & Quilters (TSCC)	12 8:00am – 12:00pm – Fall Garage Sale 8:30pm – Movie in the Park (JS Park)
13 Grandparents Day	14 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC) 7:45pm – Just Dance (TSCC)	15	16	17 ♻️	18 6:00pm – Scrapbooking (TSCC)	19 Rosh Hashanah 8:00am – 12:00pm – Large Item Drop Off (TS Parking Lot)
20	21 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC) 7:45pm – Just Dance (TSCC)	22 7:00pm – New Retirement Strategies (BMCC)	23	24 11:00am – 5:00pm – CAL Trade Show (Norris Conference Center) ♻️	25	26 Steiner-Palooza (BMCC)
27	28 Yom Kippur 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC) 7:45pm – Just Dance (TSCC)	29 3:30pm – SRMA Board of Directors Monthly Meeting	30	WCID #17 Mandatory 2 Day Per Week Watering <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.		

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NatureWatch

by Jim and Lynne Weber

Webs of Intrigue

Spending summer days in the fields, woods, and even our own suburban gardens can yield many interesting sights, but few are more curious than that of the spider web. Formed out of protein-rich silk extruded from a spider's spinnerets (or silk-producing organs located at their abdomens), webs can take many forms, including spiral orbs, tangles, funnels, tubes, sheets, domes, and tents. While most spiders can use both sticky and fluffy silk to construct a web, they can also position the web horizontally or vertically or at any angle in between, depending on its specific purpose.

Web construction is a unique and delicate process, with the spider using its own body for measurements. Starting with the most difficult part, the first thread, spiders use the wind (and a bit of luck) to carry it to an adhesive surface. Once caught, the spider will carefully walk over the thread while strengthening it with another thread, repeating this action until this primary thread is strong enough to support the finished web. Step two involves the process of making many radials, making sure that the distance between each radial is small enough to cross. Ergonomically speaking, this means that the number of radials in a web depends directly on the size of the spider and helps to determine the final size of the web.

Once the radials are complete, the spider will fortify the center of the web with several circular threads, and move outward, continuing a spiral of non-sticky, evenly-spaced threads made so the spider can easily move around its own web. Then, beginning from the outside edge and moving toward the center, it adds sticky spiral threads by utilizing the radials and non-sticky spirals as guidelines. Once again using its body as a measuring device, the spaces between each of the sticky spirals is directly proportional to the distance from the tips of its back legs to its spinnerets. After the sticky spirals are complete, the spider consumes the non-sticky spirals as they are no longer needed, chews off the initial center spiral threads and sits and waits for prey.

Webs are literally extensions of a spider's ability to feel, and they allow them to catch their prey without having to expend the energy to run it down. Some spiders will decorate their webs with loose, irregular tangles of silk to disorient and knock down flying insects and to warn birds and other flying predators of the presence of the web. Constructing a web is energetically costly for a spider due to the large amount of protein required, so broken webs, especially if they are still structurally sound, are not always repaired. It is not

(Continued on Page 45)

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Nature Watch (Continued from Page 44)

uncommon, however, for spiders to eat their own web daily to recoup some of the energy used in spinning and recycle the protein by spinning a new web. Normally, a spider's web will remain in one location for the entire summer, but spiders can change locations usually early in the season, if they find a place with better protection or better hunting.

Commonly, webs are about twenty times larger than the spider building it. Rich in vitamin K, which can be effective in clotting blood, spider webs were used several hundred years ago as gauze pads to stop an injured person's bleeding. Today, we know that the tensile strength of spider silk is greater than the same weight of steel and has a much improved elasticity. Research into its microstructure is being performed for potential and surprising applications such as bullet-proof vests and artificial tendons!

The next time you are out in your garden in the early morning hours and you come across a delicate spider web glistening with drops of dew like strings of tiny diamonds, appreciate what you are seeing for its natural beauty, strength, and purpose!

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

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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.

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. 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.

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Is Your Home an Internet Broadcaster?

(It might be and you don't even know it)

Submitted by Laurie Scott

Laptop computers have made computing mobile and very convenient. Wireless routers in our homes have made it possible to use our computers anywhere in the home, and not just where the connection comes into your home.

If you have a wireless router at home, then you are using one of three possible levels of security, 1) none, 2) poor and 3) what you SHOULD be using. "None" is real simple, open the box, plug in the router, connect to the Internet. With this connection, ANYONE within range, meaning your neighbors, passersby and that annoying teen-age kid down the street who likes to hang around your house in the evening, can use your wireless network to access the internet or worse, access your computers at home. Also, any illegal activity over the Internet is going to be traced back to your home, not to the person or computer that may have done it.

I often tell the story of the time I moved to Austin from Sacramento 4 1/2 years ago over the Thanksgiving holiday. I stayed overnight with a friend in Flagstaff, Arizona at her parents' home. Lots of relatives were there and they all smoked (and smoked a lot). Even though it was 35 degrees outside, I went and sat in my car for an hour just to breathe fresh air. While in my car I powered up my laptop and discovered a completely unsecured network within range. I connected to it and took the opportunity to check my email and do some web surfing. Then the good Samaritan in me decided to do them a favor. I figured they hadn't changed the default password on their router, and sure enough I was right. I logged onto their router and took a screen shot of it. Since they were also using the default name for their computer network, I changed mine to match and could see that they had a computer turned on with one of their hard drives shared (no, I didn't peek at it.) I also saw that they had an Epson printer connected to it, so I downloaded the printer driver and installed it on my laptop, opened Microsoft Word and pasted the screen shot of their router into it. I also included instructions on how to keep prying eyes out of their network, thanked them that

I was able to check my email, and then I PRINTED the document out on their printer. Keep in mind I have no idea which house I had connected to. I imagine if they were home that they were a little shocked to have their printer start all by itself and print a note from a complete stranger. Lucky for them I wasn't someone who wanted to copy their files, plant a virus or lock them out of their own network.

The two levels of security that are usually displayed with a padlock symbol are WEP and WPA. WEP falls into the "poor" category of security. WEP will keep honest people out of your network, and will prevent someone from accidentally getting connected to your network, but WEP was "cracked" several years ago, and nowadays it only takes a laptop and 60 seconds to break into a network secured with WEP.

What you should be using is WPA (or WPA2) to provide a connection that (with a good password) can't be cracked in a comfortable lifetime. Log into your router (usually at <http://192.168.0.1> or <http://192.168.1.1>), go to the wireless security settings and set it for WPA. Then change your laptops and other wireless devices to match.

There are many different routers on the market, but there are a few standard rules to follow: Changing the security settings on your router should always be done with the computer attached to the router via a network cable - don't change it over a wireless connection. If you make a mistake, you won't be able to get back in to fix it. In the wireless security settings on your router, you will see WEP and SHOULD see WPA as options. If you don't see WPA as an option, your router is probably several years old. Go to the manufacturer's support page on their web site and look for updated "firmware" to download. Download the firmware and update the router per the instructions provided by the manufacturer. If the latest firmware doesn't provide WPA encryption, then it's time for a trip to Best Buy or Fry's for a new router. ANY new router will provide WPA

(Continued on Page 48)



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45	\$19.47	\$17.72	\$33.25	\$29.75	\$52.07	\$47.69
50	\$25.60	\$24.50	\$45.50	\$43.32	\$83.57	\$69.57
55	\$42.88	\$32.16	\$80.07	\$58.63	\$141.32	\$104.57
60	\$67.16	\$44.63	\$128.63	\$83.57	\$239.32	\$154.44
65	\$117.25	\$70.66	\$228.82	\$135.63	\$409.07	\$256.82
70	\$197.10	\$113.75	\$388.50	\$221.82	\$653.19	\$416.94
75	\$357.88	\$261.41	\$710.07	\$517.13	\$1,340.94	\$970.82

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News You Can Use

Is Your Home - (Continued from Pg 46)

encryption. Next use a strong password. A strong password should be at least 12 characters long, feel free to make it a lot longer - the longer the better. Be sure to use upper and lower case letters, use numbers AND use special characters like # * (\ } [@ ! &. Write it down and put it in a safe place. If it helps, use 2 or 3 non-related words or numbers that you know but no one is likely to guess. Something like maybe the city you got married in with the year of your first car and the name of your brother's daughter. It might look something like Dallas@1989!Samantha#. Even people you know you won't guess this. Be creative and have fun, but MAKE IT STRONG!

Next month I'll talk about keeping your information secure when you're online both at home and away.

National Night Out

It's time again to gather your neighbors and team up with your Law Enforcement Agency to give crime a going-away party.

National Night Out will be held on August 4, 2009 and is sponsored by the National Night Out Association of Town Watch. This past year's National Night Out campaign involved citizens, law enforcement agencies, civic groups, business, neighborhood organizations and local public officials from more than 15,000 community from all 50 states, US territories, Canadian cities and military bases worldwide. In all, more than 37 million participated in National Night Out last year.

National Night Out is designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, generate support for and participation in local anti-crime efforts, and to strengthen neighborhood spirit and law enforcement - community partnership. But its primary goal is to send a strong message to criminals to let them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

National Night Out is a great way to get together with your neighbors, find out what's going on in your community and visit with the local law enforcement officers about what you can do to help reduce the opportunities for crimes to occur. To get involved, or to find out how to register your own block party for National Night Out, call the Travis County Sheriff's Office at 854-8413 or 854-9770.



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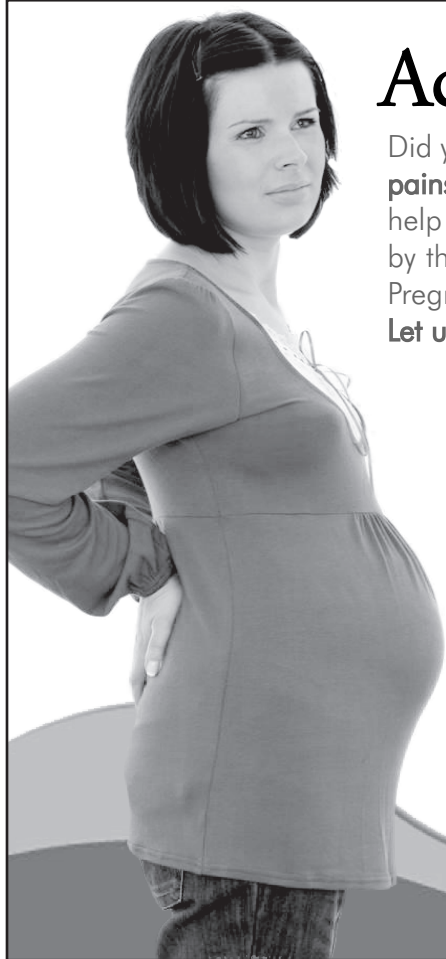
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Britt's Book Buzz

It's Criminal! *The Associate by John Grisham*

I am a positive person and I feel bad about putting negativity out there, especially in a book review. I must say, however, that *The Associate* by John Grisham was a terrible book. I hadn't read anything by Grisham since *The Firm* and *The Pelican Brief* while in high school. At the time, they seemed like somewhat smart novels. I came across *The Associate* at Half Price Books and thought "why not?" Boy, has time changed the author—and not for the better. My mom put it best, "he has a formula to his books." Meaning, he doesn't put much thought into the books other than to get them on the bookshelves as quickly as possible. Do lawyers even read these books or find them even mildly entertaining?

In the book, a hotshot law student has two great job offers and a bright future, but a blackmailing expert team has found a skeleton in his closet and exploits it to the fullest in order to obtain highly confidential information. Only in the last 50 or so pages does the law student finally realize that he should just come clean and face the issue. Wouldn't a Yale law student know how to resolve the situation without having to work with the blackmailers? I have absolutely no law background, but I saw no evidence to even convict him!

Character development was poor and the book was loaded with cliché after cliché and stereotypes (i.e. the hot law student who dressed really great and showed off her perfect body to the enjoyment of her male colleagues). The ending was horribly lazy and unfinished.

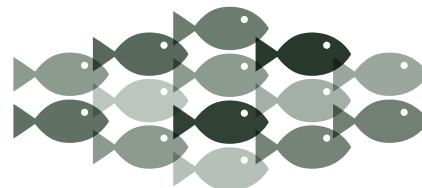
Looking at the bright side, I hope this review saved you a worthless read.

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

Classified Ads

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News You Can Use

The “Four Awareness” Points When Playing Tennis

Submitted by Fernando M. Velasco

In past issues, I have written about how to choose proper tennis equipment and efficient ways to practice. This issue offers advice on how to tackle the “critical points” in your matches.

In every match, you will find critical points that can determine whether a player wins or losses. At these critical points, I suggest reviewing what I call the “four awareness” points:

First Awareness: Self

Every player possesses certain shots that they feel more comfortable hitting on a critical point. For example, it could be a forehand topspin, or a slice one. When choosing which shot to hit on a critical point, decisively utilize the shot that comes more naturally without changing your mind. That is when mistakes are made.

Second Awareness: Opponent

When the players decide on a shot at a critical point, they need to consider their opponent’s strengths and weaknesses. During the match, they should notice the shots the opponent has less success with than others. On a critical point, players should use the shot they feel more comfortable with but also they will aim towards their opponent’s weaknesses.



Third Awareness: Court

Once you decide on your most consistent shot, consider the opponent’s weakness, you also need to take into account the court conditions. Factors such as the sun, wind, and surface will make a difference on the shot executed. When in doubt, you should either choose a shot toward an opening on the court, or directly at your opponent’s feet; open spaces or shoe laces.

Fourth Awareness: Score

When you decide on your shot, the placement and being aware of the court challenges, a good player should also remember the score in hand. Players will be aggressive when the score is in their favor, and be more conservative when tied, or behind. For example, when a player is serving at 40-15, the serve should be a powerful and assertive. In contrast, if the score is 15-40, the player should serve the first serve with some power, but with more placement.

Over time, these four awareness points will become both automatic and reactionary as players become more experienced in playing and competing. After the shot has been properly executed, they will sometimes give themselves a pat on the back for doing the right thing at the right time, and remind themselves that they followed the “four awareness” points.

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Host an Exchange Student

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Submitted by Katie Robinson

iE International Student Exchange is seeking host homes for high school exchange students from Germany and other nations. We are seeking couples, singles, or families who are willing to open their home to one special exchange student for 6 weeks or for the entire 2009-2010 school year. You will be amazed to find what you gain from the experience, as well as what you give: the chance for one international student to have a lifechanging encounter. This is a great opportunity to connect with someone from another culture! All you need to host is a spare bed and an open heart!

Contact Katie Robinson, Local Coordinator for Austin - 512-538-8080 or k.leigh.robinson@gmail.com.

Outdoor Water Conservation Tips

Even though we use water every day, it's easy to take it for granted. Just imagine how you would function without clean water. It's everyone's responsibility to conserve and protect water resources. The decisions and actions you make today truly affect our water resources for the future. The following suggestions will help you get in the habit of saving water in the great outdoors:

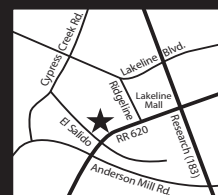
- Use mulch around landscape plantings. Mulch will help eliminate weeds and hold moisture in the soil.
- Select hardy plants that don't need much water. Native plants that are well adapted to your climate and soils will survive well without supplemental watering. A copy of the Steiner Ranch Approved Plant list is available on the website at www.steinerranchhoa.org.
- Water during the cool part of the day to avoid rapid evaporation and follow the WCID #17 Mandatory 2-day per week watering schedule.
- When watering is necessary, water slowly and thoroughly. If you notice puddles or runoff, turn water off and wait for water to soak in. Also be sure your sprinkler puts water where you need it—not on driveways or sidewalks.
- Wash cars efficiently. First give the car a quick rinse, and then turn the water off. Wash one section of the car at a time and rinse that section quickly. Turn the water off each time.

Visit www.auduboninternational.org for more conservation tips.



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August Events at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center



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This popular exhibit features additional sculptures in the gardens.

AUGUST IS BUTTERFLY MONTH! - *Saturday and Sunday, August 1 and 2*

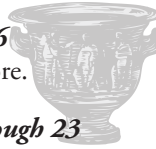
A 15 percent discount on butterfly books, gift or apparel.

PRE-FALL SEED SALE - *Saturday and Sunday, August 15 and 16*

Save 20 percent on all wildflower seed purchases this weekend in the store.

SALES TAX FREE DAYS - *Friday, Saturday and Sunday, August 21 through 23*

At the store--no tax on apparel purchases up to \$100.



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A Sensible Plan for College Funding

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. Historically, we see that college costs have risen at 2 to 3 times the inflation rate of the Consumer Price Index. And college really costs you more than you think because it is paid with after-tax dollars. 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.

How old will you be when your last child graduates from college? Assume that you are 45 years old and you plan to retire in 20 years and that a public college costs \$60,000 for 4 years. You take the money out of your retirement savings today. The money you give to a public college for four years will cost your retirement fund about \$280,000 at an 8% return. Elite colleges cost more, but there is a hidden benefit which we will get to later. And remember, these numbers are for just one child's college education.

Clearly this presents a funding dilemma shared by parents everywhere: how to fund college and retirement? Experts agree there are two methods to make this work:

The first method is by using your money through: (A) paying out of your current income, (B) paying with withdrawals from your savings accounts, or (C) borrowing. Most people use some combination of all three. The second method is to use money from others. This comes in the following forms: (A) financial aid, (B) by using special education tax strategies, (C) gifts from relatives, or (D) your child's resources (his/her income and assets). We will explore this topic in future columns, how to make a sensible, methodical plan for funding college expenses.



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