

RANCH RECORD

Official Newsletter for the Steiner Ranch HOA

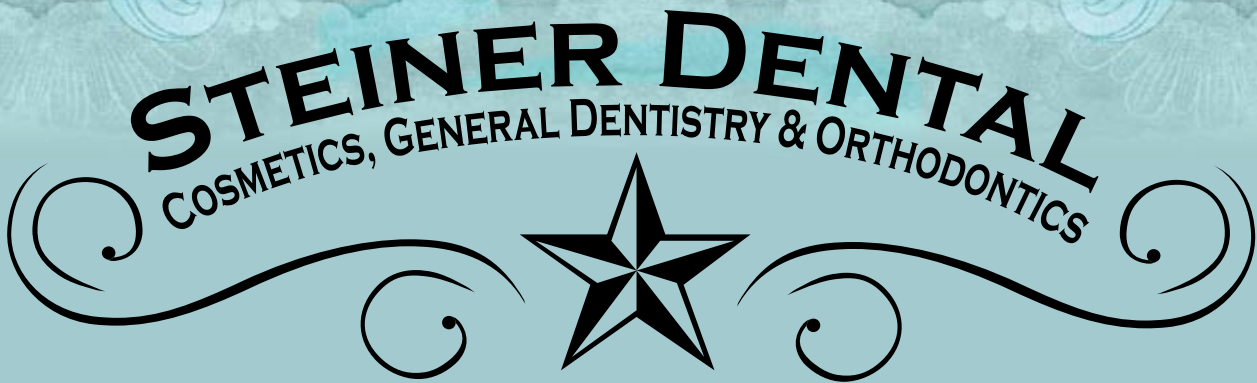
VOLUME 3 ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2009



Photo provided by: Shelly Spaulding

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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

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Maintenance Technician

Macedonio Salazar

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 512-570-0000
Cedar Park High School 512-570-1200
Vandegrift High School 512-570-2300
Canyon Ridge Middle School 512-570-3500
Laura Welch Bush Elementary 512-570-6100
Steiner Ranch Elementary 512-570-5700
River Ridge Elementary 512-570-7300

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!

Sign up to receive the Ranch Record
directly to your inbox.
Visit PEELinc.com for details.

COVER PHOTO

Do you take great photos?

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

This month's cover photo was taken by resident, Shelly Spaulding of her kids, Ryleigh (6), Aidan (4) & Colton (2). "We were actually playing around with the turkey hats and got some great pictures", Spaulding said. It's just the kind of great photo we are looking for to put on the cover! Thanks Shelly!

All photos submitted must have been taken 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 Holiday photo. Our December issue submittal deadline is November 5th 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.



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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The Holidays are approaching...

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Erick Gerdeeman
512-745-0706

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

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KELLER WILLIAMS
REALTY

Developer's Corner

Development Status Notes - October 2009



Subdivision Development

Taylor Woodrow Communities will be completing streets and utilities on the next phase of 70' lots in Palisades by early December. Future phases of lots in the Bella Mar, Santaluz and golf communities should start construction in 2010, depending upon home sales in the existing neighborhoods.

Custom lot sales continue in The Bluffs on south Quinlan Park Rd., Bellagio Estates on Lake Austin, and in the newest phase of the golf community, Shoreview Overlook, at the end of University Club Drive. 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

Longhorn Village Retirement Community
– Residents continue to move into the new

patio home and the independent living apartment units at Longhorn Village. The final patio homes were recently completed and the main building with commons area and dining facilities is completed and in use. In addition to the patio homes and independent living apartments, Longhorn Village offers assisted living apartments and nursing care units, along with appropriate amenities. Please stop by the Longhorn Village sales information center in their main building 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.

(Continued on Page 7)

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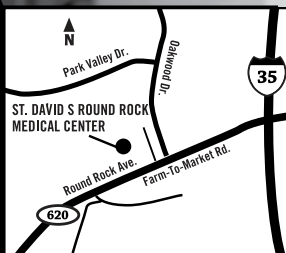
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Development Status Notes- (Continued from Page 6)

Fairways at Steiner Ranch – Patio home construction on this site along the 3rd through 6th holes of the UT Golf Club course is on hold until a new builder can negotiate the purchase from the FDIC. More information about the development and sales hopefully will 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 still 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.



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FAMILY *fun night*

November 1 - 5-7 pm

Great Hills Baptist Church
www.ghbc.org

10500 Jollyville Road . Austin, Texas 78759

512.343.7763

Sunday Morning Schedule

9:30 . Blended Worship

11:00 . Contemporary Worship

9:30 & 11:00 . Bible Life Groups (all ages)



Around Steiner

SANTA PICTURES & HOLIDAY SALES EVENT

Enjoy Holiday Shopping and avoid the long lines at the Mall!



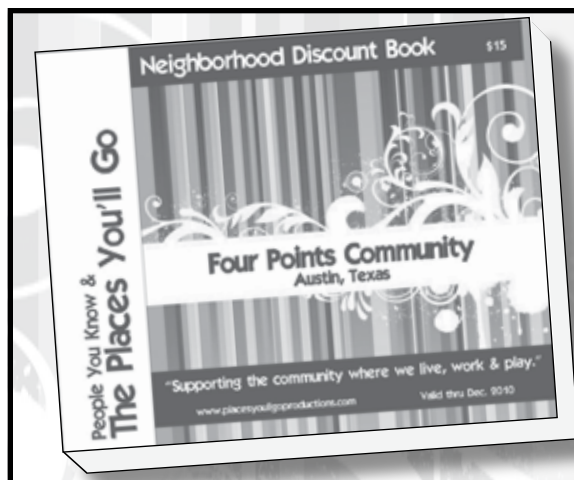
To get you in the Holiday spirit, the Steiner Ranch Social Committee will be hosting a Santa Photo Session & Holiday Sales event on Saturday, November 7th from 10:00am - 2:00pm at the Towne Square Community Center. You can get all of your Holiday shopping done without ever leaving Steiner Ranch.

Come support the many community vendors in attendance, including:

- Santa Claus! With photos by 563 Photography
- Lauren Halpern of Stella & Dot Jewelry
- Peter & Consuelo Hartman – Stained Glass work & Jewelry
- Four Points Family Chiropractic – Free Health Screening & Chair Massage
- Heather Bickel of Silpada Designs
- Shanise Graves of The Love Bags
- Alba Purifoy of Alba's Beads
- Patty Yambay of Mary Kay Cosmetics
- Heather Stelling of Cross My Heart – Wooden crosses

- Teri Hinojosa – Cupcakes & cake balls
- Rita Guy of Scentsy – Wickless aromatic candles
- Tami's Happenings – Designer Handbags
- Chef Vincent's Kitchen – Salsa, Creamy Garlic Cilantro Dip, etc.
- Carolyn Hart of Silver Selections – Jewelry
- Ariel Cassone of Guardian Protection Service – offering kid printing, fire escape route planning & gift bags
- Amy Colton – Photography & Jewelry
- Lisa Laughlin of EZ Jewels
- Isabelle Olivier – Jewelry and Brooches
- Michelle Pulsifer of On the Spot Body Art – Face & Body Art, Fairy Bling
- Joelle Hannabery of Cattiva Cosmetics
- Karen Burris of Ice Interior Designs
- Nissa Lind of Emagine Green – eco-friendly products

As you can see, there will be a variety of products and services for you to browse and buy. Hope to see you there!



Get Your 2009 – 2010 Discount Book Today

A MUST HAVE for anyone who lives, works & plays in the Four Points Area!

- Enjoy \$1,500+ worth of discounts for only \$15!
- Every book sold benefits a Four Points Community organization.
- Visit our website for a list of participating restaurants, businesses and organizations!
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for the
Holidays!*



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4302 Quinlan Park Road

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

266 8585

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

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

Meet Dr. Waters and receive your Complimentary examination today.

All insurances Accepted. Visa/MC/Discover.



Camping on the Ranch

All families are invited to go camping right here in Steiner Ranch!

The Steiner Ranch Social Committee is hosting *Camping on the Ranch* so you can spend the night with your kids for some great "Ranch Style" fun.

**When: Saturday November 14th
6:00pm**

Where: Towne Square Community Fields

Texas Rib King will be serving up BBQ with all the fixins for you to enjoy!

Registration to order food has ended, but you still have time to register your campsite by emailing Sharon Adams at sharon@steinerranchhoa.org. Please let us know how many will be in your group.

Sunday morning the 15th, the Vandegrift High School Cheerleaders will be selling breakfast tacos, coffee & juice and the Social Committee will be giving away doughnuts!

Bring your own tent and sleeping bags!



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Holiday Camps for Kids

School's closed, the holiday is in full swing and you need a distraction from the kids to get things done. What are you going to do?

SEND THEM TO CAMP!

We will be offering a Sportball Camp to keep the kids busy and having fun! The camp will include a variety of sports and arts-and-crafts activities.

Sportball Thanksgiving Camp

Monday, Nov. 23	9:00 – 12pm	\$38.00
Tuesday, Nov. 24	9:00 – 12pm	\$38.00
Wed, Nov. 25	9:00 – 12pm	\$38.00
Friday, Nov. 27	9:00 – 12pm	\$38.00

Ages 3 - 7, grouped by age

Camp space is limited! Registration forms are available at www.sportball.us

2009 Steiner Ranch Social Committee Events

Nov 7 – Holiday Sales Event & Santa Workshop

Nov 14 – Camping on the Ranch

Dec 4 – Holiday Wine Social

All Events are tentative and subject to change or cancel

If you'd like to be involved, please come to our monthly Social Committee Meetings, the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 6:30pm at the Towne Square Community Center. All residents are welcome to attend and we welcome new ideas.



GENE ARANT

NO GIMMICKS, JUST RESULTS

See our ad on the inside back cover.



Sportball
Sports instruction for kids
at Steiner Ranch



THANKSGIVING CAMP

Ages 3-5's, 6-9's
9am – noon Thanksgiving week
except Thursday

OUTDOOR SOCCER BEGINS IN NOVEMBER

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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IT'S TIME FOR THE ANNUAL *Steiner Ranch Holiday Wine Social*

Friday, December 4, 2009

7:00pm – 11:00pm

Towne Square Community Center
12550 Country Trails Rd.

Don't miss the annual Steiner Ranch Holiday Wine Social! This year we will be presenting festive holiday wines and food, featuring music from FEEL GOOD MUZIK – Mike Avila, and giving away fantastic door prizes.

Don't delay; sign up early to reserve your spot! Reservations are limited to eighty people and must be received by November 27th. Holiday attire is encouraged and that includes anything from semi-formal or your favorite party dress to a festive holiday sweater and blue jeans!

Please deposit the registration form which can be found online at www.steinerranchhoa.org, with attached payment into the community drop-box at the Steiner Ranch Homeowners' Associations office at 12250 Country Trails Rd.

For more information, contact Sharon Adams - Community Coordinator 512-266-7553 or visit www.steinerranchhoa.org.

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Dr. Ted Lain



Steiner-palooza Brings Local Talent to Steiner Ranch

The Social Committee hosted its first ever music festival on September 26th at the Bella Mar pool with some fantastic music, food and the perfect weather to help close the 2009 swimming season!

The afternoon started off with some great talent from our local kids from the 26-Music Rock Campers, who showed off their skills with some modern rock. Next in the spotlight (or rather, sunlight), was the local talents of Colleen & Rick Beamer, Robert Salas and The Edge – a contemporary Christian group (see photo). Later in the day, came the Headliners and to wrap things up was resident, Donny Payjack and his band, The Purple Fuzz.

It was a great day to relax by the pool, enjoy some great live music and help the Vandegrift Band Booster Club who provided concessions throughout the day.

Look for this event to be a fun, family tradition!



Steiner Stars Swim Team – It's Official!

Congratulations to the Blue Team for making it into the Northwest Swim Circuit!! This Circuit now consists of 13 recreational teams from the Northwest Austin area of swimmers ranging in age from 3 to 17. Current swim teams in the circuit include Steiner Stars Blue Team, Steiner Stars Red Team, Anderson Mill Barracudas, Forest North Stingrays, Brushy Creek Marlins, Round Rock Dolphins, Georgetown Aquadillos, Balcones Country Club Sharks, Wells Branch Armada, Block House Creek Tidal Waves, Cedar Park Typhoons, Rattan Creek Hurricanes, and Pflugerville Piranhas.

The Swim Team Board is underway with plans for the 2010 season. We are excited we will have two competitive teams in Steiner Ranch!! Can you believe we now have 669 swimmers in our neighborhood?

Thanks to everyone who helped make this possible.
Swim Team Board

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Around Steiner

Cupcakes for Coats

Thursday, November 12th
3:30 - 5:30 - Rain or Shine

Canyon Glen Park in Steiner Ranch

Please help us reach our goal of donating 100 Coats for Kids.



Join us for cupcakes at the park and Donate a used or new warm winter coat

(Or a \$15 check made out to "Coats for Kids" will buy a brand new coat)



Coat Drive Coordinated by:
Alyssa & Tricia Raring and Alan & Cindy Jordan*
cjj@austin.rr.com

Holiday Trash Pick-Up Schedule

Trash and recycling pick-up during the Holiday Season is as follows:

- Thanksgiving week will be on **Friday, November 27th**
- Christmas and New Year's service will remain regular service:
- Christmas week will be on **Thursday, December 24th**
- New Year's week will be on **Thursday, December 31st**

Respect the Ranch

The Steiner Ranch Community Associations' would like to remind you to:

- *Drive the Speed Limits (or below)*
- *Pick up garbage*
- *Pick up after your pets*
- *Watch out for kids*
- *Follow the Association Rules*

If everyone does their part to "Respect the Ranch", we can all take pride in our Community!

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Kickin' Cardio

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Kick & Punch • Power Bag

Tuesday, Nov. 10th

4:30 - Junior Martial Arts (adults & kids)
5:30 - Kickin' Cardio (30 min. sample)
6:00 - Tai Chi Kung (13 yrs & up)

Thursday, Nov. 12th

4:30 - Family Martial Arts (adults & kids)
5:30 - Kickin' Cardio (30 min. sample)
6:00 - Junior Martial Arts (4-9 yrs)

OPEN HOUSE

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*Free 30 min. sample classes

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512-266-4949 • www.vdragon.com

HOLIDAY HOUSE DECORATING CONTEST

Your Vote Counts!!!

Get ready for our Annual Holiday House Decorating Contest.

We will be awarding 1st, 2nd & 3rd place cash prizes (\$200.00, \$150.00 & \$100.00 respectively).

Honorable Mention will be given to the street or sub-division with the most participation.

FIRST – Nominate your home (or someone else's home) by emailing your physical address to Sharon Adams, Community Coordinator at sharon@steinerranchhoa.org no later than Friday, December 12th.

NEXT – Go to the website (www.steinerranchhoa.org) and download the list of participating homes.

FINALLY – Vote for YOUR favorite home between Dec 13th – December 21st from the list (only one vote per household) and submit to Sharon Adams at sharon@steinerranchhoa.org no later than Tuesday, December 22nd

Winners will be announced on the website!
Good Luck!!!



HOLIDAY DECORATION RULES

Halloween has passed and Thanksgiving is approaching quickly. Do you have jack-o-lanterns on your front step? Is there a plastic turkey in your yard? Are you thinking of hanging red-and-green lights on your house this year? As you plan your outside decor for the upcoming holidays, please observe the following Steiner Ranch rule regarding holiday decorations on the exterior of your property (this rule does not apply to the inside of your homes):

Holiday decorations (excluding Christmas) may be put out up to fourteen (14) days in advance of the holiday in question. Decoration must be removed no later than seven (7) days after the holiday. Christmas decorations may be put out beginning November 1st and must be removed by January 15th.

Thank you for your cooperation with the Steiner Ranch rules and have a wonderful holiday season!

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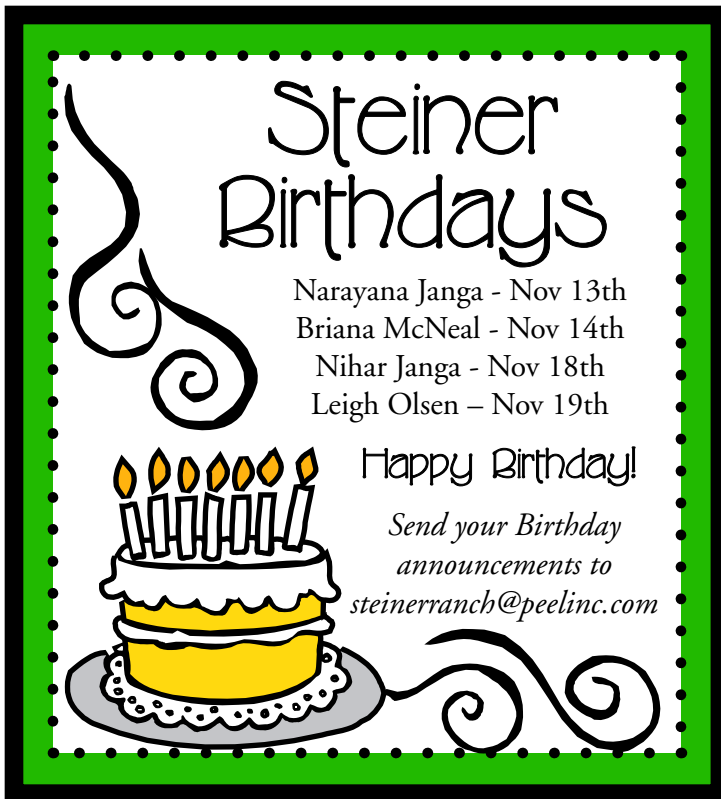
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Around Steiner



Steiner Birthdays

Narayana Janga - Nov 13th
Briana McNeal - Nov 14th
Nihar Janga - Nov 18th
Leigh Olsen - Nov 19th

Happy Birthday!

Send your Birthday announcements to steinerranch@peelinc.com

NEWCOMER ORIENTATION

Welcome Newcomers!

Welcome, newcomers to Steiner Ranch! If you have recently purchased a home here, you will receive an invitation to the Newcomer Orientation on Thursday, December 3rd at 7:00pm in the Towne Square Community Center at 12550 Country Trails Lane. You will have the opportunity to become better acquainted with your new community, as well as with other new homeowners. A brief presentation will be given on the history of Steiner Ranch, the organization of the homeowners associations, the homeowner committees, the assessment rates, and community rules and regulations. A representative from the developer, Taylor Woodrow Communities/Steiner Ranch, Ltd., will be available to answer questions about the future development plans for Steiner Ranch. Light refreshments will be served.

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

Please RSVP to 266-7553 or to Sharon Adams at sharon@steinerranchhoa.org.



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TRAILS UPDATE

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 them. 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. And come to the Trails Committee meeting on Thursday November 5 at 7 PM at Bella Mar. All residents are welcome. - **RICH KEITH**

TENNIS NEWS

The Steiner Ranch Tennis Association has now added an Executive Committee and Sub Committee positions. In addition, we have added a Nominating Committee which consists of 3 members. These members will be talking to the community and filling positions that will be open in February. If you are interested in serving on the Tennis Committee please contact Lisa Lee at lisalee1000@austin.rr.com with your name and contact information.

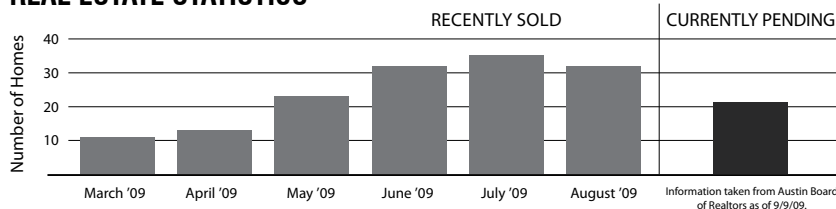
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Steiner Ranch REAL ESTATE STATISTICS



Austin Poised for Fastest Recovery

From now until the end of 2010, Austin's economy is projected to grow by \$5 billion. That, coupled with relatively subdued unemployment, has the Texas Capital poised for the quickest economic rebound in the nation. (source: *Forbes.com*)

Forbes.com ranks Austin #2 on its list of the Top 10 Cities Where Americans are Relocating.

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Around Steiner

Steiner Ranch History Corner

Last month we heard about how Bobby Steiner heard the call of the rodeo at a very young age. The road was an exciting life but one without a lot of other kids around. Most rodeo people traveled solo, leaving their families behind. The Steiners' radio announcer brought his family on the road, so there were at least some kids around the arena.

The 3 Steiner boys had a tutor who traveled with the family. The boys loved having a tutor. School was never boring! Bobby's tutors started in 5th grade, then 7th, 9th. They had a different tutor each year. Apparently nobody could put up with the Steiner boys for multiple years. If you think about it, their job was difficult. There were 3 boys in 3 different grades. The work seemed harder than a classroom environment. In classroom you do activities, but this was all paperwork and very few activities. Of course, his whole life was an activity. On the positive side, in the hotel room, every week was a different environment. Bobby ultimately took his high school equivalency tests through the UT system.

How do you have fun when you're stuck with a tutor? An example of the jokes they played on their tutor is old-fashioned "ditching." One time Bobby and his older brother said they had to use the bathroom, but they left the hotel and stayed away all day. With a tutor you

weren't going to get expelled and they knew it. The tutor went crazy because he couldn't find the boys. And he didn't want to tell the Steiners because he knew where they were. The boys would go down to the arena and hang out with the cowboys, the clowns, the animal handlers, or

the announcer and his family.

Bobby remembers that the traveling rodeo was like a large extended family. Everybody knew everyone's business, but at the same time they all cared for each other. So when the boys came to the arena they would be greeted by friends and they would get food, soda, riding lessons, candy and pretty much anything else they wanted.

The tutors the Steiner chose had a good job. First, they liked the travel. There was a female tutor and the other two were men. Both of the men were involved in rodeo and loved to ride. All of them had teaching degrees and were teachers in Austin. But they longed to compete in rodeo. Traveling with the Steiners gave them the best of both worlds: they could travel and compete as much as they wanted, fulfill their love of teaching and make a paycheck too. It was a perfect match. Next month: What it's like to live inside a traveling rodeo show. Source: Interview with Bobby Steiner. For more information contact Rich Keith rkeith@primerica.com (512) 266-8498.

- RICH KEITH



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Workshop Series

We will be scaling back out monthly workshops for the months of November and December, knowing how busy these Holiday months can be, but we are still offering some great workshops for you to attend. 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

NOVEMBER 3RD – HEALTHY LIVING WORKSHOPS; GLUTEN, by Kelly Bruneman, learn what gluten is, how it affects us, how it sneaks its way into the American diet and how to successfully be

gluten-free!

RSVP www.wildbasinfitness.com
• 7:30pm Wild Basin Fitness Center • Free

NOVEMBER 3RD – ABCS OF TALKING TO YOUR KIDS ABOUT MONEY, by Rich Keith. Here we work with parents of teens as a partner towards the end goal, which is educating teens about financial matters. We will stress the importance of attitude and goal setting as the building blocks for success in any endeavor. Together we can greatly impact the next generation. Plus, every parent/couple that attends the workshop will receive a complimentary copy of the ABCs of Making Money 4 Teens book, based on

the international best seller The ABCs of Making Money.

7:00pm BMCC • Free • RSVP: 632-0162 or send email to RichKeithPrimerica@austin.rr.com

NOVEMBER 10TH - ABC'S OF MAKING MONEY 4 TEENS by Rich Keith - In this free workshop for teens we explore Attitudes, Behaviors and Creativity surrounding money. Parents are welcome to attend part or all. Plus, every teen who attends the workshop will receive a complimentary copy of the ABC's of Making Money 4 Teens book. Some of the key elements of the book:

- 96 pages of full color
- Inspirational stories of teens

that have made a difference

- Lots of hands-on exercises and creative money solutions
- A section on the dangers of carrying credit card balances
- The power of compound interest, the Rule of 72
- How to approach employers for jobs, and more

7:00pm – 9:00pm BMCC • FREE • RSVP: 632-0162 or send email to RichKeithPrimerica@austin.rr.com

NOVEMBER 17TH – FAVORITE RECIPES BOOK, by Heather Bland-Ho of Conquer Your Chaos. Tired of cooking the same old standbys? Can't find that new recipe when you need it? Calm the pre-dinner stress, cook healthier, save money and

(Continued on Page 20)

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Around Steiner

SPEEDING IN STEINER PLEASE SLOW DOWN!

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

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

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



Workshop Series- (Continued from Page 19)

preserve family memories. Participants will leave with a customized Favorite Recipes Notebook with special sections for new and current recipes.

Cost: \$39 • 7:00pm BMCC

RSVP: Sharon@steinerranchhoa.org

NOVEMBER 17TH – SAY WHAT YOU SEE – EYE-OPENING SOLUTIONS FOR PARENTS, by Sandy Blackard, author and founder of Language of Listening – Reassurance not working for “BOO”, fear of the dark and other scary moments? End the haunting in one simple step. Join Sandy Blackard for Q & A to explore how adding seeing to hearing can change your most challenging moments with children into rewarding ones.

Cost: \$10 pp/\$15 per Couple

Register with Sharon@steinerranchhoa.org • 7:00pm – 8:30pm TSSC

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

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ATTENTION STEINER RANCH

Pet Owners!

LOST AND FOUND PET NOTICES

Over the past few months there has been a steady increase in the amount of lost and/or found pets in Steiner Ranch. We encourage EVERYONE to sign up for the Lost and Found pet alerts that are sent out from the Association. To sign up:

1. Go to www.steinerranchhoa.org
2. Enter your email in the "Join/Edit the Steiner Ranch email list"
3. Follow the directions from "Constant Contact"
4. Receive a confirmation email and click on the link to confirm

We've been able to reunite countless pets and owners through these highly successful alerts! But the more people that are signed up the better!

RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERS

Please be a responsible pet owner by doing your part to keep Steiner Ranch a pleasant, clean, and safe neighborhood for all.

1. Scoop the Poop – Pet stations are located all throughout Steiner Ranch common areas.
2. Latch the leash – not only is it safer for your dog and others around you but it's a law in Travis County.
3. No excessive barking – be courteous of your neighbors and keep your barking dog quiet.
4. Report Violations – go to our website at www.steinerranchhoa.org and click on the link "Report a Problem".



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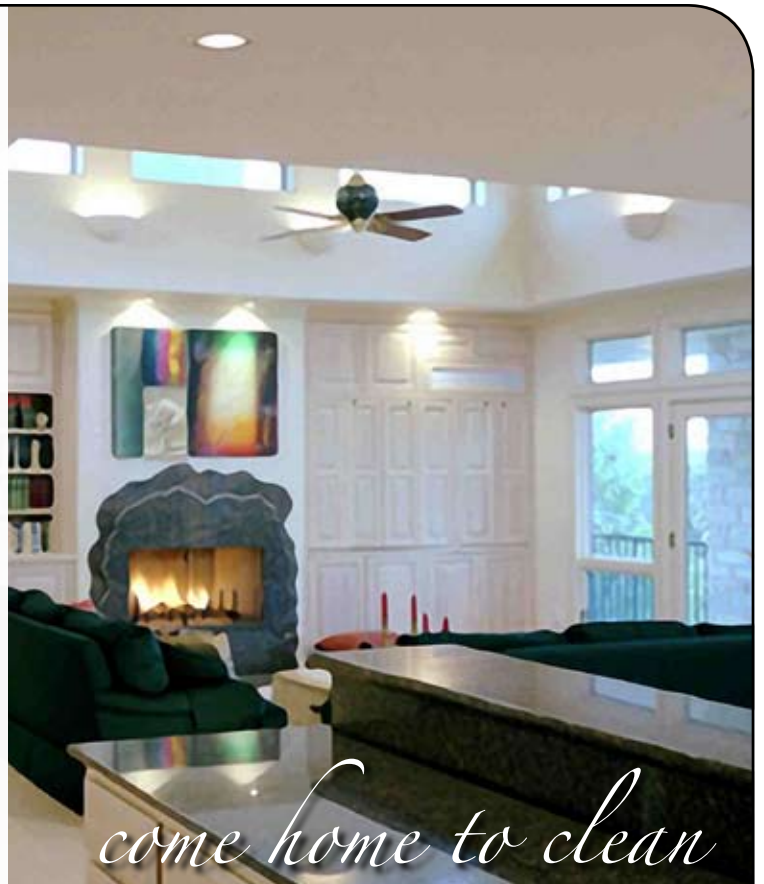
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*offer is for new clients only within our service area and cannot be combined with any other discounts or offers



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Around Steiner

Kid's Yoga Class

Yoga actually starts with the growing child just as we go to school as kids & not as adults. Yoga for kids is taught very differently from yoga for adults. Studies have shown a child who practices yoga on a regular basis has:

- Balanced growth of the physical body.
- A strengthened auto-immune system.
- Balance of mind & emotions.
- Balance of energy & behavior.
- Relaxation of body & mind leading to increase of concentration, focus, memory & creativity.
- Toned muscles & nerves, consciousness of body & mind helping with sports & athleticism.
- Calmness & Serenity.
- Good memory recall & thought processing, confidence for test taking.
- Good self esteem to combat negative peer pressure.
- Harmony of Head, Heart & Hands.

Bella Mar Community Room, every Sunday at 5:00pm.

2009 Program Registration form is found online at www.steinerranchhoa.org.

Pre-Natal Yoga

Through November 9th 2009.

January 17th to February 21st (6 weeks).

The mother & baby-to-be's wellbeing is kept healthy during pregnancy. Body, mind, emotions, energy, spirit are balanced, regulated, monitored with regular, appropriate yoga practice in class. Pregnancy can be quite stressful & traumatic. The effects of this register on the baby. It is important for mother, baby & family to benefit from the calming, centering, grounding, healthy effects of pre-natal yoga.

Yoga poses, breathing techniques, relaxation taught gently by yoga teacher competent to teach yoga to Pre-Natal adults.

Gentle practices appropriate for Pre-Natal.

Pre-Natal classes held at Towne Square Community Room, Monday 9:00am to 10:00am.

2009 Program Registration form found online at www.steinerranchhoa.org.

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SENIOR'S YOGA

Through November 9th 2009

January 17th to February 21st (6 weeks).

Location: Community Room in Towne Square.

Yoga for seniors has shown to have beneficial effects upon the individual & family.

- Improvement of joints, muscles, nerve, skin tone & posture.
- Improvement on body & mind.
- Relief from illnesses & pain management.
- Removal of fear, increase of calmness.

Yoga taught gently & appropriately to seniors by competent yoga teacher.

Community Room in Towne Square, Monday 10:00am to 11:00am.

2009 Program Registration form is online at www.steinerranchhoa.org.

SAIVA

*South Asians' International Volunteer Association
is now meeting in Steiner Ranch*

Every other Monday at 10:00am – 1:00pm

11/2, 11/16, 11/30, 12/14 & 12/28

Towne Square Community Center

What is SAIVA? SAIVA is a non-profit group aimed at promoting well-being, education and friendship through volunteering. The objective is to enable seniors to participate in the communities where they live.

Activities include Yoga and Meditation from 10:00am – 11:00am, working on ongoing volunteer projects such as crocheting/knitting blankets/caps, providing language/computer assistance, etc. as well as group discussions/writing on various topics.

What does it cost to participate? SAIVA is a volunteer organization, and all donations are welcome. However, if participants opt for classes they want to take for which a professional or certified instructor is hired, there may be a fee, such as the Yoga for Seniors program. See "Yoga for Seniors" for additional information.

For additional information about SAIVA, please contact Shubhada Saxena (512) 659-4328 or saxenapost@yahoo.com.

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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 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@gstx.org or (512) 490-2360. Discover Girl Scouts online at www.gstx.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-tech.net and join LinkedIn Groups Steiner TechNet.

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.

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



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From the Association Office

Representation of Steiner Ranch

Community associations are a representative form of government founded on the principle of elected individuals representing the people. Much of our country is based on the principles of representative democracy. It starts with organizations like Parent Teacher Associations and community associations and progresses through our school boards, city governments, county governments, state governments—all the way to the federal government. We vote for a person, or persons, who will act on our behalf.

Some might advocate that a board should not take action without a vote of the members to find out what the people want. That would be counter-

productive. If association members were to vote on every issue before a decision was made, there would be no need for a board, but simply someone to send out ballots and tally results. However, boards find out what their constituents want in other ways, such as Committees. The Association encourages your involvement and participation. Perhaps you would consider joining a committee. We want your input, ideas, thoughts and opinions. Here is a list should you desire to contribute to a committee:

FACILITIES COMMITTEE

This committee is an advisory committee to the Association and makes recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding

programs, policy and anything related to the common area facilities in Steiner Ranch. If you'd like to contribute, please contact Sharon Adams at sharon@steinerranchhoa.org. Meetings are held at the Towne Square Community Center twice every quarter.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

This committee plans, organizes and attends all of the events in Steiner Ranch, from the Young at Heart Social held last January, to the Holiday Wine Tasting coming up on December 4th. This committee meets monthly, every 2nd Tuesday at 6:30pm at the Towne Square Community Center and all homeowners are welcome to attend. For more information,

please contact Sharon Adams at sharon@steinerranchhoa.org.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

This committee serves as an advisory committee to the Steiner Ranch Master Association and all members must live in the Association. If you have experience or background in finance or accounting, then this is the committee for you. For more information, please contact Scott Selman at scott@steinerranchhoa.org.

GOLF CLUB COMMITTEE

This committee is specific to the needs of those members living in the Golf Community. This group meets on an "as needed" basis. For more information, please contact Scott Selman at scott@steinerranchhoa.org.

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The Steiner Ranch Homeowner Association Maintenance Department

The maintenance staff at Steiner Ranch has had a very busy 2009!
What does the maintenance staff do? Well, just to name a few:

- Install/Replace Street Signs
- Replace lights
- Change Marquee Sign
- Replace bulletin board postings
- Pick up unapproved signs
- Repair light fixtures
- Remove graffiti
- Pick up trash
- Remove silt fencing
- Replace monument sign letters
- Repair fencing
- Re-install wind screens
- Paint
- Clean
- Replace/lower flags
- Repair drinking fountains
- Repair gates
- Event clean-up
- Repair playground equipment
- Replenish facility supplies
- Power wash decks
- Repair tennis court nets
- Plumbing repair

This past summer, the staff was extremely busy with removing graffiti and repair/replacing items that were vandalized. Please talk to your children. Graffiti and vandalism are usually more prevalent in the summer months and during times when school is out. This may seem like harmless fun to some, but there are often very costly repairs associated with this "fun". Repainting, replacing gates, fences, signs and benches all cost money and staff time, which impacts the community budget and homeowner assessments.

If you see any problems with signs, playgrounds, pools or any common area, please let us know at www.steinerranchhoa.org and click on "Report a Problem".

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DONATE GOODS

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We Pick Up

A New Face AT THE ASSOCIATION

We'd like to welcome the newest member of the Steiner Ranch Association staff, Melissa Rivera. Melissa is the new Accounting Assistant for Steiner Ranch and she will be able to answer your questions regarding your Association Assessments and payments on programs. She can be reached by email at melissa@steinerranchhoa.org or (512) 266-7553.



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From the Association Office

The Balcones Canyonlands Preserve and Steiner Ranch

The Steiner Ranch community has a unique neighbor, the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (BCP). In January 2001, Steiner Ranch entered into a conservation easement agreement giving Travis County management of 819 acres of Steiner Ranch land that is part of the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve. Although the Hill Country of Central Texas is well known for its scenic views and spectacular wildflowers, the land is also home to eight federally endangered species and dozens of other rare species. This species diversity exists, in part, because of the region's unique ecosystem. Besides common animals such as white-tailed deer and raccoons, more secretive wildlife such as bobcats, ringtails and gray fox

can occasionally be observed. Underground is a limestone honeycomb of caves, sinkholes and springs. Spiders, beetles and other creatures inhabiting these caves are found nowhere else in the world. Six of these are classified as endangered species. Still deeper is the Edwards Aquifer that provides the main source of drinking water for more than 1.5 million people in Central Texas.

The Balcones Canyonlands Preserve is the result of a community-based effort to protect more than 40 endangered, threatened and rare species while allowing development to occur in western Travis County. It was established through a permit issued by the U.S. Fish and

Wildlife Service to the City of Austin and Travis County in 1996. When completed, the BCP will ultimately protect about 30,000 acres of prime habitat in western Travis County. Preserve tracts are owned by public and private entities including the City of Austin, Travis County, the Lower Colorado River Authority, the Nature Conservancy of Texas, the Travis Audubon Society, as well as private landowners, making it one of the country's largest urban preserves. The managing partners have currently acquired and protect nearly 29,000 acres in western Travis County. Including the areas protected in Steiner Ranch, the Travis County-managed portion of the BCP is over 5000 acres.

The Hill Country's unique vegetation, including elms, oaks and Ashe juniper (or "cedar"), remained virtually untouched in much of western Travis County until the last several decades. Two federally protected migratory songbirds, the Golden-cheeked warbler that depends on old-growth Ashe juniper woodlands and the Black-capped vireo, which prefers open, shrubby areas, thrived. However, due to Central Texas' explosive growth and the resulting habitat fragmentation, populations of these endangered birds have steadily declined.

Prior to development, the Steiner Ranch area contained habitat for these two avian
(Continued on Page 29)

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The Balcones Canyonlands- (Continued from Page 28)

species. Under the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan (with agreement of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), Steiner Ranch was issued a participation certificate that allowed construction to occur if land was set aside to be protected as mitigation for habitat lost to development. These protected lands on Steiner Ranch are managed by Travis County as part of the BCP.

Public Access: Because of the Preserve's delicate ecosystem in the Steiner Ranch area, access to the Steiner Ranch Preserve is limited to approved trails and access is granted only to Steiner Ranch residents and their guests. This will allow for the required protection, future habitat restoration projects, and ongoing research of the endangered species on the tract.

Other BCP tracts with public access include the County's Wild Basin and Hamilton Pool Preserves, the City of Austin's Emma Long Metropolitan, Bull Creek and St. Edwards Parks, and LCRA's Westcave Preserve.

Thank you for your help in protecting this Central Texas treasure.

If you have questions, please contact Travis County BCP staff (Paul Fushille) at 854-9383 or the Steiner Ranch Community Association at 266-7553. If you observe unauthorized activities such as tree cutting, trespassing, or poaching on the Preserve, please contact the BCP Rangers at 658-0439 or 658-0459.



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From the Association Office

Architectural Guidelines – Decks

The Architectural Committee goal is to locate wood decks to be unobtrusive and designed as an integral part of the overall architectural and site design.

Requirements:

Homeowners must submit for approval to the Association Office an Architectural Modification Form and Deck addendum for any proposed deck on a new or existing dwelling. In addition, Plan views in relation to the house and lot and elevation views (side & rear) in relation to the dwelling and unit finished grades are required at submittal.

Wood decks are not permitted in the front yard. All deck materials must be durable. No deck shall be located closer to any property line than the building setback line, with the exception of the rear yard. With prior approval, a deck may extend over the rear yard setback, but under no circumstances shall a deck be closer than ten feet (10') to the rear property line. Uncovered porches or patios may also extend into the rear setback, but may not encroach into side yard setbacks.

Depending on the grade differential and the degree of public views to the deck location, the Architectural Committee may require additional setbacks and height limitations other than those described. Additional modifications may also be required for approval.

Other factors the AC will consider are storage areas, exterior masonry and paint or stain color.

All forms can be found under the Document section of the Steiner Ranch website at www.steinerranchhoa.org. If you have any specific questions, please contact Brandi Moegelin at brandi@steinerranchhoa.org or 512-266-7553.

Calendar Now Online!

We have recently added a new feature to the Steiner Ranch HOA website! For those of you interested in reserving one of our facilities, you can now check the availability online. Check it often as it is updated daily. Just go to www.steinerranchhoa.org, click on Facility Reservation on the left and choose the location you need and the calendar will open.

To make a reservation, please call the Association Office at (512) 266-7553 or email Alyssa Tucker at alyssa@steinerranchhoa.org. Only Steiner Ranch residents in good standing with the Home Owners Association are allowed to rent Steiner Ranch facilities.

****Note: Spaces are filling up fast for the holidays; make your reservations at least one week in advance. ****

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Craig Smyser, CRS, CDPE, e-PRO, GRI, Broker Associate

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Calendar of Events

NOVEMBER 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Daylight Savings Time Ends 5:00pm – Kids Yoga (BMCC)	2 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC) 10:00am – SAIVA (TSCC)	3 6:30pm – Facility Committee Meeting (TSCC) 7:00pm – ABCs of Talking to Your Kids About Money (BMCC) Election Day	4	5 8:00am – Free Pilates (TSCC) 7:00pm – Trails Committee Meeting ♻️	6	7 10:00am – 2:00pm Holiday Sales Event with Santa (TSCC)
8	9 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC)	10 6:30pm – Social Committee Meeting (TSCC) 7:00pm – ABCs of Making Money for Teens (BMCC)	11 Veterans Day	12 8:00am – Free Pilates (TSCC) ♻️	13	14 6:00pm – Camping on the Ranch (TSCC)
15	16 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC) 10:00am – SAIVA (TSCC)	17 6:30pm – Eye Opening Solutions for Parents (TSCC) 7:00pm – Favorite Recipes Book (BMCC) 7:00pm – Speaker Night	18	19 8:00am – Free Pilates (TSCC) 6:00pm – SRROA Board of Directors Meeting (TSCC) ♻️	20	21
22	23 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC)	24 3:30pm – SRMA Board of Directors Meeting	25	26 Thanksgiving Holiday Association Office Closed No Trash Service	27 Thanksgiving Holiday Association Office Closed Holiday Trash Service ♻️	28
29	30 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC) 10:00am – SAIVA (TSCC)					



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DECEMBER 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7:00pm – Women & Finance (BMCC)	2	3 8:00am – Free Pilates (TSCC) 7:00pm – New Owner Orientation (TSCC) ♻️	4 7:00pm – Holiday Wine Social (TSCC)	5
6	7 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC) 10:00am – SAIVA (TSCC)	8 6:30pm – Committee Members Holiday Party (TSCC)	9	10 8:00am – Free Pilates (TSCC) ♻️	11	12
13	14 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC)	15 6:30pm – Eye Opening Solutions for Parents (TSCC)	16	17 Association Office Open 10am – 5pm. ♻️	18 Association Staff Office Holiday Party – Office Open 10am – Noon only	19
20	21 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC) 10:00am – SAIVA (TSCC)	22	23	24 Association Office Open 10am – 2pm ♻️	25 Christmas Day Association Office Closed	26
27	28 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC)	29	30	31 ♻️		

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Vandegrift High School Swimming

“Vipers Strike the Wall First”.....that’s the saying for the inaugural VHS Swim Team and with 25 Freshman & Sophomores on the team; they’ve managed to live up to that saying.

Their first meet was held at the Blockhouse Creek pool against Leander High School on September 23rd. Bringing home the gold were Brandon Maas in the Boys 200 Yard Freestyle and the 500 Yard Freestyle, Isabella Voelkl in the Girls 200 Yard IM and 100 Yard Backstroke, and A.J. Volk in the Girls 50 Yard Freestyle. The Boys 200 Yard relay team, made up of Daniel Zamora, Alan Bell, Everett Fitzpatrick and Alex Koster, also placed 1st.

The VHS swim team currently practices at the Bella Mar Pool Mon-Friday from 7:15am – 9:15am.

Their meets in November are:

November 7th – Aggieland Invitational in College Station

November 20th – 21st – TISCA 4A Invitational in Burnet
Go Vipers!



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SPEAKER NIGHT for PARENTS

*Hosted by River Ridge Elementary PTA, Laura Welch Bush Elementary PTA
and Steiner Ranch Elementary PTA*

**Tuesday, November 17th
7:00 – 8:00pm.**

**Steiner Ranch Elementary MPR
Light refreshments will be served.**

Parents of Steiner Ranch, you are amazing. The love for your children is evidenced by your involvement in virtually every area of your children's lives – home, school, sports, extracurricular and enrichment activities, etc. While we live in a thriving community with so much to be thankful for, it is easy to forget that life can present the unexpected. PTA is committed to its mission to be the voice for every child and to assist parents in developing skills to raise and protect their children. The PTAs of Steiner's three elementary schools have joined together to bring you Smart Parents Plan Ahead.

Speaker, Julia Nickerson of PLAN B for Parents, will be discussing important legal truths of which every parent should be aware. Julia is the mother of three elementary-aged children and an attorney with a passion to encourage families to become legally smart. Many of us have wills and an estate plan in place for when we pass on . . . many years from now. But have we considered....

- "What if" suddenly, both parents are tragically taken out of their children's lives?
- How will the legal system handle our children during those first critical hours after the most traumatic of events?
- The six typical mistakes parents make when naming a guardian for their children?

- How to ensure that our goals, values and morals will be shared with and reinforced in our children in our absence?
- Whether our family's backup plan can be legally and effectively implemented in the case of an emergency?

Without a legally enforceable plan, even the most loving parents can fail to protect their children. Mark your calendars. Complimentary childcare will be provided onsite by JW Tumbles for children 2 yrs old through elementary-age. Space is limited so reserve your child's spot at austin@jwttumbles.com or call 345-8300. Reference: PTA Speaker Night.

Questions? Contact Jean Wong, SRE PTA President at jeanwong1021@gmail.com.

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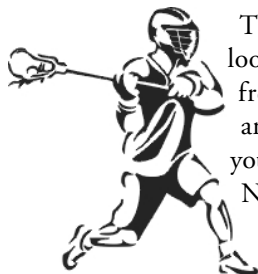
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School News



Vipers Boys' Lacrosse Team



The Vipers boys' lacrosse team is forming and looking for players. If you are an incoming freshman or sophomore at Vandegrift HS and are interested, then we are looking for you. **NO PRIOR PLAYING EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!**

For more information visit viperslax.net or email the team at viperslax@gmail.com

New Law Bans Cell Phone Use in School Zones

Beginning September 1 of this year a new law went into effect that does not allow the use of your cell phone (unless you use a hands free devise) in a school zone and Steiner Ranch has three of them all within 3 miles of each other.

So, end that call before entering the school zone, or you could face a \$200 fine.

ALL ABOARD! Destination: BOOK FAIR is coming to Steiner Ranch!

Steiner Ranch Elementary PTA invites you to join us as we take a **READING TRIP AROUND THE WORLD!**

Our Scholastic Book Fair will be held in the school library on November 17th - 19th.

Tuesday, Nov. 17th 7:30 am – 6:00 pm

Wednesday, Nov. 18th 7:30 am - 4:00 pm

Thursday, Nov. 19th 7:30 am - 4:00 pm

Stop in and shop for those holiday gifts! Supporting your local elementary school couldn't be easier! There's something for all your family and friends. We will have an excellent selection of picture books, chapter books, popular adult titles, reference books, cookbooks and educational activities. We're certain that you'll find something to make your holiday list just a bit shorter. **BON VOYAGE!!**



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Business Section

Four 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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Classified Ads

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

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.



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Long Canyon
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NATURE WATCH *A River of Raptors*

One of the most dramatic natural events occurs every fall when changing weather patterns mark the migration of hawks (also called raptors, or birds of prey) from their summer nesting and breeding grounds to their wintering grounds in South America. While northward migration in the spring months is more sporadic and allows for hawks to spread out over a larger geographic area, fall migration is the more spectacular of the two, with millions of hawks observed overhead in concentrated groups within a period of only a few months.

Scientists believe that hawks use a myriad of tools to find their way along migratory routes. First and foremost, they orient themselves by using a sun compass, or knowing where the sun should be at any given time of day. Some also use a polarization pattern of light for orientation, and are able to find the portion of the sky where light is uni-directional and utilize it to estimate the sun's position. Lastly, most hawks bring into play a magnetic compass, which allows them to orient themselves to the Earth's magnetic field.

In order to get airborne and use these internal orientation systems, hawks find thermals, or large columns of warm air, and ride these rising air currents in a spiral, high into the sky. From this vantage point, they



glide slowly down in the intended direction, and search for the next thermal to help move them along their way. From these elevated perspectives, hawks generally navigate by large geographic features or landmarks, such as coastlines, waterways, and mountain ranges.

The most common species of hawk that migrate over our area start with the Mississippi kite, continue with the Broad-winged hawk, and end with Swainson's hawk. Dark gray above and pale gray below with a red eye, long pointed wings, and a dark flared tail, the Mississippi kite hunts primarily insects, eats on the wing, and nests in loose colonies in woodlands and swamps in the southeast and south central United States. Brown-gray above with white underwings bordered in black, and a broad tail with black and white bands, the Broad-winged hawk breeds in the eastern woodlands of the United States and

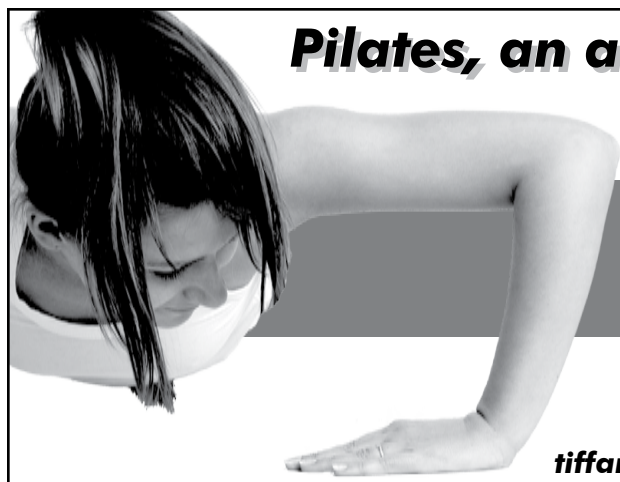
southern Canada. The largest of the three, the Swainson's hawk light morph is the color form that is most likely seen in our area. In flight, their long, narrow pointed wings exhibit a dark trailing edge and light leading edge, a dark chest bib, and light face and lower belly. These hawks hunt chiefly small mammals and insects in the grassland areas of the western United States and Canada.

Large groups of hawks flying overhead are called kettles. During fall migration, single kettles of 10,000 hawks are routine, and single flights of over 100,000 hawks or more have been recorded. Occasionally, a strong cold front will ground several thousand hawks for the day and result in an overnight roost. Weather in the northern and eastern United States is one of the biggest factors in determining the timing of these migratory flights.

With the large number of hawks taking part in this annual event and the vast geographic areas that they cover, it was late into the 19th century before migration was beginning to be understood. With large populations of hawks shifting from breeding to wintering habitat, migration is a seasonal and predictable event that can be enjoyed year after year!

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

-JIM & LYNNEWEBER



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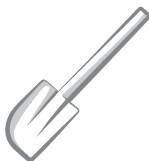
Host a Foreign Exchange Student

My name is Jayne Allen and I represent CCI, a non-profit organization that places foreign exchange students and supports them during their stay. We have a boy from Germany, currently at Vandegrift High, with a temporary welcome family, who must be matched with a family right away! Can you help?

Ferdinand is a wonderful boy with a warm personality who is active in sports and enjoys new experiences. He is very willing to engage in conversation and share about his culture and would do well with just about any family (with or without children.) If you are interested in having a culture experience and learning more about Ferdinand, please contact me for more information. You can contact me by e-mail at info@hostastudent.info or by phone at 512-938-7847.

Recipe of the Month

String Bean Casserole



- 4 cans French style green beans, drained
- 1 lb. Velveeta cheese
- 1 medium jar pimentos
- 1 large can mushrooms
- ¼ lb. butter or margarine
- 1 large green pepper, chopped
- Ritz crackers or sliced almonds



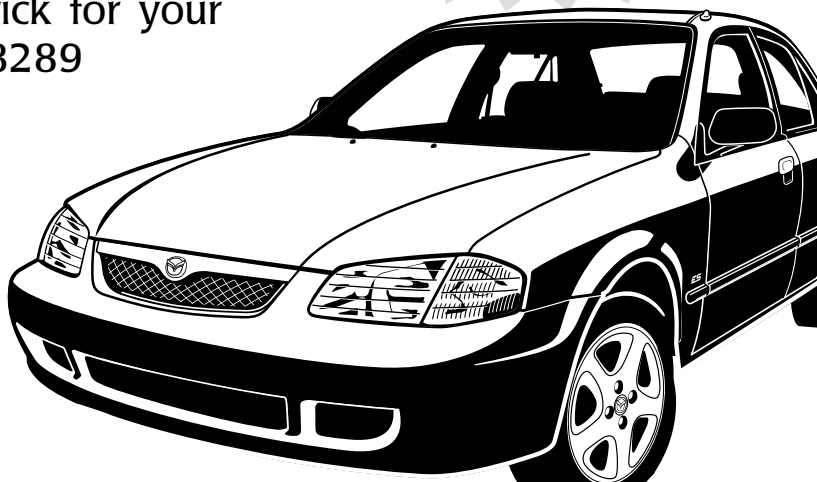
Melt butter. Saute green peppers. Add cheese to melt. Add beans, mushrooms, and pimentos. Put into baking dish and sprinkle with Ritz cracker crumbs or sliced almonds. Bake at 350° for 25 minutes.

If you would like to submit YOUR recipe email it to articles@peelinc.com.

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News You Can Use

Healthy Tailgating this Football Season

TYPICAL TAILGATING FOOD	HEALTHY TAILGATING ALTERNATIVES
Regular chips	Baked tortilla chips
Queso or guacamole	Salsa
Fried or buffalo wings with ranch or blue cheese dressings	Boneless/skinless chicken breast tenders with wing or teriyaki sauces
Traditional burgers or chili	Burgers or chili made with lean ground beef or ground turkey breast
Sandwiches or hoagies made with salami, high-fat cheese and mayo	Sandwiches or hoagies made with lean meats, low-fat cheeses and mustard on whole wheat bread
New England clam chowder	Low fat gumbo
Pork brats	Turkey brats
Potato salad	Grilled corn on the cob
Cookies and cakes	Caramel or candied apples and low-fat brownies and desserts
Regular beer and wine	Light beer and wine spritzers
Soda or juice	Iced tea or diet lemonade

Now you finally know its fall, not because the temperatures are cooler, but because it is FOOTBALL season! With high school games on Friday nights, college games on Saturdays and professional games on Sundays, our weekends can be full of concession-stand food, barbecue, six-foot sandwiches and chips.

All of these game-day feasts can lead



(Continued on Page 43)

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Recreation Comm. News- (Continued from Page 42)

to extra calories, which can mean extra pounds, even before the holiday season arrives! The good news is that with a few changes, such as these tailgate make-over tips, you can decrease the fat and calories and increase the nutrition of your tailgating menu, without sacrificing taste:


It is also never a bad idea to have a fruit and/or vegetable tray available for those who are vegetarian or for low-calorie snacking. If you have a favorite tailgating food or snack, allow yourself to indulge in it, but try to replace other tailgating options with healthier alternatives and be mindful of portion sizes.

Whether you are tailgating at the stadium or "tablegating" in your living room, it's easy to keep game day food fun, tasty and healthy. Most importantly though, remember, it is about the camaraderie and the love of the game, not the food. Consider having your own game of touch football during half time to burn off those extra calories!

With the last football games in both pro and college football set for the beginning of next year, we still have many opportunities to load up on calorie-laden and high-fat tailgating food. Practice these easy and tasty substitutions to help you stay healthy this football season. **-TARIE BELDIN**

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News You Can Use

Free Stuff for Your Computer (and cell phone)

As holiday spending approaches, here are some free programs to make your computing easier and more fun with zero impact on your budget.

Everybody hates dealing with usernames and passwords at login screens, and as a result I see a LOT of people who have very easy passwords (like the name of their dog) not only for their computer but even for their online banking! Well, here's LastPass to the rescue (download from <https://lastpass.com>) with a password manager that works with Windows, Mac OSX and even Linux. With LastPass you can have strong passwords that are hard to impossible to remember, but don't have to remember because LastPass will remember for you. Your passwords are encrypted using a master password that only you will know, so your private information is always safe. LastPass will work across all your browsers and computers. You can even retrieve your passwords online from another computer on their web site (where no one but you can access them.)



How about free music, legally! Amazon has over 1,000 songs in all styles from Blues to Folk to Rock to Opera.

Many of these are new groups getting their music out, but I've seen everything from Alice Cooper to Andres Segovia to Jeff Beck to the Boston Pops. If you use iTunes, Amazon's download manager will seamlessly add your songs to iTunes for you. So load up your iPod and Zune with all this free music. This abbreviated link will take you to Amazon's free music page: <http://tinyurl.com/TekChicFreeMusic>

How does a free secretary sound? TimeCave.com will send any message you create back to you or anyone you want at ANYTIME you want within 3 years. Do you keep a perfect calendar but your best friend is, shall we say, "challenged" when keeping her calendar organized? Have a lunch date next week? Go to Time Cave and enter your message "don't forget about our lunch tomorrow", enter her email address and the day and time you would like it delivered. Now, even if YOU forget

(Continued on Page 47)

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www.riverplaceclub.com

Yuletide Treasures ***Shopping Extravaganza*** ***Thursday, November 12 from 5-9pm*** ***Friday, November 13 from 10am - 4pm***

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This year's shopping event will kick-off on Thursday evening with a cocktail party, door prizes, and live music. This is the Perfect Way to begin the festive season and to get started on your Holiday shopping!



Please call 346.1114 x220 with any questions.

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Pre-School Programs (Ages 2 - 4)

Beginner Tap, Ballet and Tumbling,
Sportball, Tennis, and Beginner Spanish

Elementary School Programs (Ages 5 - 12)

Golf, Tennis, Tap, Ballet and Tumbling, Hip Hop, Cheerleading,
Karate, Sportball, Beginner Spanish, and Music Lessons

Teen Programs (Ages 12 and up)

Golf, Tennis, and Karate

Please call Raquel Hebben, the Membership Director if you would like to receive information regarding Membership, Fall Junior Programs, or to learn about our Yuletide Treasures Event!

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Free Stuff - (Continued from Page 46)

to remind her, Time Cave will.

Cell phone users, you're not left out. Wouldn't it be nice to be able to call 411 from your cell phone without having to pay a dollar or more for each call? Thanks to Google you can now get information for any city in the country by simply dialing 800-466-4411 (that's 800-GOOG-411). They have a voice recognition system that lets you tell it what you're looking for and it's amazingly accurate. So program that number into your phone and say goodbye to excessive 411 charges from your carrier.

Next month look for my annual "Geeky Gifts for the Techie in Your Life" Christmas article. - **LAURIE SCOTT**



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

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Illegal Dumping- Illegal dumping in Travis County continues to be a major concern for our department. Please contact our dispatch to report illegal dumping. Do not dig through someone else's trash, you have no way of knowing what contaminates are in the dumping area or in the trash itself. Try to obtain license plates of vehicles seen in the dumping areas and report the activity immediately.



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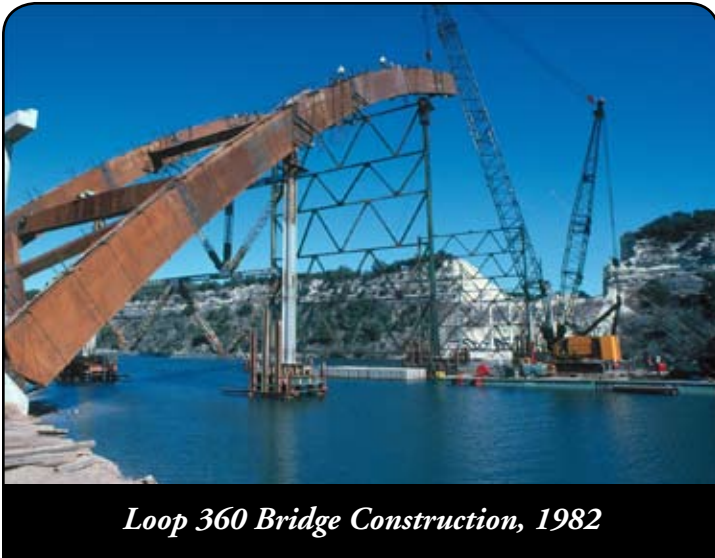
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Austin Currents



Loop 360 Bridge Construction, 1982

Did you know that Austin had a world-class freeway plan as of 1985 which would have nearly eliminated the congestion that we experience today? And that by 1987 a major arterial network had been designed for northwest Austin? Why were all these freeways cancelled, and why are freeways which were never on these plans being built today?

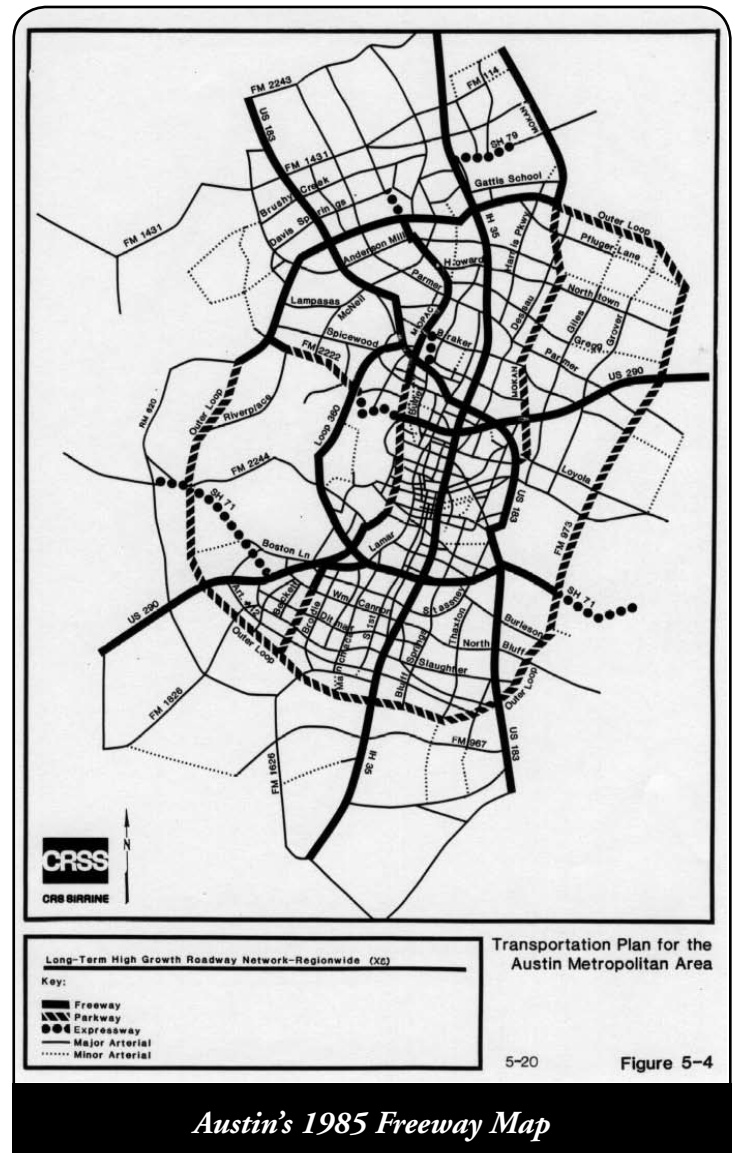
The next time you're sitting in traffic on one of our scenic roadways, just imagine wider lanes, better connectors, and (no, it can't be true!) actual east-west roads in this town. The city planners were well aware of the city's needs and its growth patterns as far back as the early 1960's, when the first freeway plans were announced. But that plan was for mostly an inner-city freeway system, one which did not go far out of town. By the end of the decade that plan had been cancelled, all except Mopac Loop 1. That was probably the best thing because otherwise downtown would have been all chopped up with freeways. Traces of it still exist, such as the wide places on Riverside Drive east of I-35.

This plan went through several iterations including a Crosstown Freeway system, but they were eventually retired in favor of the broader freeway plan of 1980. This plan focused on existing corridors away from the center of the city. The new major freeways were Loop 360 freeway (later cancelled), and the 183 freeway all the way through Austin. Loop 360 was "downgraded" from a freeway to a corridor, though the space is there to be upgraded to a freeway.

The most comprehensive freeway plan was the 1985 plan, which showed a sprawling network of freeways in Austin including an inner and outer loop. It also featured the Koenig Lane Freeway, coming east to west from the Hwy 290 out to Loop 360. The 2222 Freeway was west of 360 out toward Lake Travis. The Outer Loop Freeway (SH 45) was the outer limits. The MoKan Freeway became SH 130. 1987 saw the extension of these freeways. Interestingly, on the 1985 and 1987 maps, the Outer Loop appears to show that Quinlan Park

Road (now part of Steiner Ranch) would be part of the loop, forming a bridge over Lake Austin and back over to Bee Cave Road.

In 1994, environmentalists took control of the Austin City Council and nearly all the freeway plans were immediately cancelled. At the same time, the Austin Chamber of Commerce did its job well and advertised what a great place Austin was to live. As a result, since 1994, Austin has experienced explosive growth from a high-tech boom and severe traffic congestion. The new Mobility Plan from CAMPO, revised every two years, strives to cope with the need for roadways and the desire to keep Austin beautiful. If you care about transportation you can become involved. We are the future of Austin's roads. Source: Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, TexasFreeway.com, TxDOT. For more information contact Rich Keith rkeith@primerica.com 512 266-8498. - **RICH KEITH**



Native American Art Lecture, Friends' Holiday Sale, and More Happenings at Lake Travis Community Library

Lake Travis Community Library continues its new speaker series with local Native American art collector Charles "Buzz" Buzzard. His presentation entitled 'Native American Creativity: Pots and Baskets' will take place at the library on Thursday, November 12 at 7 p.m.

"I will present various examples of pottery and baskets of Southwest tribes. Prehistoric pottery will also be shown from representative tribes of the Southwest including the Hopi, Zuni, and Navajo tribes," said Buzzard. "I will show and discuss each object, then it will be passed through the audience so people can get the feel of the labor required to produce this type of art."

Buzzard began studying and traveling to the 21 different Native American reservations in Arizona in 1970. He was an apprentice to a Navajo Silversmith and has been a docent

at the Heard Museum and the Casa Grande Archeological site in Phoenix since 1990.

Also plan to attend the first ever Friends' Holiday Sale benefitting the Lake Travis Community Library on Saturday, November 14 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Choose among many different one-of-a-kind handmade items, from belts, scarves, purses, quilts, and jewelry to holiday cards, candles, home decor, and more. A special selection of gift and craft books will also be sold. The sale will be right in front of the library at 2300 Lohman's Spur, Suite 100. See you there!

Many other events are happening at Lake Travis Community Library in the month of November, as well! The library continues to offer four very popular book clubs for adults and a new club just for teens. The Friends of the Library Book Club will meet on Tuesday, November 3 at 10 a.m. at the

Lake Travis United Methodist Church to discuss *Escape* by Carolyn Jessop. The recently resumed Classics Book Club will meet on Monday, November 9 at 1 p.m. at Panera Bread in the Hill Country Galleria to discuss *Madame Bovary* by Gustave Flaubert. The Bottle of Wine Book Club will meet on Wednesday, November 18 at 7 p.m. at Vino 100 to discuss Markus Zusak's *The Book Thief*. And, the Glass of Wine Book Club will meet on Monday, November 30 to discuss Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged*. Please contact the library for the location and time of the meeting.

The new Teen Book Club will have its next meeting on Sunday, December 6 at 4 p.m. at the library. All junior high and high school students are invited to discuss M.T. Anderson's *Feed*. This fantasy novel is set in a

(Continued on Page 50)



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News You Can Use

North American Art Lectures- (Continued from Page 49)

future world where computers are implanted directly into people's brains when they are babies and is sure to provoke much debate. Pizza will be served!

The new Memoir Writing Group holds its next meeting on Tuesday, November 3 at 7 p.m. The purpose of the group is to remember, to write, and to support each other in the process. At meetings, participants listen to a writing prompt, write for about twenty minutes, and share stories with each other. Library staff member Mary Jo Finch is the facilitator of this popular new group.

The Craft Club holds a special meeting on Monday, November 16 at 7 p.m. to learn jewelry making at a member's home. The club will continue to learn the basics of jewelry making with a focus on necklaces and lanyards. Please bring \$8 to cover the cost of materials and contact the library for more information.

Computer Help sessions continue to be



This item from Buzzard's collection is Mimbres pottery from Southern New Mexico and is approximately 1,400 years old.

offered at the library on Thursday mornings before the library opens at 9 a.m. If you have questions about searching the Internet, adding attachments to a Word documents, operating your digital camera, or opening an email account, please plan to attend. And, the Genealogy Group continues to meet Friday mornings at 9 a.m. to access computer

databases, share information, and get advice from experts.

There are many events offered for children as well! Five to eight year olds are encouraged to attend the Read It! program on Wednesdays at 3:15 p.m. Each week, the group reads several chapters from a novel, completes an accompanying activity, and enjoys a light snack. Wear your sleepwear in public on the third Tuesday of November at 6:15 p.m. for a pajama storytime with a bedtime theme. And, three weekly storytimes continue to be popular for our younger patrons. Preschoolers meet on Mondays at 10:30 a.m., toddler storytime is held on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m., and babies are welcome to attend a storytime on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. with songs and fingerplays.

As always, please contact the library if you want more information about any of these events at (512) 263-2885 or www.laketravislibrary.org. We look forward to seeing you at the library! - **MORGAN MCMILLIAN**

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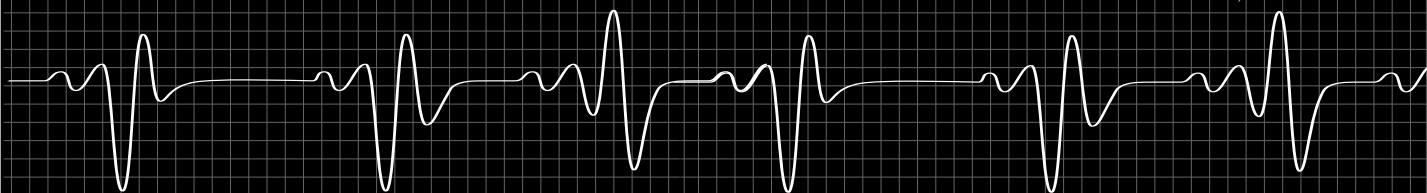
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Britt's Book Buzz

“A 14th Century Adventure Immerse Yourself”

World Without End by Ken Follett

Eighteen years after *The Pillars of the Earth* (one of my favorite reads) was published, out came its sequel, *World Without End* by Ken Follett in October 2007. This story takes place two hundred years after *The Pillars of the Earth* and features some of the descendants of the original characters.

Very minimal references were made to the original characters from the first novel, which is one of two major criticisms I have with the book. I think Follett could have been more creative in his linking the characters. But because of this, I don't think you necessarily have to read *The Pillars of the Earth* first. My other criticism is how similar the two books are in terms of overall plot and character type. I almost felt like I was reading *The Pillars of the Earth* again. Regardless, the read is a definite pleasure.

Set in the 1300s in England, five characters (Caris, Merthin, Ralph, Gwenda and Thomas) meet at the beginning of the book and their lives unfold over the next 30 years. Each character has tremendous fortitude that you will love and loath, depending on which character. There are characters you want to applaud, help, encourage, cheer for...as well as strangle!

Imagine an extremely talented architect with a wonderful disposition; or a fiercely strong woman with an amazing entrepreneurial and leadership spirit who single handedly keeps Kingsbridge alive; or a hateful, mean-to-the-bone young man who torments all those who cross his path. By reading this book, you can imagine on a very personal level what it would be like to be a peasant and have to do neck breaking work just to earn enough food to feed your family for a day...and the person who reaps all of the rewards is often a hateful lord of your region.

Take a journey where a priory and its continually weak and self-interested priors try to take the town down. Or, where two young nuns travel in the middle of war-destroyed France to ask their bishop to bring justice to their town. Put yourself in the middle of a plague. The adventures are endless.

I am interested in your thoughts about the “big secret” touched upon at the very beginning of the book and then revealed at the end. I didn't think it fit well with the book nor had much, if any, impact on the characters. Could've been much bigger in relation to the characters about whom I spent over 1,000 pages reading!

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

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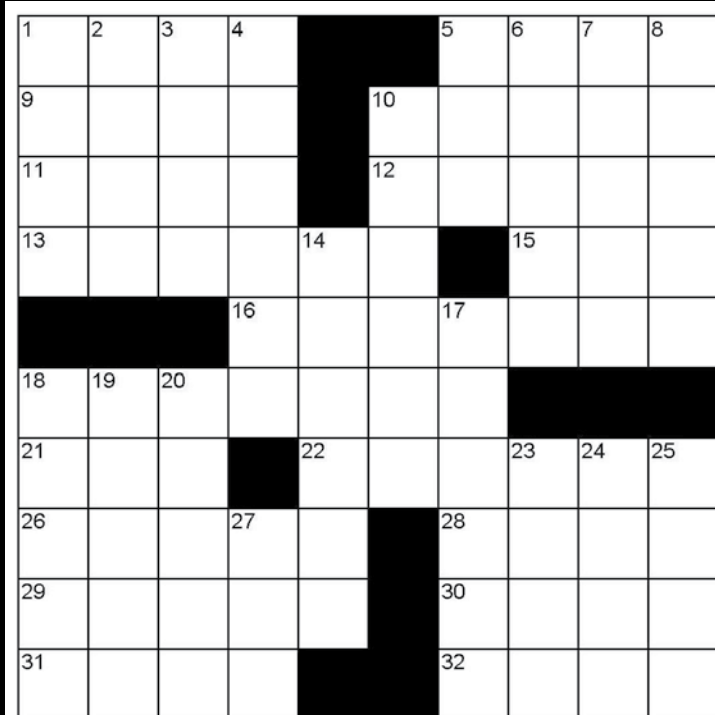
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News You Can Use

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

1. Catch in nylons
5. Speed
9. Station
10. Scoop out
11. Healing plant
12. Colder
13. Geneve
15. Consume
16. Collective Israeli farm
18. Chewbacca's partner (2 wds.)
21. Card game
22. Legume
26. Coding system
28. Portend
29. Induct
30. Look
31. Loch __ monster
32. Opp. of yeses

DOWN

1. Male deer
2. Large African river
3. Long time
4. Mediterranean island dwellers
5. IBM Competitor
6. Adios
7. Sports shoe projection
8. Hz
10. Apt
14. Purplish color
17. Candy
18. Woman
19. Negative battery terminal
20. Averages
23. African nation
24. Bored
25. Dregs
27. Bro.'s sibling

*Solution at www.PEELinc.com

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- Kids Stuff-

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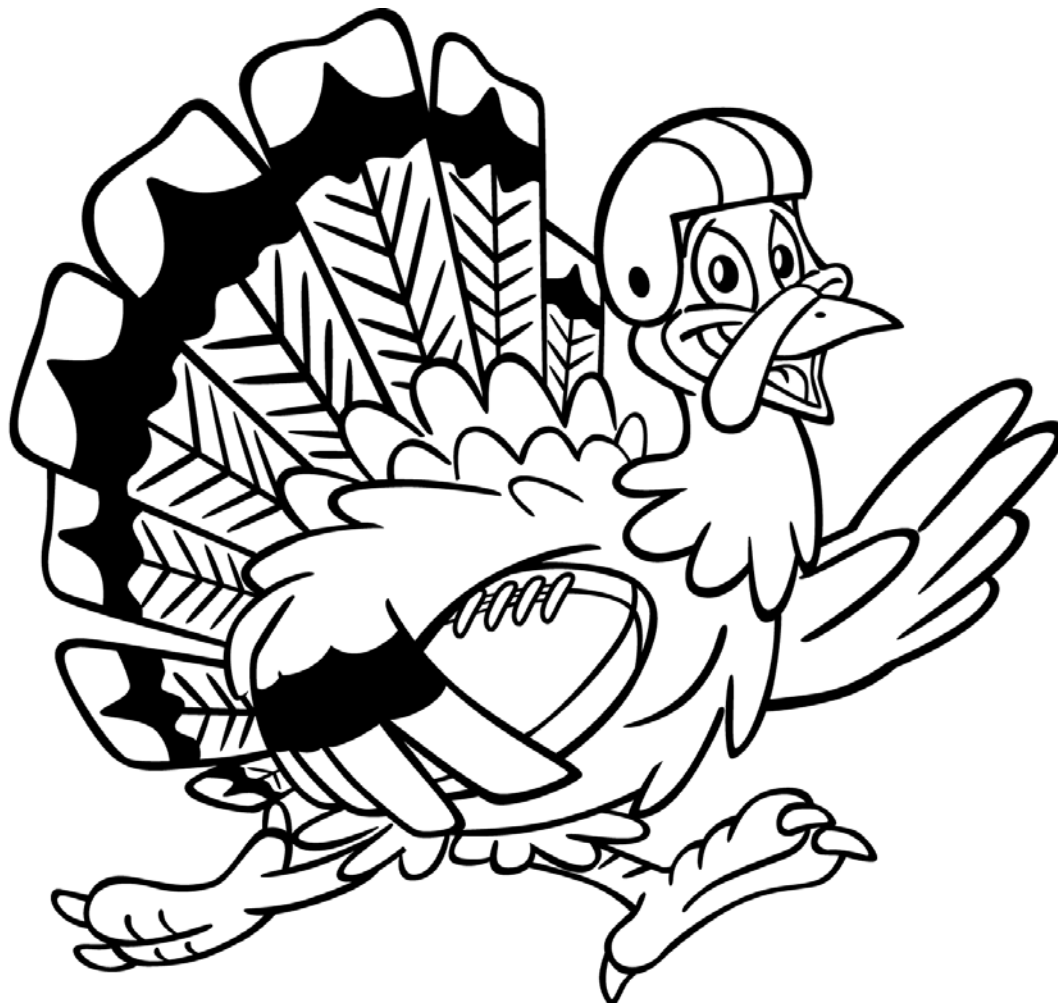
Lakeway, TX 78734

We will select the top few and post their artwork online at www.PEELinc.com. DUE: November 30th

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

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



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