

RANCH RECORD

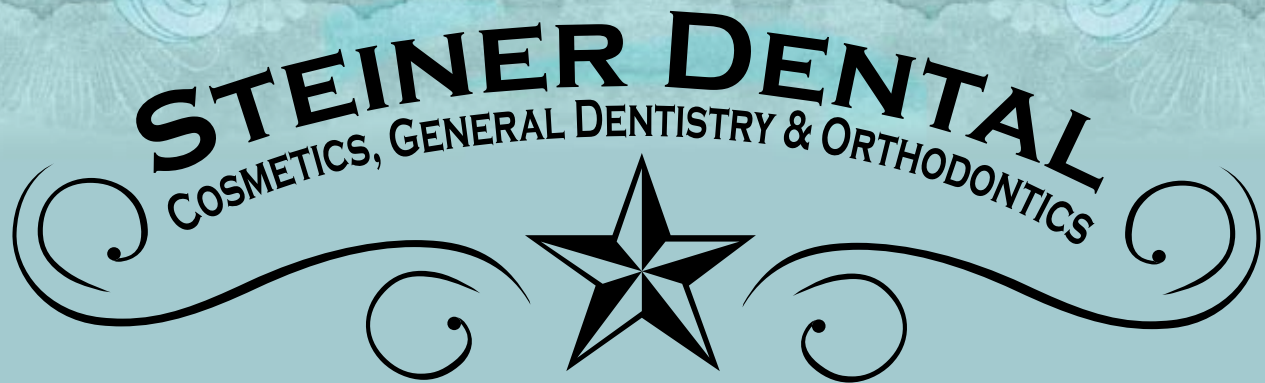
Official Newsletter for the Steiner Ranch HOA

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2010



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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

STAFF

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Maintenance Technician

Angel Alvarado

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
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Billing..... 1-800-858-7928
Time Warner Cable
Customer Service..... 512-485-5555
Repairs..... 512-485-5080
IESI (Trash & Recycle)..... 512-282-3508
Austin/Travis County Hazardous Waste 512-974-4343

OTHER NUMBERS

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

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

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

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directly to your inbox.
Visit PEELinc.com for details.

COVER PHOTO

Do you take great photos?

This month's cover photo was taken by Kelly Bauch of Bluebird Photography. The photo was taken at the Steiner Ranch Lake Club. 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. 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 sports photo. Our March issue submittal deadline is February 7th 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 8th 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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KELLER WILLIAMS
R E A L T Y

Around Steiner

2010 Steiner Ranch Social Events

Feb 20 - Chili Cook-off
Mar 6 - Run the Ranch
Apr 3 - Easter Egg Hunt
Apr 17 - Spring Garage Sale
Apr 23-25 - Scrapbooking Marathon
May 15 - Casino Night
July 4 - Parade
Aug 21 - Concert in the Park
Sept 18 - Garage Sale
Oct 8-10 - Scrapbooking Marathon
October - Pumpkin Patch
Oct 31 - Halloween Event
Nov 6 - Holiday Sales Event and Santa Pictures
Nov 13 - Camping on the Ranch
Dec 3 - Holiday Wine Social

All Events are tentative and subject to change or cancel

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 held on Thursday, February 4th 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.

Not able to attend? We have scheduled several more throughout the year, so plan to come to a future orientation on April 1st, June 3rd, October 7th or December 2nd.

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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Baby Boy!

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Arrived: Dec, 09 2009

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and big sisters
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Stork Report in Steiner Ranch

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Spring Field Lottery

*Are you planning on coaching a team in the Spring?
Need a place to practice?*



The Spring youth sports schedules will begin in late February. If you are planning on coaching a youth team and would like to use one of the Community or School fields, you must register your team prior to the Spring Field Lottery. The lottery will be at the Towne Square Community Center on Tuesday, February 16th at 6:30 pm.

L O T T E R Y PROCEDURES:

1. Register your team*** by sending an email to sharon@steinerranchhoa.org. I must have your registration by 5:00pm on Monday, February 15th with the following information:

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

- How many days you want to practice
- 2. If you are coaching more than one team, please list each team separately.
- 3. On Tuesday, February 16th, 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.

***** PLEASE NOTE*****

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 on your behalf.

Only one representative per team is allowed to participate and you must be in good standing with the Association. For more information, please contact Sharon Adams at 512-266-7553 or sharon@steinerranchhoa.org.



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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!*

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



Around Steiner

2010 Summer Camp Fair FREE!

The Steiner Ranch Summer Camp Fair assists parents in choosing the right summer camp for their kids of all ages!

Full day and ½ day summer camps are available right here in Steiner Ranch.

You'll get to meet with representatives of the camps offered by the Steiner Ranch HOA, ask questions, get information and even register for summer camps!

Summer Camps:

Sportball, Steiner Tennis, Swim Lessons, Aztex Soccer, Dallas Cowboys NFL Flag Football, Camp Funner, Kidventure, Mad Science, Tap & Ballet, Hip Hop, Gymnastics, Cheerleading & Art!

Something for everyone!

Saturday, February 27th
10:00am – 1:00pm
Towne Square Community Center



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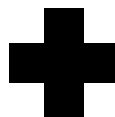
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\$45 per person

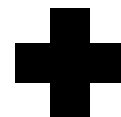
Only 12 kids per class, so sign up early!



Classes for 2010

February 6th (call for availability)

April 10th August 7th



Towne Square Community Center
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- Recognize safety and hygiene issues
- Manage young children
- Feed, diaper and care for infants

Bring a sack lunch!

Space is limited. Prior registration is required and forms are available at www.steinerranchhoa.org

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Steiner Ranch Annual Chili Cook-off

It's been crazy cold outside this Winter and what better way to get warmed up than by attending our very own Annual Steiner Ranch Chili Cook-off! Mark your calendars, book your babysitters and come eat some chili and listen to some good ol' live music – the date is February 20, 2010 from 6:30 to 9:30 pm at the Towne Square Community Center!

Dust off your cookbooks, don your aprons, and get ready to impress your friends and neighbors with your own delicious version of a good ol' Texas chili. And for you folks not from around these parts, show us how it's done where you come from! Not a chili chef but got a willing stomach and a taste for the hot stuff? GREAT! Come eat with us!

Rest assured, the varieties of chili offerings we've seen at the Chili Cook-off over the years go way beyond the "beans or no beans" debate. We've seen chili with ground beef,

stew meat, brisket, venison, chicken (white and red chilies), and even a vegetarian variety or two. We've tasted chili recipes from Texas (of course), Missouri, Pennsylvania, California, and India, to name a few. So don't worry if you think yours is a bit off the beaten path for our version of a Texas Chili Cook-off – we welcome chili from all walks of life!

Again this year, in the true spirit of Austin, we've arranged for LIVE MUSIC to further spice up this already fun event. Chris Austin Martinez will dazzle us with his guitar and singing talents – he isn't called the Human Jukebox for nothin'! You can sit back and listen or grab a partner and dance – it's up to you.

As always, cold beer and ice water (along with some cheese and cracker trays) will be on hand to help quench your thirst and put out the fire in your mouth! This promises

to be one fun evening you do NOT want to miss! If you enter a chili, you get in free, if you are coming just to eat, the cost is \$10 per participant! Check the HOA web site (www.steinerranchhoa.org) for the online registration information and register today!

Mark Your
Calendars

February 20th
6:30 - 9:30 pm
Annual Steiner Ranch
Chili Cook-off

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Around Steiner



Run The Ranch 5K, Kids K and Health Fair!

Start training now for one of Steiner Ranch's favorite events!

Run the Ranch 2010 5K, Kids K, and Health Fair on March, 6th, beginning at 9:00am at the Towne Square Community Center.

Last year over 380 runners participated as well as 20 vendors and sponsors. Don't miss out!

For information about becoming a sponsor or to register, please visit www.runtheranch.org.



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Bryan Kelley

bkelly@cbunited.com
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WINTER POOL HOURS



It's official, the Bella Mar Lap pool is now heated!
Due to the installation of the heater, the pool will be closed
and locked when the solar covers are on.

Check the website for updates.

February pool hours will be as follows:

Bella Mar:

Splash Pool & Baby Pool - CLOSED

Lap Pool

Closed Monday and Holidays

Tue-Fri 7:00am – 4:00pm

Sat & Sun – 7:00am – 2pm

Master's Swim Program

Wednesday & Friday 5:30am – 6:45am

Sunday 6:30am – 7:45am

VHS Swimming - Monday – Friday 7:15am – 9:15am

Limited lap lanes will be available to lap swimmers during
these program sessions.

Towne Square (unheated):

Closed Mon. until 12:00pm

Tues. – Sun. 8:00am – 10:00pm

John Simpson (unheated):

Closed Mon. until 2:00pm

Tues. – Sun. 5:30am – 10:00pm

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HERE COME THE RED AND BLUE STEINER STARS

This summer, the Steiner Stars Blue competitive team will join the Steiner Stars Red competitive team as members of the 2010 Northwest Swim Circuit. Both teams will soon be open for registration for the 2010 summer swim season. Over the winter, the Stars Board and the HOA have been working hard to gear up for another exciting season for all of our Steiner swimmers.

Returning family registration will occur March 1st-12th online with information to be found at www.steinerstars.org. At that time, all eligible Stars families will be allowed to register for the team they swam for during the 2009 swim season. Once returning family registration is closed, the Stars board will determine how many open spots for new swimmers per age group per team we have available. Those numbers will be posted on our website prior to new family registration.

New family registration will be held on Friday, March 26th 7pm-9pm at Bella Mar Community Center. All registration information can be found on our website at www.steinerstars.org. Any family wanting to register for the Steiner Stars must bring a COMPLETED packet with payment in the form of a check to registration. Please make sure your child signs the NWSC Code of Conduct form that can be found in the registration packet. One parent per family must be present during the entire registration process in order for their packet to be accepted.

SHOOTING STARS INFORMATION

Shooting Stars Developmental Program: Designed for the younger swimmer. This program focuses on the development of competitive swimming skills with emphasis

on the development of proper technique in freestyle and backstroke, moving to breaststroke and butterfly when individual swimmers are ready for that challenge level. At the end of the 4-week session, swimmers will be able to measure their improvement at an intra-squad swim meet. Look for registration information in the March Ranch Record and the Stars website at www.steinerstars.org. Please note there is NO RETURNING FAMILY STATUS for Shooting Stars. This program has open registration each summer.

Note: All Homeowners must be in "good standing" with the Association in order to participate. Additional information is available at www.steinerstars.org.



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Poetry Corner

MY SONG

Submitted by Allison Carruthers, Freshman at Vandegrift HS

My Song
is the one
kept muted to many ears
though hummed softly beneath fragility
encased in every action

seldom crescendos
rings bold, dancing into
often fleeting forever

silent raindrops stream
from calloused flesh now relenting
as the wound is exposed
sharps and flats
clash as glinting swords

still You blot out
the wounds I have fashioned as
my own

May your dove find
its cage unlocked
and
its window
Open

Steiner Ranch Stork Report

Congratulations!
Let us help celebrate...
email info on the arrival
of your little one to
steinerranch@peelinc.com



Spring Break Camps March 15th – 19th

Steiner Ranch will be offering two different camps over the Spring Break Holiday!

SPORTBALL CAMP

Join the Sportball team for a spring break camp experience that your child will never forget! Children participate in the skills and games of seven different ball sports. Sports include soccer, hockey, basketball, baseball, volleyball, tennis, and golf. Camp will also incorporate arts-and-crafts, music, co-operative games, snack time, and theme days. Please bring a NUT-FREE snack and juice or water. Camps are run indoors with some outdoor activities depending on the weather.

Ages 3 - 5; 6 - 9

½ day 9:00am – 12:00pm

\$32 per day

Towne Square Community Center

AUSTIN AZTEX SOCCER CAMP

Join Austin's own professional soccer team for the ultimate camp experience. For boys and girls ages 4 – 14 (divided in age groups; 4-7, 7-11 & 11-14), from beginner level, designed as an introduction to soccer, to the more advanced player, designed to enhance the player's technical development.

At the end of camp, each player receives a Graduation Pack, which includes:

- Individual player evaluation from the Aztex players and coaches
- Free game ticket to an Aztex game of your choice
- Graduation certificate
- Austin Aztex exclusive merchandise only available at camp

½ day 9:00am - 12:00pm \$185

Full Day 9:00am – 3:00pm \$280

Westridge Fields

LOCAL YOUTH LEAGUES

Would you like to enroll your child in a league activity, such as soccer, t-ball or football? Following is the contact information for some of the local leagues:

Leander/Cedar Park Youth Baseball/
Softball, www.eteamz.com/lcp

Four Points Pop Warner Youth Football &
Cheer www.fppw.org

CC United Soccer League, 331-0180,
www.ccunited.com

Town and Country Optimist Club,
www.tandcsports.org

Steiner Ranch Stars Swim Teams,
www.steinerstars.org

Hill Country YMCA, 250-9622,
www.ymcawilliamco.org

Neighborhood Sports, 228-1701,
www.neighborhoodsports.us

Steiner Ranch Tennis Program,
www.steinerennis.webs.com



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Around Steiner

We are gearing up our workshop series for the New Year. Make it one of your New Year's Resolutions 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.

FEBRUARY 2ND - HEALTHY LIVING WORKSHOPS; Sodium: learn how much is too much, where it's lurking, and simple ways to cut back! RSVP www.wildbasinfitness.com

7:30pm Wild Basin Fitness Center • Free

FEBRUARY 2ND - TIMING THE STOCK MARKET, by Joe Rapp. Wall Street actively discourages investors from timing the stock market, while Wall Street does it all the time! Why? Because it works! This free workshop shows you one of their

Workshop Series

methods; a simple mathematical system that could have saved you from the stock market crash of 2000, told you the stock market trend was up in 2003, and warned of bad times ahead in 2007. Best of all, this method is free on the internet for those who know where and how to find it. 7:00pm BMCC Cost: Free RSVP: 266-8775 or send email to JRapp@MondayMorningReview.com

FEBRUARY 17TH - 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.

10:00am BMCC • Free

RSVP: 632-0162 or send email to RichKeithPrimerica@austin.rr.com

FEBRUARY 23RD - END ALLERGIES & ASTHMA FOREVER! Dr. Ross Coccimiglio and Dr. Bolden Harris from Four Points Family Chiropractic will discuss successful ways to end your allergy and asthma suffering naturally.

Visit www.fourpointschiropractic.com or call 512.345.WELL (9355) for more information.

FEBRUARY 24 - BASICS OF INVESTING, by Rich Keith. How money works and basic investing. Great for all persons new to investing. Types of investments, tax advantages, understanding risk. 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

(Continued on Page 19)



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Workshop Series- (Continued from Page 18)

yearly investment education requirement, then this is the workshop for you.

Free, offered as a public service •10:00am BMCC

RSVP: 632-0162 or send email to RichKeithPrimerica@austin.rr.com

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

What should I do if I see a coyote?

To report coyote sightings, call 3-1-1.

You will be asked to describe in detail the nature of your complaint, time, location, etc. The city's Animal Control Program will gather data related to coyotes and provide that information to Texas Wildlife Services for response/follow-up once the agreement between that agency and Travis County is in place. Animal Control will respond to reports of injured or trapped coyotes.

Call 9-1-1 to report a coyote attack on a human (to date there have been no reports in Travis County of coyotes attacking humans).

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 be open for your use at 6:00pm sharp on the following nights:

2010

Jan 8

Feb 12

Mar 26

Apr 23-25 Scrapathon

May 7

Jun 11

Jul 9

Aug 13

Sept 10

Oct 8-10 Scrapathon

**All sessions
are free with
the exception
of the
Scrapathons.*



Sportball
At Steiner Ranch

KIDS' SPORTS

Spring Soccer – Ages 2-7's
Saturdays at Westridge Park

8 Sport Class – Ages 16months to 6 yrs
Monday afternoons, Thursday mornings

T-ball Skills – Ages 7, 8, & 9's, boys and girls
Mondays at 5pm, beginning in March

Spring Break Camp - Ages 3-5, 6-9's
9am to noon, a different sport each day, lots of fun games!

QUESTIONS?

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shannon@sportball.us

Register at www.sportball.us

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Around Steiner



Cub Scouts from Pack 203

Ranger Roger Johnson led Cub Scouts from Pack 203 on a hike through J Canyon on December 6, 2009. Nine scouts and their fathers braved the cold drizzle to learn about the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (BCP). Ranger Roger taught the boys about hiking safety and the importance of being good stewards. They also learned about the golden-cheeked warbler, black-capped vireo, brown-headed cowbirds, centipedes, venomous snakes, mountain lions, and native plants. We look forward to hiking with these scouts again and having them help with volunteer projects at the preserve.

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TRAILS UPDATE

Winter is a fine time to be on the trails. The dry, cold days reveal more sight-lines into the woods because of the bare trees. A freeze or a frost shows the trails in a whole new light. In winter the streams run strong and squirrels and birds fight for food. After a big rain it's best to stay off the trails for at least one day. This gives the water a chance to soak in and your boots or bike tires won't cause ruts in the trails.

With a new year comes a new HOA budget for fixing up the trails. Is your favorite trail in need of repair or in need of better sign locations? If you see a problem on the trails, call the HOA at 266-7553 or visit <http://www.steinerranchhoa.org> under "Report A Problem." Be specific about the location on the trail, the problem you see, your ideas for a solution, and your contact information.

Construction of any kind is not allowed on the greenbelts or along trails. Recently a type of fort was found on the Summer Vista trail and this is not allowed by our HOA. Responsible parties are subject to fines. If you see any construction take a picture and contact the HOA.



Only the HOA is authorized to create trails in Steiner Ranch. Unfortunately, someone has been cutting down trees in our greenbelt trying to make a rogue trail. These are not authorized trails and are actually dangerous routes. We don't wish to spend your HOA money trying to close and re-vegetate rogue trails. Instead, we want to hear from those who want new trails because we are actively looking at routes within Steiner to expand our trail system. Would you like to help us plan new trails? Contact your trails committee to get involved at 266-8498

or come to the next Trails Committee meeting on February 11 at 7 PM at Bella Mar. Trail signage project team is now forming: We are designing a system of labels for our trail sign posts. To get connected here and volunteer your design skills, contact the trails committee at 266-8498.

If you see any rogue trail cutting or dangerous activity, including motorcycles anywhere on the trails or in the parks, take a picture and call the Travis County Sheriff West Command at (512) 854-9728 and the HOA. Remember, your trails are private and are for your use, and your accompanied guests' use only.

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**Thursday, March 25
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Please make a reservation for yourself and
up to two guests. Call (512) 691-5946 or
email carl.a.canga@ampf.com.

This is an informational event.
There is no cost or obligation for attending.

Presented by:



Jon Fletcher

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Just Say NO to Concrete

Steiner Ranch has the best running trails in the Hill Country! As a member of Hill Country Trail Runners, I have sampled all of the trails and races in the area and many others in Texas. We have absolutely the finest variety of trails with picture postcard-like views here in our backyard.

Why run trails instead of the Quinlan Park sidewalk? Actually, running on a variety of surfaces is smart. Bill Rogers, former Boston Marathon champion, has been running for almost 40 years and he attributes his running longevity to running on soft surfaces a high percentage of the time. Your best option, if you are running for fun or training to race, is to vary the surface. You probably know that concrete is much harder than asphalt and asphalt is much harder on your legs than running on trails. Here are statistics from Dr. John Pagliano in Men's Fitness Magazine.

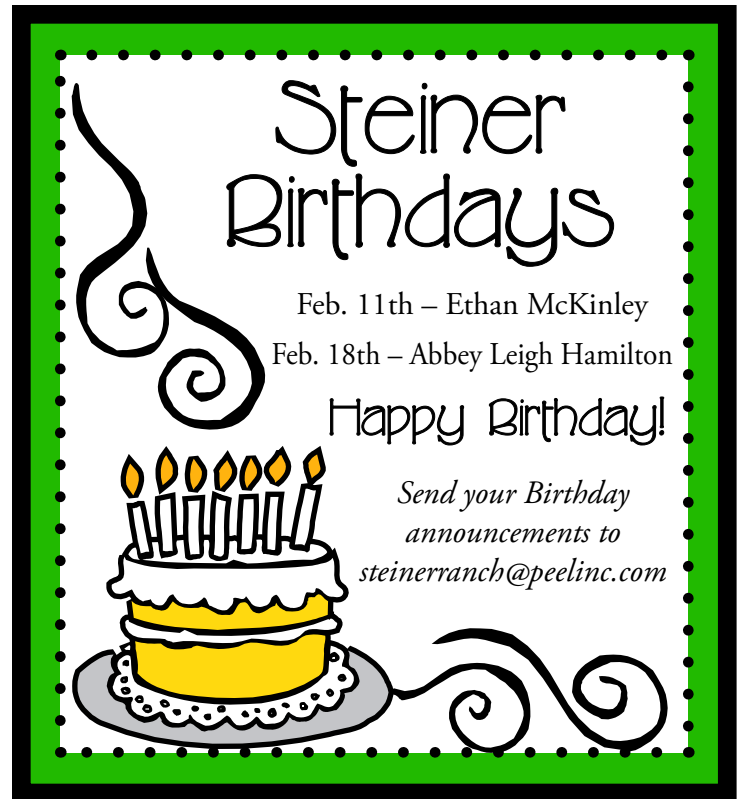
"You cut your injury risk by 50% by running on softer surfaces. Concrete is the hardest at a rating of 1, the other surface impact ratings are: 6 for asphalt, 6.5 for a treadmill, 7 for a high school track, 8 for dirt, 9 for wood chips and 9.5 for grass." Steiner trails are a variety of dirt, wood chips, gravel, rock and grass. To test these ratings, drop a golf ball on concrete and then drop it on dirt. Your legs are experiencing that impact about 1200 times each mile. Ouch!

Trail running is unique. There are no trucks, blaring horns or traffic. Every trail is different and the scenery varies at every corner. I've seen a Red Tail Hawk carrying a mouse, I've run the J-Canyon Trail when it was covered by an inch of snow and I've found a cave that must have housed Steiner's earliest residents. Some people avoid trails because they are afraid of getting lost, worried about falling down or twisting an ankle. Trail running at Steiner Ranch is the best of both worlds - you feel like you are in the "Wilderness of No Return," but you are usually only a couple hundred yards from somebody's back yard. It is smart to either carry a cell phone, to inform someone what trail you will be running or to run with a buddy.

Slow down or walk the more technical areas. Look ahead of you three or four steps to see rocks and roots. Run slower than you run on the road. Your leg & ankle muscles & ligaments will adapt to the changes and become stronger as you become used to different of foot-strike angles. Strength, coordination and balance will all improve as a result of running trails. Trail running shoes provide stability in uneven terrain, increase traction and provide stiffer soles for more protection. Your road shoes will work on all but the most technical and rocky trails, but trail specific shoes will make a difference. And if you need to walk the hills, no big deal, only the Red Tail Hawks will know.

Our trails have a great deal of variety. The J-Canyon trail is mostly flat with great canyon views except for the first and last 100 yards. The River Heights Overlook trail and Summer Vista trail have awesome picture postcard views of Lake Austin. The Lake View trail may be the most technical and toughest.

- BILL SLEEP, TRAILS COMMITTEE MEMBER



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Around Steiner

Steiner Ranch History Corner

Did you know that Steiner Ranch hosted several large outdoor concerts in the 1970s? Only the Steiner family lived out here but there was a huge field by the lake across from what is now the Caslano development. The Outlaw Concert with Willie Nelson, Waylon Jennings, and Jimmy Buffet in 1976 was produced by the Steiners. Turnout was 10,000 out of an expected 30,000 and it lost money. Reporters said it was the first show in history where the protective fence guarding the stage collapsed from the inside out, because more fans were backstage than in front.

Sunday Break II was held on September 5, 1976, and it followed on the heels of the very successful Sunday Break I outside downtown Pflugerville. The music was great, with sound and visibility being better than SB-I. Reportedly two babies were born, 2,030 spectators were treated for sunburn,

and some 45,000 ticket holders hiked to the concert site. Cars inched toward the ranch with constant nudging by state troopers. Parking lots at the big corrals where LWB and CRMS schools are today overflowed and cars stretched down the road for 10 miles, to the bottom of Tumbleweed Hill. Some people never made it to the concert. Once parked, people armed with ice chests and blankets hiked up to 2.5 miles toward the music in 95 degree-plus heat. Inside the concert area, health authorities distributed water, while it lasted, and salt tablets to control the epidemic of heat stroke. Fleetwood Mac, the Steve Miller Band, Chicago, The Band, England Dan/John Ford Coley and some Austin locals provided music long into the evening.

The biggest surprise of all came the next day when the concert's promoter, Mayday Productions claimed that they were the victims of mass ticket counterfeiters. Gate

receipts showed a \$700,000 shortage but the claims by Mayday's president, Win Anderson, were called into question. Mayday was faced with at least 5 lawsuits, including one from angry ticket holders who were denied entrance due to traffic congestion. Unpaid Mayday employees also filed suit as did Steiner Ranch area residents who claimed their security had been threatened by the rowdy concert crowd. The court responded with a temporary restraining order against future concerts at Steiner Ranch. It was a great place for concerts but poor access to the site ultimately stopped the concerts. Source: Texas Monthly, November 1976; UT Cactus Yearbook 1977; and interviews with Bobby Steiner. For more information contact Rich Keith rkeith@primerica.com (512) 266-8498.

- RICH KEITH

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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@gstcx.org or (512) 490-2360. Discover Girl Scouts online at www.gstcx.org.

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 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.

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

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.



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From the Association Office

Post Office Complaints

The Community Associations Office continually receives complaints about the quality of mail delivery service in Steiner Ranch. If you have a problem with mail delivery (mis-delivered mail, lost packages, etc.) the number to call is 512-342-1236. This number will take you directly to a representative of the U.S. Postal Service who will assist you.

KEEP STEINER RANCH

Beautiful!

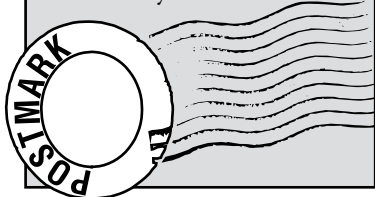
Thank you to all Steiner Ranch residents who have been careful to store your trash containers in enclosed spaces, maintain your yards, and park your vehicles in your garages and driveways at night! Your efforts are greatly appreciated by your neighbors, visitors, and the staff in the Community Associations Office.

For those of you unfamiliar with the Steiner Ranch rules, please be aware that trash containers, recycling bins, yard waste bags, and all other trash should be stored out of view of the street. Keep your trash containers in your garage or other enclosed space. Trash containers should not be placed at the curb for pickup until late Wednesday evening or early Thursday morning, and should be returned to their enclosed spaces by Thursday night.

Spring is approaching quickly. This is a good time to begin cleaning out your plant beds, weeding your lawn, and replacing dead plants and sod.

Overnight street parking is prohibited in Steiner Ranch. All of your vehicles must be parked in your garage or on your driveway at night. Homeowners are also responsible for the vehicles of guests. Please make your house sitters and visitors aware of the parking restrictions.

Help keep Association membership costs down by becoming familiar with and following all Steiner Ranch rules, not just those mentioned here! The staff in the Community Associations Office spends many hours each week addressing violations and each violation takes money from all homeowners' pockets. The postage cost alone to send a certified notice for a trash container is \$5.54. By maintaining your property in accordance with the Steiner Ranch Guidelines, and acting quickly when property and landscaping need repair or replacement, you conserve the financial resources of the Association and help keep Steiner Ranch a beautiful place to live.



School Preview for PK-6th grade

Tuesday, February 2

at 8am - 10am

School Preview for 7th-12th grade

Thursday, February 11

at 7pm

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Venessa Kimball, CLHMS
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VKimball@AvalarAustin.com



13501 Coletto Creek: SOLD!



3221 Wild Canyon: PENDING!



500 Emerald Ridge: SOLD!



4133 Canyon Glen, 1-Story, Greenbelt



3801 Caney Creek, Cul-de-Sac Street



4125 Seldalia Trl, Mature Trees, Privacy

These properties represent a sample of the most recent activity by our agents within Steiner Ranch. Call any of our Residential Specialists. Don't forget to ask how the new first-time home buyer tax credit AND existing homeowner home buyer tax credit might benefit you!

IF YOU ARE READY TO BUY OR SELL, CALL ONE OF YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD STEINER RANCH RESIDENT SPECIALISTS!



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From the Association Office

New Community Signs



*Above: The Headlines vandalized monument sign
Right: The new replacement signage*




Last year, some of the subdivision monument signs were vandalized on several occasions, causing thousands of dollars in damage. Instead of continuing to replace the expensive letters, the Steiner Ranch Master Association approved the “replacement” of these signs with new style “laser cut” signs. Most of the new signs are along Flat Top Ranch Road and Steiner Ranch Blvd.

You are Invited...

To our Camp Open House Event

Wednesday, March 10th from, 5pm - 8pm

Learn about the great Summer Camp activities we offer!
Our Summer includes Golf, Tennis, Sports Camp, Tot Camp, Swim Lessons, Swim Team, Tap, Ballet, & Karate.

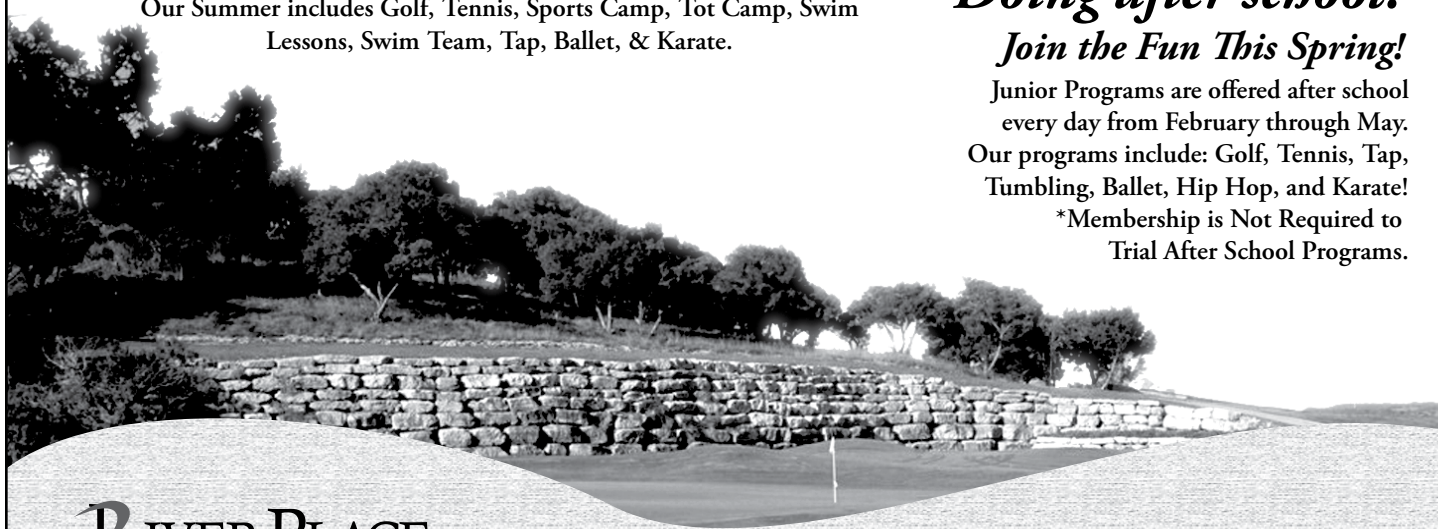
The Dominion  Golf Group
River Place • The Dominion
Onion Creek • Twin Creeks

What are your Kids Doing after school?

Join the Fun This Spring!

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

**Membership is Not Required to
Trial After School Programs.*



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COUNTRY CLUB

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Please call Raquel Hebben, the Membership Director, if you would like to receive information regarding Membership, Fall Junior Programs, or our Open House Event at 512.346.1114x3903 or via email at raquelhebben@riverplaceclub.com.

Here Come the WEEDS!

February is a great month to get excited about the landscape. Winter is noticeably leaving and spring is on the way. We can only hope that the rain comes with it. What else comes are weeds. Weed seeds respond to rising soil temperatures and begin to germinate. A lot of the springtime weeds can be managed by a strong, healthy and thick turf. If the turf is weak, thin and sickly then weeds are more likely. Use of pre-emergent weed control products are in order if the turf is weak. Most garden centers have different choices and you should ask them for their advice. Always follow the directions. DO NOT use the old adage that "if a little is good more is better". Too much pre-emergent product is never better. These products come with a bit of fertilizer which is good. You do not need much fertilizer right now. The typical spring fertilization that will kick start your turf comes in late March or early April. So for now treat your lawn with pre-emergent products if necessary and enjoy the glory of spring.

Architectural Modification Requirements

So you've decided to do some improvements or make changes to the outside of your home.....what do you do now?

1. Complete the Architectural Modification form (owner only)
2. Include any addendum forms such as for a pool or deck
3. Include a scaled drawing showing plan and elevation views of the proposed improvements, modifications or alterations. Submittals must include samples depicting the proposed materials and colors to be used.
4. A lot survey (which the owner receives at closing) indicating the location of proposed improvements, and any applicable easements, setbacks, and elevation differences on lot.
5. Deposit check in the amount of \$500

All of these forms can be found on-line at www.steinerranchhoa.org.

Please feel free to contact the Associations Architectural Coordinator, Brandi Moegelin if you have any questions at 266-7553 or brandi@steinerranchhoa.org.

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From the Association Office

Tenant/Occupant Registration Requirement Do you lease your home?

There are over 3,400 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 as well as the entire community are maintained at their highest level.

Due to the challenges that arise 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 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.



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FEBRUARY 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 School Holiday	2 School Holiday 7:00pm – Timing the Stock Market (BMCC)	3 School Holiday	4 8:00am Free Pilates (TSCC) 7:00pm – New Owner Orientation (TSCC) 	5	6 9:00am – 4:00pm – Babysitting Class (TSCC)
7	8 10:00am – SAIVA (TSCC) 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC)	9 6:30pm – Social Committee Meeting (TSCC)	10	11 8:00am Free Pilates (TSCC) 7:00pm – Trails Committee Meeting (BMCC) 	12 6:00pm – Scrapbooking (TSCC)	13
14 Valentine's Day 	15 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC)	16 6:30pm – Spring Field Lottery (TSCC)	17 10:00am – Education Funding (BMCC)	18 8:00am Free Pilates (TSCC) 	19	20 6:30pm – Chili Cook-Off (TSCC)
21	22 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC) 10:00am – SAIVA (TSCC)	23 3:30pm – SRMA Board of Directors Meeting 6:00pm – Allergies & Asthma Forever! Wellness Workshop (TSCC)	24 10:00am – Basics of Investing (BMCC)	25 8:00am Free Pilates (TSCC) 6:00pm – SRROA Board of Directors Meeting (TSCC) 	26	27 10:00am – 2:00pm – Steiner Ranch Camp Fair (TSCC)
28	SPONSOR THIS CALENDER PAGE: <i>Call Peel, Inc at 512-263-9181 or visit our web page www.PEELinc.com for more information on advertising.</i>					



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MARCH 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC)	2 6:30pm – Facility Committee Meeting (TSCC)	3	4 8:00am Free Pilates (TSCC) 7:00pm – Trails Committee Meeting (BMCC) 	5 8:00am Free Pilates (TSCC) 7:00pm – Trails Committee Meeting (BMCC)	6 9:00am – Run The Ranch (TSCC)
7	8 10:00am – SAIVA (TSCC) 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC)	9 6:30pm – Social Committee Meeting (TSCC)	10 10:00am – New Retirement Strategies (BMCC)	11 8:00am Free Pilates (TSCC) 	12 6:00pm – Scrapbooking (TSCC)	13
14 DLS Time Begins	15 Spring Break Camps 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC)	16 Spring Break Camps	17 Spring Break Camps St. Patrick's Day 	18 Spring Break Camps 8:00am Free Pilates (TSCC) 	19 Spring Break Camps	20 1st Day of Spring
21	22 10:00am – SAIVA (TSCC) 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC)	23	24 10:00am – Estate Planning and Long Term Care (BMCC)	25 8:00am Free Pilates (TSCC) 6:00pm – SRROA Board of Directors Meeting (TSCC) 	26 6:00pm – Scrapbooking (TSCC) 7:00pm - 9:00pm Swim Team "New Family" Registration (BMCC)	27
28	29	30 3:30pm – SRMA Board of Directors Meeting 6:00pm – Healthy Mental Attitude- Wellness Workshop (TSCC)	31	TSCC – Towne Square Community Center BMCC – Bella Mar Community Center JSCC – John Simpson Community Center		



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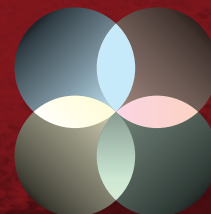
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Business Section

Five Business Networking Groups in the Area

Are you looking to grow your business in 2010? 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.oehler@unitedlendingusa.com 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.

4PBA.ORG,

"Your Trusted Source For Local Business." We're your user friendly networking group that provides business networking leads, co-op advertising support, and community event participation. See our web site 4PBA.org or call Chase Burris for more information 512-809-5051.

YOUR LOCAL CITY

Steiner Ranch has a new business networking group. Your Local City is a positive, membership based, business networking organization with 17 groups meeting all over the Austin area. The Steiner Ranch group meets every Friday at 8:00 AM at the Lakeside Pizza and Grill located in the Shops at Steiner Ranch at Steiner Ranch Blvd. and Quinlan. Come join us to grow your business.



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STEINER RANCH'S GROWING IN-HOME TUTORING SERVICE can help boost grades in the New Year! ClubZ! (512) 266-6910 or bboyd@clubztutoring.com ALL SUBJECTS Pre-K to Adult: Algebra, Science, SAT, Reading, Music. Using school's curriculum. ALSO, seeking experienced tutor applicants with teaching certification and/or degreed professionals.

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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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Lakewood
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ISD

2009 - 2010 District Calendar

Important Dates

First Day of School Aug. 24
 Last Day, First Semester Jan. 15
 First Day, Second Semester Jan. 19
 Last Student Day June 4

Major Holidays and Events

Labor Day Sept. 7
 Rosh Hashanah Sunset Sept. 18
 Yom Kippur Sunset Sept. 27
 Columbus Day Oct. 12
 Veterans Day Nov. 11
 Thanksgiving Day Nov. 26
 Hanukkah Sunset Dec. 11
 Christmas Day Dec. 25
 MLK Day Jan. 18
 Spring Break March 15 - 19
 Good Friday April 2
 Bad Weather Makeup Date April 12
 Bad Weather Makeup Date May 31
 Memorial Day May 31

Proposed TAKS Dates

Oct. 20 - 23 Exit Level TAKS Retest
 March 1, 3 - 5 TAKS All Levels
 April 6 - 7 TAKS Grades 5 & 8
 April 26 - 30 TAKS All Levels
 May 17 - 19 TAKS 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
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30	31					

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June 2010

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27	28	29	30			



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News You Can Use

WATER LOSS IN GALLONS AT 60 PSI		
Leak this Size	Loss per Day (Gallons)	Loss per Month (Gallons/30Day)
	120	3,600
	360	10,800
	693	20,790
	1,200	36,000
	1,920	57,600
	3,096	92,880
	4,296	128,880
	6,640	199,200
	6,984	209,520
	8,424	252,720
	9,888	296,640
	11,324	339,720
	12,720	381,600
	14,952	448,560

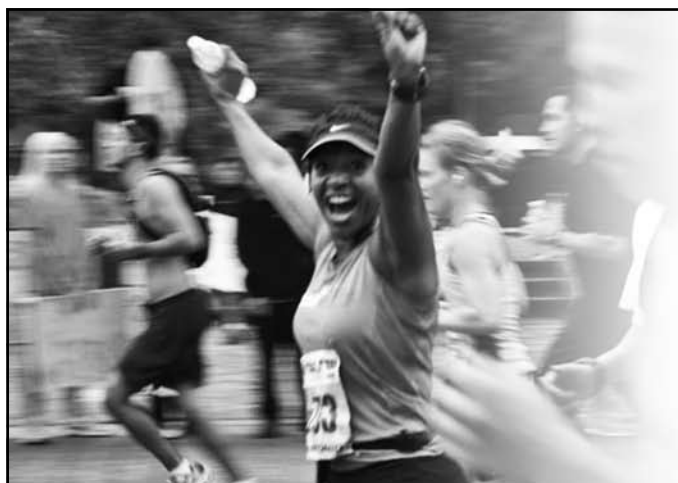
Don't Forget, Even the Smallest Leak Can Be a Big Leak If It's Not Fixed

ONE MORE MONTH TO CONSERVE WATER IN THE WINTER AND SAVE MONEY YEAR-ROUND!!

The District averages household water usage during the months of November, January and February (months when outdoor irrigation is usually shut off) to determine the residential wastewater bill amount for the following year. Minimizing your water usage during these months will result in a lower wastewater bill every month.

IT'S WINTER, "DIAL IT DOWN"

Does your lawn need watering over the winter? Yes, some, but not nearly as much as in the summer months. Evaporation rates are much lower in winter and grass is dormant, so you can set your irrigation system to water only twice a month OR LESS. If you know rain is coming, shut your system off completely or make sure your rain sensor prevents the system from operating.



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Austin Currents RM 2222 is UR 2222

RM 2222 is the only east-west roadway west of Austin. Why was it built all the way out near the lake? Texas was good about connecting farm and ranch roads. Four Points, also called Four Corners or Hickmuntown, was at the intersection of what are today Farm Road 620 and Ranch to Market 2222, twelve miles northeast of downtown Austin in northern Travis County. A school, a church, a few businesses, and several scattered houses marked the community on county highway maps in the 1940s. By the 1980s it was not labeled on county maps.

RM 2222 has had its share of controversy. Originally slated to be a freeway, those plans were terminated in the great freeway kill-off of 1994 as a result of environmental activism within the Austin City Council. Prior to this, the best of all plans had been drawn up by the City of Austin Planning Committee in 1987. It would have preserved the beauty of the original road and removed most of the traffic. This was a freeway called Arterial #8 which connected the Arboretum area (183-360) to Four Points, running right behind



3M and coming out just north of the HEB shopping center. This freeway was designed to carry all the traffic of today's 2222 and 360 combined, on an overland route direct to Four Points. RM 2222 would remain what it was: a small winding road with little traffic. Unfortunately these plans are long dead because the Council killed the freeways in 1994 and that route now runs through the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve, an endangered species preserve.

Have you seen the abandoned section of RM 2222? Next time you travel westbound on 2222 near City Park Road, look to your right. There the old alignment breaks away from today's alignment. The utility poles clearly show the old right-of-way prior to 1996.

In 1995, the designation of RM 2222 was changed to Urban Road 2222 (UR 2222) by TxDOT although - as with all Urban Roads - no signage changes have been made. Source: interview with TxDOT; Texas Freeway.com. For more information contact Rich Keith rkeith@primerica.com (512) 266-8498.

- RICH KEITH

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Grief Share	Sundays	11:00 am
Soul Mates	Sundays	11:00 am (seriously dating, engaged, newlywed)
Home Alone	Sundays	11:00 am (empty nesters)
Family Walk	Sundays	11:00 am (parents)
Celebrate Recovery	Mondays	7:00 pm
Esther <i>Beth Moore</i>	Wednesdays	9:15 am or 6:30 pm (women)
Ephesians <i>Kay Arthur</i>	Wednesdays	9:15 am or 5:30 pm (women)

Sunday Morning Schedule

9:30 . Blended Worship | 11:00 . Contemporary Worship | 9:30 & 11:00 . Bible Life Groups (all ages)

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News You Can Use

Lake Travis Reads Sarah Bird

The local "One Book, One Community" program LAKE TRAVIS READS has chosen to feature award-winner Austin author Sarah Bird for its third annual program. "One Book, One Community" is a national program created by the Center for the Book in Washington, D.C., and adopted by communities around the nation. Our version, called Lake Travis Reads, is sponsored by the libraries and Friends groups of Lake Travis Community Library, Bee Cave Public Library and Spicewood Community Library.

The goal of LAKE TRAVIS READS is to bring the community together to read and discuss a shared book or body of work by a single author, as is the case this year. After featuring serious nonfiction works during its first two programs, the steering committee this year selected a local author whose books offer biting-funny, insightful looks at Austin, friendship, romance, high society and more. Her most recent novel, *How Perfect Is That*, skewers Austin's do-gooders, social climbers, and homeless in what Booklist described as a "riches-to-rags tale with enough smart, sardonic satire and irresistibly irreverent irony to uproariously outweigh any moral misgivings."

Sarah Bird's other novels include *Alamo House* (1986), *The Boyfriend School* (1989), *The Mommy Club* (1991), *Virgin of the*

Attend the author event for Lake Travis Reads Sarah Bird on Thursday, February 11 at 7 p.m. at Bee Cave Public Library.

Rodeo (1999), *The Yokota Officers Club* (2001), and *The Flamenco Academy* (2006). She has written screenplays, magazine articles, and she took over the back-page column in *Texas Monthly* from Kinky Friedman in April 2005.

As part of LAKE TRAVIS READS SARAH BIRD, book clubs at all three libraries will host discussions of her novels. "An Evening with Sarah Bird" will conclude the 2010 LAKE TRAVIS READS with an appearance by the author at Bee Cave Public Library

on February 11, 2010 at 7 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

Lake Travis Community Library offers other events in the month of February, as well. Parents and their babies are invited to attend the Parent/Baby Sign Language class on Wednesday, February 24 at 11 a.m. after Baby Story Time. American Sign Language certified instructor Ashley Bastone will lead the session. For information about the library's five book clubs, memoir writing group, craft club, computer classes, genealogy help, and dozens of events for children, visit www.laketravislibrary.org or call (512) 263-2885. We look forward to seeing you at the library!

- LIBRARY DIRECTOR MORGAN MCMILLIAN

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This seminar is free and open to the public. Space is limited so please call the Travis County Master Gardener's desk at (512) 854-9600 to reserve a spot. It is presented by the Travis County Master Gardeners Association, a volunteer arm of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service in Travis County. <http://www.tcmastergardeners.org>.



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News You Can Use

Cedar Park Swimming

Cedar Park Swimming, a year round competitive swim club, is pleased to announce for the Winter Swim season, that they have added an additional two-lanes to their capacity at Milburn Park Pool. This means that CPS can add up to 80-new swimmers, spread over their five age groups, covering the 8-lanes. The pool is a heated pool.

CPS has worked with the City of Cedar Park and Leander ISD to keep the pool running this winter, geared towards Club and High School swimming practice only.

CPS has 5 age groups of swimmers as follows:

GREEN GROUP:

This group is designed for the novice swimmer who can perform at least two of the four competitive strokes. Emphasis is on stroke mechanics, sportsmanship, and the rules of competitive swimming. The

practices are geared to create an enjoyable atmosphere for instruction. Swimmers in this group begin attending local level meets.

BLACK GROUP:

This group is for elementary age swimmers. The focus is to continue the development of stroke mechanics and competitive rules with an increased emphasis on interval training and aerobic swimming. Success of each individual swimmer is based on an increased commitment level in attendance and practice effort. Swimmers in this group attend local, regional, and state meets.

SILVER GROUP:

This group is for post elementary age swimmers who have not yet advanced to Pre-Senior group. The focus is to continue the development of stroke mechanics and competitive rules with an increased emphasis

on interval training and aerobic swimming. Success of each individual swimmer is based on an increased commitment level in attendance and practice effort. Swimmers in this group attend local, regional, and state meets.

PRE-SENIOR GROUP:

This group is comprised of the most skilled and experienced age-group swimmers. Dryland training is introduced and water time is increased. Swimmers in this group are expected to make a strong commitment with respect to attendance and training efforts. These swimmers are striving to maximize their age group abilities. Swimmers in this group attend local, regional, and state meets.

SENIOR I/SENIOR II

These groups are comprised of swimmers

(Continued on Page 45)

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Cedar Park Swimming (Continued from Page 44)

at the highest ability level, ages 14 to college. These groups train 2½ hours each day maximizing mental and physical skills. Goal setting and race strategies are emphasized. Endurance, speed, perfection of stroke technique, and commitment to all aspects of swimming are expected at this level. Swimmers in these groups attend local, regional, state, and national meets.

Our coaches are dedicated to motivating their swimmers to achieve extraordinary goals through daily swim and dryland workouts. Beginners may swim for one hour a day while advanced groups will progress up to 2-4 hours per day. The coaches have developed - and look forward to developing - swimmers who will compete at STAGS, TAGS, Sectionals, Junior National, and Senior National levels.

For any questions, please call Coach John at: 512- 797-5615 or visit CPS on the web at: www.cedarparkswimming.org



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

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.

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In the Know...

What you know matters! Don't be afraid to report a crime.

There is no such thing as a "Crime Proof" structure or building, and anything made by man can be defeated by man. However, these suggestions can make it more difficult for you to become a victim of a crime. It can also increase the chances of catching the criminals who violate the law.

More Prevention tips to come in the next issue. Until then, stay vigilant and make the call! This is Travis County Sheriff Office West Command, signing off until next shift!

Don't be a Victim!

Crime Prevention Tips

- **Stranger Danger!!!** Never open the door to anyone unless you know them. This is something we teach our kids, but seldom adhere to ourselves. Remember that most criminals are skilled at winning your trust, be suspicious!
 - **LOCK your doors and windows- All homes are vulnerable when unsecured!** The most popular times for residential burglaries are weekday, daylight hours. In more than 1/3 of burglaries, there is no forcible entry.
 - **Don't be an Easy Target!** Make the exterior of your home uninviting for a burglar. Prune back shrubbery that hides the doors and windows or behind which a burglar can conceal him or herself. Cut back tree limbs which give a burglar access to upper level windows.
 - **Con the Criminal!** Since most criminals prefer to burglarize when no one is home, give them the impression that you are there. It is relatively simple to make your residence appear occupied.
1. Cancel or get someone to pick up your newspaper.
 2. Do not leave notes or messages on the phone that you are away from home.
 3. Have a TRUSTED friend or neighbor check on your home, changing the position of drapes or blinds, parking a car in the driveway, putting their garbage in the front of your home.
- **Claim your stuff!** Mark your property, especially those items that are expensive, with a unique number (something you can make up), make a file of that number and a description of the item, even a picture. Secure these files someplace safe, preferably away from the home. This system does several things;
 1. It acts as a disincentive for burglars where items can easily be identified, increasing their chances of discovery.
 2. It also assists Law Enforcement in returning items that have been found to their rightful owners.

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PERSONAL FINANCE

Debt Stacking - Get Out of Debt!

Modern financial planning has to address consumer debt to be realistic. Debt is the biggest blocker to financial success that I know of. And getting out of debt seems to be something most Americans want to do these days. This discussion will focus only on what is known as "bad debt" which includes credit cards and revolving charge accounts. If you would truly like to get out of debt, the first thing you need to do is stop incurring more debt on your credit cards. Pay cash for a month and track your "latte factor." There are several strategies to use from this point. You can transfer your balance to a lower rate card, but beware of the fees associated with transferring the balance. As I am fond of saying, the large print giveth and the fine print taketh away. You can also ask your lender or credit card company to lower your interest rate, but it has become tougher to achieve this.

Many clients benefit from doing a debt consolidation loan which can free up hundreds of dollars a month in cash flow. A powerful method which I recommend is called "Debt Stacking". Debt stacking allows you to use less money to pay off the same amount

of debt more quickly. The method of Debt Stacking states that you pay off the highest interest rate debt first, while making just the minimum payments on all the other credit cards. When you pay off that high interest rate credit card, you then transfer the amount that you were paying monthly on that card to the next highest interest rate credit card. Let's look at an example. First, arrange your credit cards in order of highest to lowest interest rate:

- Revolving Charge Card A: \$4,000 at 24% APR, minimum payment \$100
- Credit Card B: \$5,000 at 18% APR, minimum payment \$100
- Credit Card C: \$3,000 at 12% APR, minimum payment \$100

Assuming that you are able to pay \$400 per month towards all credit cards, use the Debt Stacking method to pay \$200 towards Revolving Charge Card A until it is paid off. Then you would add that \$200 to the \$100 equaling \$300 that you would pay on Credit card B until it was paid off. Finally you would add the \$300 you were paying on Credit Card B to Credit Card C for a total of \$400 dollars

(Continued on Page 49)

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AUTO LOANS NEW OR USED		MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT MINIMUM DAILY BALANCE OF \$2,000 REQUIRED	
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66 MONTHS	3.69%*	\$75,000 TO \$124,999	1.36%****
72 MONTHS	3.89%*	\$125,000 AND ABOVE	1.51%****

REG. CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT MINIMUM DEPOSIT OF \$1,000 REQUIRED		JUMBO CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT MINIMUM DEPOSIT OF \$95,000 REQUIRED	
6 MONTHS	1.61%****	6 MONTHS	1.71%****
12 MONTHS	1.86%****	12 MONTHS	1.96%****
24 MONTHS	2.17%****	24 MONTHS	2.27%****

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Personal Finance-

(Continued from Page 48)

until the last one is paid off. In a comparatively short time you are out of debt. You will have paid less interest and gotten out of debt more quickly than if you had you paid the same amount of money spread equally over the three credit cards.

In conclusion, your steps to get out of debt are to stop incurring more debt, pay less interest on the debt you do have, spend smarter, and use the Debt Stacking Method. You'll be debt free much faster, and you will save a lot of money!

-RICH KEITH

Recipe of the Month

Italian Bread

Ingredients

- 1 package Hot Roll Mix
- 4 ozs. grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 tablespoon parsley flakes
- 1 - 8 oz. Ricotta cheese or 1 cup cottage cheese
- 8 oz. shredded Mozzarella cheese
- 4 ozs. Pepperoni, diced fine
- 1/4 tsp. garlic powder
- 1 egg

Directions

Follow instructions on Hot Roll Mix. Punch down & roll out to a rectangle about 18 x 12". Beat the egg with the ricotta or cottage cheese and spread on the dough. Sprinkle all remaining ingredients over the dough. Roll up and place in a curved shape on a greased cookie sheet. Cut the dough almost through the roll about every inch. Let rise again for about 1 hour. Bake in 350° oven for about 40 minutes or until browned.



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NATURE WATCH

A Bird That Prefers To Run

Spend any amount of time in Texas or the southwestern United States and you'll undoubtedly spot the Greater Roadrunner, a long-legged, ground-dwelling member of the cuckoo family. It is regionally called 'paisano', meaning constant friend or compatriot. This large chicken-like bird, with its long tail and shaggy crest, is fully capable of flying, but usually runs instead, at speeds up to 18 miles per hour. True to its name, a group of these birds is known as a 'marathon' or a 'race' of roadrunners.

From a behavioral point of view, the roadrunner is a fascinating subject. This signature bird of the southwest slows its bodily functions at night, and conserves body heat by lowering its temperature and becoming lethargic. In the early morning, it can warm itself up without expending a lot of energy. Turning its back to the sun, it erects its feathers to expose an underlying patch of black skin between its wings that helps it quickly absorb more solar energy. When running at top speed, it holds its head and tail flat and parallel to the ground.

The roadrunner is an opportunistic forager, and while it can catch small birds at feeders and nest boxes, more often it eats a variety of fruits, seeds, as well as venomous prey items, including large insects, spiders, scorpions, and even rattlesnakes. Surprisingly agile, two birds will frequently cooperate to kill a large snake, taking turns to distract it, pin its head with their heavy bill, and beat it against a rock or the ground. When alarmed or curious, the roadrunner raises its crest and white-edged tail, and utters a series of coos or



rapidly clatters its beak.

Living in dry, open habitats, the roadrunner has adapted by developing salt glands in front of its eyes to excrete excess salt from its blood. While these glands are more common in ocean-going birds that drink seawater, the roadrunner is able to go without drinking water as long as it eats food with high moisture content, but will drink water if it is available. When courting, many male roadrunners attract a female with cooing calls and then offer her food, usually in the form

of a dead lizard. If the female accepts, copulation occurs, during which the food is often exchanged.

In a small tree, scrubby bush, or a stand of cactus, both parents build a shallow platform of thorny sticks, line it with leaves, grass, feathers, and occasionally shed snake skins. Clutch size can vary from two to six eggs, depending on the food supply. If all the eggs do not hatch at roughly the same time (called asynchronous hatching), and the food supply declines during the breeding season, the parents may eat the younger chicks or feed them to their older siblings. In times of abundant food, roadrunners will double-brood, or raise a second family just as soon as the first is out of the nest.

Greater Roadrunner populations appear stable across their range, and are seen in central Texas year-round. However, like most species, they tend to disappear when their habitat is fragmented by development.

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



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THE GIVER BY LOIS LOWRY

"A Perfect World?"

The Giver by Lois

Lowry won the 1994 Newbery

Medal. Considered a young adult book, I

purchased it for my nephew, but wanted to preview it before giving it to him. While I thoroughly enjoyed the book (it is intensely deep and invited more thought and examination than any other book I've read in a long time), I don't think the content is appropriate for young adults. I'll explain this in more detail, but in preparation for writing this review, I noticed that The Giver is on many middle school reading lists, but it is also on many banned book lists and appeared on the American Library Association's list of the most challenged books of the 1990's.

Although I didn't give the book to my nephew, I think it is an excellent adult read. This book makes you really think. It describes a community that lives in what the author describes as a "perfect" world—one without pain, emotion (including love), color, decisions, surprises, memories, inconvenience and even temperature variations. While this is definitely not my idea of a perfect world, this community of people lives their daily lives in a very robotic and extremely organized way.

Each member of this community is assigned a specific role at the age of 12 and the main character, Jonas, is given the role of Giver. He is given all the memories of past generations where there was pain, love, hunger, the brilliance of color and he is responsible for holding all of these memories so no one else has to live through them. The way the Receiver transfers these memories to Jonas and the horrifically hard life that awaits Jonas is extremely interesting and creative.

When Jonas questions things—which he has never been permitted to do—he understands the very hard, but accepted way of life in his community. In particular, the "releasing" of the rule breakers, elders and anyone else who stands out or is an inconvenience to the group is heart wrenching—this is the part that is not for young adults.

The book is extremely creative; from the way the community and each family are structured to the unique role each person is assigned. It begs the question, "What would you give up to live in a more secure world?" and on the other hand, "What would you sacrifice to live life to the fullest?"

I definitely have Gathering Blue and Messenger on my reading list, two other books that are companion reads to The Giver.

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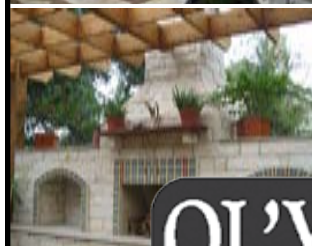
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Battling Boredom

ARE YOU FINDING IT DIFFICULT TO GET

out of bed in the morning for your daily walk and making up excuses to skip the gym on the way home? Even the most dedicated exercisers occasionally get bored with their routine. Waning motivation, cutting workouts short and not having your old enthusiasm all are signs of a stale exercise regimen.

Quick Fix

First, evaluate your current routine to determine what really bores you. A new variation on your favorite activity — such as cardio-funk or kickboxing instead of step aerobics, or hoisting free weights instead of working on machines — may be enough to reinvigorate a stale routine.

If you've always worked out indoors, logging miles on a treadmill, stairclimber or stationary bike, move your workout outside for a welcome change of scenery. Run, hike or bike on trails; swim in a lake or ocean.

Bigger Changes

When tweaking your routine isn't enough, make bigger changes. Take up an entirely new activity — especially something you never thought you'd do. If you've always stuck to solitary pursuits, sign up for a team sport, such as volleyball, basketball or even doubles tennis. Or tackle something you've always shied away from — indulge your thirst for adventure with a rock-climbing class (start on an indoor wall, then move to the real thing as your skills improve).

Good Company

Working out alone often is an oasis of solitude in a busy day, but maybe you need some company. Exercise companions add a social element to any routine. Ask a friend to be your workout partner—you won't skip a workout if someone is waiting for you.

Just about every sport or activity has a club; to find one, ask around at gyms or local community centers. Keeping up with the crowd also means you'll be challenged to improve your skills. Ask about organized workouts and fun runs offered by local track clubs, as well as group rides hosted by cycling clubs.

Challenge Yourself

Many exercisers work out simply to stay in shape, and most of the time that's just fine. But setting a goal, such as

finishing a 10K race or completing a rough-water swim, will give your daily workouts more meaning.

Start by incorporating bursts of speed into your workouts. After a gentle warm-up, alternate a fast pace with a slower one for recovery. This can be as simple as sprinting to the next tree, or as structured as running intervals on a track or sprinting laps in the pool.

Add Variety

Elite triathletes pioneered the cross-training concept, and it works for the rest of us, too. If you usually focus on one activity, substitute another a few days a week. Ideally, any exercise program includes elements of cardiovascular exercise, weight training and flexibility.

New Toys

Small exercise gadgets aren't necessary, but they can make your workouts more fun and challenging. Heart-rate monitors, aquatic toys and safety equipment are just a few items to consider. Find out which new training gadgets are available for your favorite activity.

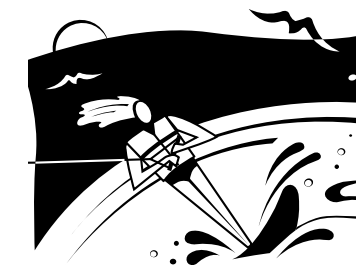
Take a Break

Sometimes you really do need time off. In that case, cut back on your usual routine, and substitute other activities. You might even find one that you enjoy more than your old favorites.

Once you've fought your first battle with boredom, you'll know the tricks to keep exercise from becoming too routine. Trying new sports, new classes and new activities — and learning how to throw a little variety into old favorites — can help you overcome the nagging inclination to devise those creative excuses for not working out.

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FINANCIAL FOCUS

New Year Means New Opportunities for Roth IRA Conversion

If you already have a Roth IRA, you're aware of its biggest benefit: Your earnings grow tax free, provided you meet certain conditions. If you don't have a Roth IRA, you may want to consider one — and it may be easier for you to do just that in 2010.

Before we get to the reasons why 2010 may be your year to open or convert to a Roth IRA, let's look at some differences between Roth and traditional IRAs. If you own a traditional IRA, your contributions may be tax-deductible, depending on your income level. But whether you can make deductible contributions or not, your earnings grow on a tax-deferred basis, which means your money can grow faster than it would if it were placed in an investment on which you paid taxes every year. On the other hand, Roth IRA contributions are never tax-deductible, but your earnings grow tax free, as long as you've held your account at least five years and you don't start taking withdrawals until you're at least age 59½.

Furthermore, unlike a traditional IRA, a Roth IRA does not require you to start taking distributions when you reach 70½. Consequently, you'll have more flexibility and freedom when it comes to making withdrawals.

If you have a traditional IRA, you might be thinking it's a good idea to convert to a Roth IRA because tax free sounds better than tax deferred — and, all things being equal, tax free would indeed be better. However, it's not quite that simple. If you convert your traditional IRA to a Roth IRA, you'll have to pay taxes on those traditional IRA earnings and contributions that had previously gone untaxed. If you do convert, you'll be better off if you use money held outside your IRA to pay the taxes. If you simply take money from your IRA, you'll obviously lower the value of your IRA — and, if you're under 59½, you may have to pay an additional 10% penalty on the amount you withdraw to pay the taxes.

In the past, many investors have been prohibited from converting their IRAs due to either their tax filing status or their income. Under previous rules, you could convert your traditional IRA to a Roth IRA only if you were married and filed a joint return or were a single filer, and your modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) was \$100,000 or less. But starting in 2010, you can convert funds to a Roth IRA even if your MAGI is over \$100,000. You will also be able to convert to a Roth if you are married and file separate tax returns.

(Continued on Page 59)



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Financial Focus- (Continued from Page 58)

And that's not the only piece of good news regarding your conversion ability. As mentioned above, you will have to pay taxes when you convert to a Roth IRA. A conversion is usually reported as income for the tax year the conversion takes place. However, in 2010 only, your conversion amount will be split and reported as income for tax years 2011 and 2012 unless you elect to report the entire conversion amount on your 2010 taxes. You may find that spreading the taxes over two years can make the conversion more affordable.

In any case, consult with your tax advisor before converting from a traditional IRA to a Roth. If done correctly, such a conversion can potentially make a big difference in your ultimate retirement lifestyle.

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			1	2				
2	4		9					
	7	1	6					
7				9		8		
		2				6	5	
			3					
	5						3	7
9					1			
1	3	8				5		

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News You Can Use

MEET NICHOLAS

DOB: 02/1996

Nick is a friendly and sweet child, although he is shy when meeting new people. Nick enjoys interacting with other children in his class and in his home. He also likes to please others and enjoys helping when he can. Nick is all boy and enjoys throwing a football, playing outdoors, video games & board games. He also likes to draw and play with various action figures. Nick is also interested in collecting cars. Nick performs well in school and receives good reports from his teachers. Nick is most proud when he is reported for doing things well. His foster parent notes that he can be a very sweet and helpful child. He befriends other children easily. He catches on to various activities quickly and likes to figure things out, such as how to take things apart and put them back together. Nick's caseworker notes that he's competitive

when playing games and is a natural "practical joker" as he enjoys making people laugh. If you would like more information about Nick, or the adoption process, contact the Adoption Coalition of Texas at info@adopttexas.org.

Remember ~ There are no fees to adopt from the foster care system, regardless of what agency you work with!

The Adoption Coalition of Texas is a nonprofit organization (operating under the Austin Community Foundation), created in 2003 to focus on finding forever families for children languishing in the foster care system. Adoption Coalition of Texas partner agencies include Arrow Child and Family Ministries, Child Protective Services, Lutheran Social Services of the South, Marywood Children and Family Services, and Pathways Youth and Family Services.



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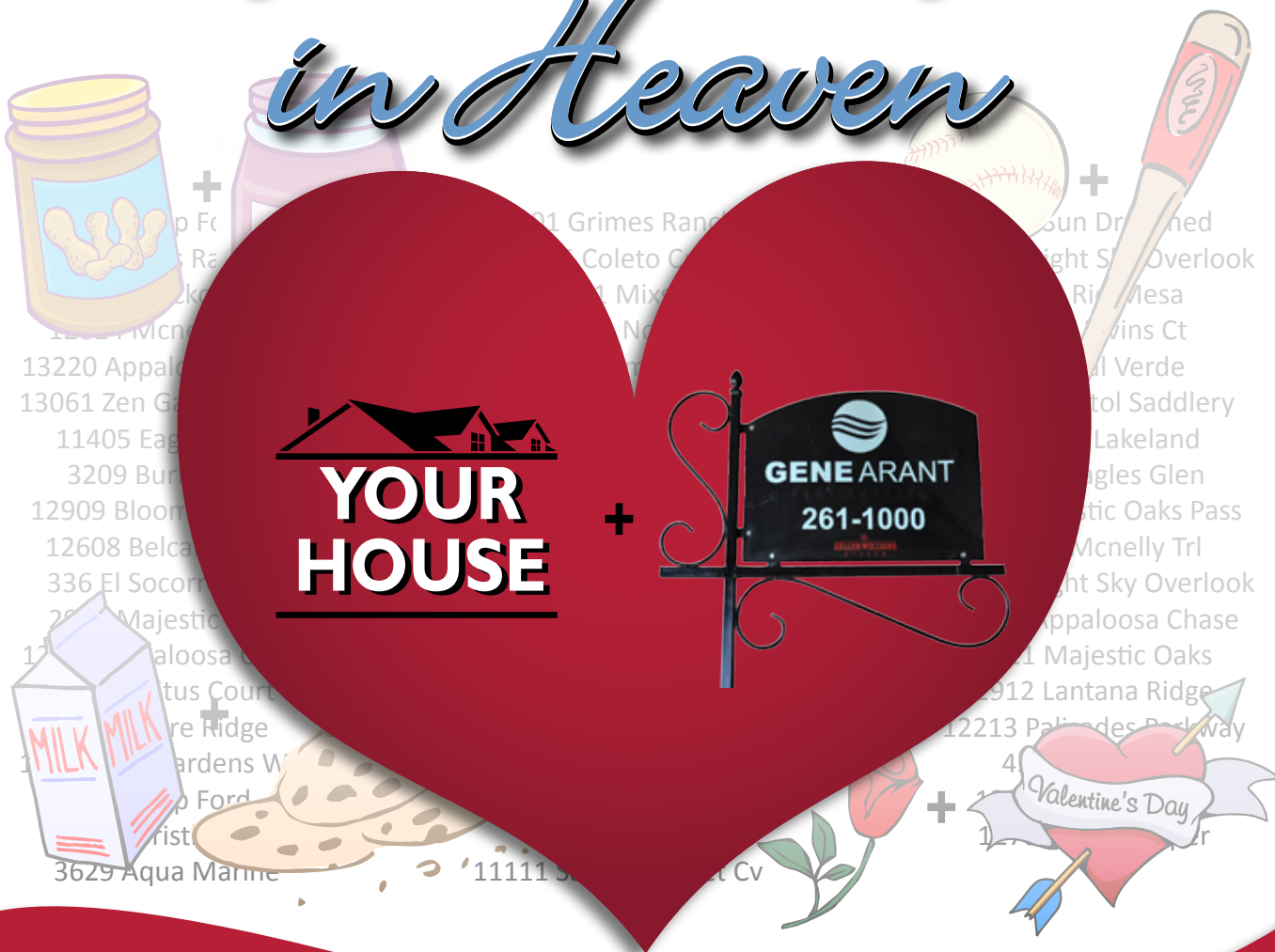
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