

RANCH RECORD

Official Newsletter for the Steiner Ranch HOA

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 5

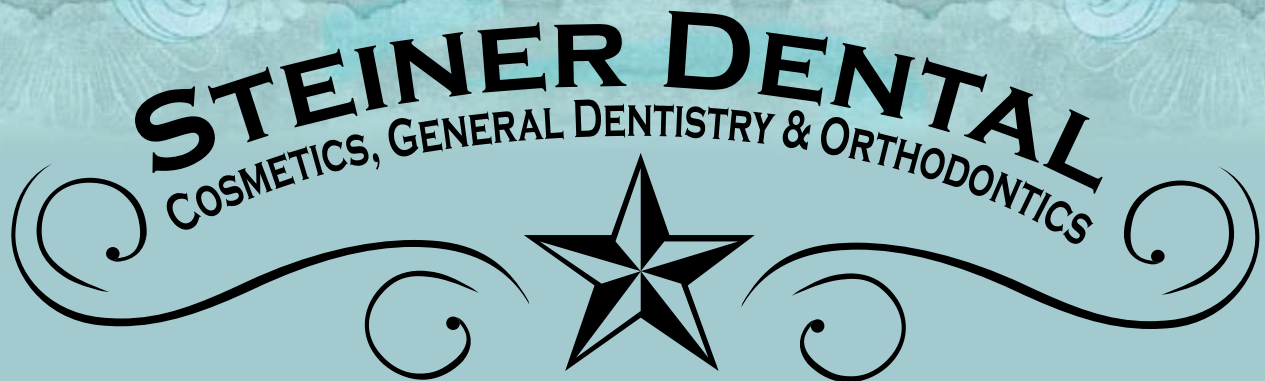
MAY 2010



Steiner
BLOOMS

More bluebonnet photos on page 37

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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

CMCA, Executive Director

Scott Selman..... scott@steinerranchhoa.org

CMCA, Community Coordinator

Sharon Adams sharon@steinerranchhoa.org

Facility Manager

Kenneth Romich ken@steinerranchhoa.org

Maintenance Manager

Rafael Echazarreta..... rafael@steinerranchhoa.org

Accounting Assistant

Melissa Rivera..... melissa@steinerranchhoa.org

Architectural Coordinator

Brandi Moegelin..... brandi@steinerranchhoa.org

Administrative Assistant

Mackal Gill..... mack@steinerranchhoa.org

Compliance Coordinator

Beth Meyers..... beth@steinerranchhoa.org

Front Office Coordinator

Donan Grant..... donan@steinerranchhoa.org

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

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Ambulance..... 911
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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

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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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Sign up to receive the Ranch Record
directly to your inbox.
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COVER PHOTO

Do you take great photos?

This month's cover photo was taken by Scott Slater and his amazing spring photos have graced the cover of the Ranch Record before. Thanks Scott!

We had so many great bluebonnet photos submitted that I have them available for you to view at www.PEELinc.com/SteinerRanch. Click "Photo Album" at the bottom of the page.

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 Swim Team photo, camp photo or taking a hike on the trails. Our June issue submittal deadline is May 8th 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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season...*



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KELLER WILLIAMS
R E A L T Y

Around Steiner

2010 Steiner Ranch Social Events

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

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Stork Report in Steiner Ranch



Lilliana Grace Gonzalez

Arrived: February 5th
8lbs 4oz
21 inches long

Proud Parents:
Florencio and Meghan
Gonzalez
Proud Big Sister:
Kaley



Levi Nathan Calhoun

Arrived: February, 25 2010
8lbs 8 oz
22 inches long

Proud Parents:
Mark and Dina Calhoun
Proud Big Brother:
Noah Calhoun

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arrival of your little one to steinerranch@peelinc.com.

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Bluebonnet Photos!

Bluebonnets in Texas are a major Spring attraction in Steiner Ranch, especially along Quinlan Park Road. Many families took advantage of this year's spectacular showing by taking photos in the Bluebonnets. This is a family tradition for many central Texas families and luckily they have shared many of them with us.

Usually, Bluebonnets grow along many state highways, and can be seen for miles. They typically bloom until the end of May when temperatures get warm. They tend to peak in mid-April.

Blooming along with the bluebonnets are Indian paintbrush, Indian blanket and coreopsis. Once they have finished blooming, Steiner Ranch will not cut them for at least 40 days so that they will adequately form seed to produce another beautiful crop next Spring.

You can find more information about the best places to view wildflowers in central Texas at <http://www.texaswildflower.com/wildflower/>.



*View some of the Steiner
bluebonnet photos on page 37*

Notice of Large Item Garbage Disposal

Steiner Ranch has made arrangements with your trash collector, IESI, for another large item trash drop-off on Saturday, May 8th from 8:00am – 12:00pm. Please bring your items to the Towne Square Community Center parking lot at 12550 Country Trails Lane. **NO CURBSIDE PICK-UP IS AVAILABLE.** There will be an IESI representative in the parking lot to direct you.

Please be aware that NO HAZARDOUS WASTE will be accepted. Examples of hazardous waste include, but are not limited to, paint, tires, batteries, Freon, appliances containing Freon, etc.

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Hippity Hoppity Fun at the 16th Annual Easter Egg Hunt

The morning couldn't have been more perfect for the 2010 Steiner Ranch Easter Egg Hunt. Over 2000 kids, parents and grandparents came out on Saturday, April 3rd to enjoy the hunt, get their faces painted by the Face Painter, Ride on the Ponies provided by L & M Pony Rides, get their picture taken with the Easter Bunny, pet the animals in the petting zoo, slide on the huge inflatable slide provided by Hill Country Bible Church and hold REAL bunnies!

We had about 2 dozen volunteers that helped the morning of the event to hide about 7000 eggs all over the John Simpson Park. Without their help, this event could not happen!

The countdown began promptly at 10:00am and by 10:15am all the eggs had been found.

Special thanks go to Cups & Cones for coordinating the awesome "Special Egg" prizes and to Jennifer Mitchell for her help at the event!



Special Prize Sponsors include:

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Steiner Tees
The Children's Center of Austin
Vista Ridge Dental

We appreciate all those who gave us feedback on the event to make it even better next year!



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Around Steiner

Steiner Ranch Facilities Committee -Pools, Fields, Trails, Tennis Courts-

The Steiner Ranch Facilities Committee is a group of volunteer homeowners who meet nine times a year and have a common interest.....Steiner Ranch! They spend countless hours in volunteer time working for the benefit of Steiner Ranch and are vital in providing input to the Board of Directors and the management team.

What does the Facilities Committee do? They make recommendations to the Board of Directors about improvements, use and/or needs of the various common areas of Steiner Ranch, including trails, pools, fields, courts, playgrounds and community centers. Involvement in the Facilities Committee, either through speaking to them at one of their meetings, or through becoming a member, is the best way to have your opinion heard and considered and to make an impact on the future of the Steiner Ranch Facilities

uses and improvements. Meeting dates and times are on the Steiner Ranch Calendar in the newsletter and website.

What has the Facilities Committee accomplished? Most recently, the Facilities Committee worked with the Swim Team and a group of concerned homeowners to create a plan for improved practice times at the pool facility. Continuing to work with both the Swim Team and the SRROA Board of Directors to update the John Simpson facility which will allow for some of the Swim Team practice times to be shifted to this facility in 2011. With the new heated facility at Bella Mar, they are working on implementing the most efficient and effective hours of operation for the facility in both the winter and summer seasons, as well as working directly with the contracted Lifeguard Company with lifeguard training

issues. The Fields Committee is continuing to work with our contracted landscaping company to restore the Bella Mar and Towne Square fields. Representatives from the tennis community have worked diligently in helping to fairly manage the tremendous use the courts receive and to add features such as additional benches and picnic tables near the courts.

Any homeowner is welcome to become a member of the Facility Committee by contacting Sharon Adams, Community Coordinator at the Association office at 512-266-7553 and attending the next meeting on June 1st at 6:30pm at the Towne Square Community Center. All it takes is a desire to help keep Steiner Ranch a beautiful place to live.

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Tennis Committee Working for SR Residents

The Tennis Committee works in our neighborhood to balance the needs of the casual players with the demands of the competitive players and further the interests of all tennis players in our community. The Committee has recently expanded and added several new positions to better represent the various interest groups in community, better communicate with our neighborhood players and oversee organized play in our community. The following residents have volunteered to serve on the current committee:

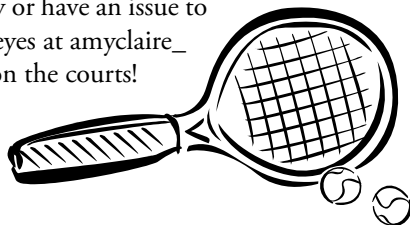
EXECUTIVE BOARD:

Amy Reyes, President Chair
 Andy Pyle, Vice President Chair
 Gary Bischooping, Treasurer
 Theresa Piegat, Secretary
 Caren Steele, Overall League Coordinator
 Gaynell Meyerholtz, Women At large
 Sid Mancuso, Men at Large

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Lori Cuteri, USTA Coordinator
 Leslie Beal, WTTA Coordinator
 Lou Cusano, ATL Coordinator
 Lori Cusano, Junior Coordinator
 Tonya Frederic, Website/court reservations
 Julie Schaper, Social Coordinator

In the near future look for ways to register as a player in the community and express your interest in various levels of play, more communication about activities and events in the tennis community and more social events. If you are interested in helping out the committee in any way or have an issue to report please contact Amy Reyes at amyclaire_reyes@yahoo.com. See you on the courts!




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Steiner Birthdays

April 28th – Julia Hu
 May 3rd – Chase Vezina
 May 31st – Tien Nguyen

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Steiner Kids Enjoyed Soccer Over Spring Break

The Austin Aztex Professional Soccer Team held a Spring Break Camp at Westridge Park Field in Steiner Ranch for ages 4 to 12 years old. Every day at soccer camp the kids worked on a variety of skills, including dribbling, passing, trapping, shooting and heading. "Our skills and drills really help each player improve," said Brian Pederson, Director of Camps and Clinics for the Aztex. "We provide a really fun training environment that is designed for each player to excel."

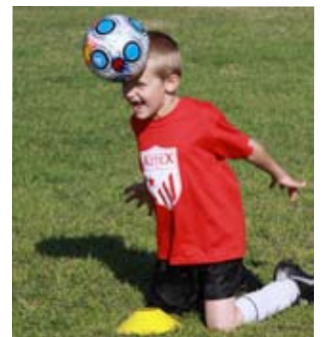
The Aztex also work with the players on their Sportsmanship, Teamwork,

Attitude, Respect and Smiles through their STARS program. The focus is to teach life skills and how they apply in the game of soccer. The last portion of camp is the highly enjoyed Aztex Cup. The players were grouped into teams and participate in the week long tournament. On the final day the parents were invited to come and watch the championship game.

The Aztex Camp Graduation concludes the week. Each player is recognized for their hard work and accomplishments in front of their family and friends. After graduation, the

Aztex professional players hang out to sign autographs and take pictures. Steiner Ranch does an excellent job of supporting the soccer scene by bringing the Aztex Professional team to your back yard.

Photos provided by Doug Amick, Steiner Ranch resident.



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Around Steiner

Steiner's Water Trail

Much has been written about our awesome running, biking and walking trail system, however, another easily accessible trail is right at our back door. Lake Austin is easily accessed for kayaking from the Steiner Ranch Lake Club or from Mary Quinlan Park. You can launch a kayak from either location and paddle north toward Mansfield Dam or in a southerly direction towards the Hula Hut. You will have definitely earned your lunch and a beer if you paddle all the way to Hula Hut.

You will need more equipment than a pair of running shoes to become a paddler but the knowledge and equipment needed are affordable and readily accessible as Austin is one of the best paddling cities in the nation. You can paddle for exercise, to explore, for fishing or to see many of the different critters that live in the riparian environment of Lake Austin. In a two hour paddle I often see Wild Turkeys, Great Blue Herons, Kingfishers, Cormorants, Coots, turtles, and at least a half dozen varieties of ducks.

Paddling is a great upper body and core exercise that compliments a running, biking or walking program. A proper paddling style uses not just the arms but muscles of the shoulders, back, and stomach. Good paddlers use core muscle groups as they are larger and stronger than the muscles of the arm.

Lake Austin will be busy with powerboats and personal watercraft in the summer but even then weekdays and mornings offer relatively calm waters. Most recreational kayaks are very stable. For safety, just stay close to the shore and wear a PFD. From October to April the powerboat traffic is almost non-existent. I paddle almost year around and have never flipped a boat on Lake Austin. But, it's not a bad idea to take a whistle and carry a mobile phone in a waterproof bag.

There are two basic kayaks appropriate for use on Lake Austin. Sit-on-top (SOT) models are self bailing and will not sink even if overturned. SOT's are a sealed unit commonly used for recreation, fitness and fishing. Sit inside models are usually lighter and faster but are harder to empty if they fill with water. Most dealers will allow you to test both models and tell you the pros and cons before you buy. There are a half dozen quality canoe/kayak dealers in the Austin area including one on RR 620. You can also find great deals on used boats and paddles.

Once you learn paddling fundamentals you can venture out to Lady Bird Lake, the San Marcos or Guadalupe, to the coast for salt-water fishing or join in many of the recreational kayak races offered in Central Texas. Recreational kayak races are becoming increasing

(Continued on Page 15)

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Steiner's Water Trail-
Continued from Page 14)

popular and like road races are open to all skill levels. If you are looking for extreme adventure go to San Marcos on June 12th to see the start of the Texas Water Safari, the world's toughest boat race - a 260 mile non-stop trip to Seadrift Texas on the coast. You never know - you might get hooked.

**SUBMITTED BY BILL SLEEP,
TRAILS COMMITTEE
MEMBER**

IT'S VEGAS BABY!

Casino Night

**SATURDAY, MAY 15TH 7:00PM - 11:00PM
TOWNE SQUARE COMMUNITY CENTER**

Think Vegas....in Steiner Ranch. Besides the customary Black Jack, we will have Craps, 3 Card Poker and 2 Texas Hold'em tables. All gambling winnings can be used to purchase raffle tickets for a chance to win items at the end of the night! Raffle items will all be from area businesses.

HOW MUCH?

\$25 - includes 20,000 in chips, something to wet your whistle and plenty of appetizers.

Raffle item donations: Interested in donating raffle items? Please contact Sharon Adams at sharon@steinerranchhoa.org.

Registration forms are available online at www.steinerranchhoa.org or at the Community Associations Office.

If you are a local business and would like to donate a prize for the raffle, you will receive valuable recognition at the event in an upcoming issue. Contact Sharon Adams at sharon@steinerranchhoa.org for more information.

This event is limited to the first 60 registrations received.



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Dr. Elyse Cronin

Around Steiner

Steiner Ranch History Corner

Who settled the land just across the dam? Several families with names you'll recognize: The Hudsons, the Stewarts, and the Ecks. The Ecks? We'll explain. The Hudson Family settled here in 1854. You'll know their name by the bend in the Colorado river which was named after them. There was a census in 1860 and it recorded Wiley Hudson, his wife Catherine and their children. It also listed a household headed by his father, James Hudson. Surveys had been made on the 4,000 acre Hudson Bend tract and the Hudsons acquired 4 of the 25 original tracts.

Stewart Road is named after Benjamin K. Stewart, who came here by covered wagon from Tennessee in 1850. He purchased 1,500 acres of river-front land at Hurst Creek inlet and built a homestead on the site now known as Vinyard Bay. The Stewarts were called "the river people" and because of their location close to the water they got flooded out occasionally. The locals decided that Graveyard Point graves had to be moved to high ground, and they were re-interred at the Eck Cemetery. This was difficult work. In addition to his ranching operation, Ben Stewart served in the militia and fought Indians. Many of his descendants live in the Austin and Lakeway areas today.

The two main communities in 1900 were Bee Cave and Eck, later Teck, just across the dam. There was nothing in Lakeway, and Four Points was many years away. The name for Teck came about as an oddity. Its original name was Eck Community, after Leonard Eck who operated a general store. The original Eck community school was a one-room building on Eck Community Road (now Kollmeyer Rd). Eck School was opened in 1890 and was a first-rate school. Eck became the center of the school district. The Eck Store was the center of activity in town and there was a local band called the Eck Store Deaf Band. When Mr. Eck opened a post office in his store in 1900, postal authorities required a name with at least four letters. Leonard solved the dilemma by adding the letter "T" to Eck and everything became Teck instead of Eck. The town of Teck eventually disappeared by the 1940s. But you can still visit the Teck Cemetery just across the dam west of Hudson Bend Road and Eck Lane. Source: Discussion with Byron D. Varner, author of Lakeway, the First 25 Years. For more information contact Rich Keith rkeith@primerica.com (512) 266-8498.

SUBMITTED BY RICH KEITH

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Trails Update

As the weather warms up, the rains come with it. And remember 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. If you see a branch hanging over the trail where it could be hazardous, just bring a hand saw on your next trip and cut it off. Note that any other cutting is never allowed in the greenbelts. Only your HOA is allowed to make trail repairs or reroutes - see below.

There are a couple of Boy Scout projects in play which are helping our trails be in the best shape they can. Andrew Butler built a bridge on Summer Vista, and Grant Phifer is building a rock crossing on Serrulata / Outback. Thank you, Boy Scouts! 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 and removed on the Summer Vista. The 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 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 Thursday June 3 at 7PM at Bella Mar. All residents are welcome to attend. A 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.

SUBMITTED BY RICH KEITH



JUNE 14 - 18 | 9 to NOON

Age 4 (by June 1, 2010) to 5th Grade Completed

Also coming up this summer...

Children's Fine Arts Workshop | June 21-25

Preschool/Kinder Day Camp | July 26-30

1st & 2nd Grade Day Camp | July 26-30

Great Kids (3rd-5th) at Camp Tejas | July 3-6

Collide Student Camp | July 2-6

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at www.ghbc.org today!**

Don't miss
Relationships in Christ's Inner Circle,
our latest Sunday Morning Sermon Series.

Sunday Morning Schedule

9:30 - Traditional Worship

11:00 - Contemporary Worship

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

Great Hills Baptist Church

www.ghbc.org

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SUMMER POOL HOURS



Beginning May 1st the pools will be open during regular Summer Hours:

BELLA MAR:

Splash Pool & Baby Pool - (unheated)

Closed Mondays until 2:00pm

Tue-Sun 7:00am – 10:00pm

Lap Pool (heated for lap swimming only)

Closed Mondays until 2:00pm

See Swim Team Schedule for lap pool availability

Master's Swim Program

Wednesday & Friday 5:30am – 6:45am;

Sunday 6:30am – 7:45am;

TOWNE SQUARE (UNHEATED):

Closed Monday until 12:00pm

Tuesday – Sunday 8:00am – 10:00pm

JOHN SIMPSON (UNHEATED):

Closed Monday beginning at 2:00pm

Tuesday – Sunday 5:30am – 10:00pm

*Please note** Lifeguard are not on duty until June.*

Swim at your own risk.

Check the website for updates at www.steinerranchhoa.org.



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FACTS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT DROWNING

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



DROWNING WILL AFFECT YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW

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

For more information, check out our website at

www.colinshope.org

DROWNING CAN STILL OCCUR EVEN IF YOU KNOW HOW TO SWIM

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

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

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

DROWNING IS QUICK AND SILENT



Drowning occurs in as little as 2 minutes.



Irreversible brain damage occurs in as little as 4 minutes.



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



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

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

2010 Steiner Stars Swim Season is HERE

This year's Stars Swim Team Registration was a huge success with Steiner Stars Red filling to capacity with 275 swimmers and Steiner Stars Blue registering 210 swimmers with just a few open spots left in the older age groups. Shooting Stars Developmental Program filled to capacity with 215 swimmers during the first week of registration. Steiner Stars is serving 700 children in our community!

Our Head Coaches have completed hiring their coaching staff and are ready to see all of the excited Steiner Stars swimmers the first week of practice. The Stars season will start with a kick-off party on Friday, May 7th at the John Simpson facility for both teams. Practice begins on Monday, May 10th for Steiner Stars Red and Tuesday, May 11th for Steiner Stars Blue at the Bella Mar lap pool. The first meet of the season will be an away meet for both teams on June 5th.

Please continue to check www.steinerstars.org for swim team information. We try hard to keep the website as current as possible. If you are a member of the Steiner Stars, please make sure to join the appropriate yahoo group as this group is our main way of parent communication in addition to the website. We will see you at the pool very soon!!!!

No Diapers Allowed

As the swim season gears up, please be aware of the pool policy regarding children who are not potty-trained:

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

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

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


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Water Aerobics to Begin in May

Water Aerobics will begin in May at the Towne Square Community Pool as soon as the water is warm enough.

Towne Square Pool

Beginning in May

\$45 for 8 classes/month

Mon/Wed at 6:45pm

Tue/Thur at 9:15am

Classes are 50 minutes long

For questions contact Ann Sperling-Kennedy at askennedy@austin.rr.com.

Register using the 2010 Program Registration form found at www.steinerranchhoa.org

Swimming Program for Adults

Come join the Masters Swim Program! The workouts are adjusted for everyone from beginners all the way to advanced -- no swim experience needed!! No intimidation allowed!! If you can swim one length of the pool, then you are ready to join in on the fun of working out in a heated pool! Currently, we have "newbies" who haven't ever participated in organized adult swim classes, new and experienced triathletes who want to improve the swim part of their triathlons, and experienced master's swimmers looking to enjoy an organized swim workout. Regardless of your skill level, you will find a lane with swimmers who match your ability and enthusiasm.

For more information visit www.redgiantsmasters.org.

Our summer swim schedule is as follows:

Wednesdays and Fridays at
5:30 a.m. until 6:45 a.m.

Sundays at 6:30 a.m. until 7:45 a.m.

\$30 per month for Residents

Come on and give it a try! It's easy to sign up:

1. You must be 18 yrs. and older.
2. Join U. S. Masters Swimming! (To be eligible to compete in masters meets, to get a great magazine, and for HOA insurance purposes) go to the United States Masters swimming website, www.usms.org/reg and join our team Red Giants Masters swimming. You can print your card immediately and take a copy to the HOA office.
3. Fill out the form at the HOA office, your USMS card and payment and you are ready to begin!

This is a great program for you and your health, and a great way to meet new friends and be a part of a fun community of swimmers and neighbors!



Green Market Festival

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- Booths Represented by Local Austin Business and much more....



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Planning Summer Pool Trips

BELLA MAR SUMMER SWIM TEAM SCHEDULE

Keep this schedule in mind when planning your trips to the pool this summer. *Remember the "practice" schedule only affects the Lap Pool.* The only time the entire facility is closed is during swim meets, listed below.

2010 RED TEAM SWIM PRACTICE SCHEDULE

May 10th - June 2nd, Mondays and Wednesday ONLY
at Bella Mar Lap Pool. Practices will run from
3:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
June 8th - July 16th, Tuesdays thru Fridays from
7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

2010 BLUE TEAM SWIM PRACTICE SCHEDULE

May 11th - June 3rd, Tuesdays and Thursdays ONLY
at Bella Mar Lap Pool. Practices will run from
3:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
June 7th - July 15th, Mondays thru Thursdays from
3:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

The Summer Swim Teams will use only the lap pool during practice. The Splash Pool and Baby Pool will still be available for Community Use during the practice times, but not during meets.

SWIM TEAM HOME SWIM MEETS:

Saturday, June 12th - Entire Facility Closed until 1:00pm
Saturday, June 26th - Entire Facility Closed until 1:00pm
Thursday, July 1st - Entire Facility Closed from 3:30pm - 9:30pm
Saturday, July 17th - Entire Facility Closed until 2:00pm

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Around Steiner

Summer Camps in Steiner

Registration has begun! – We have some great camps scheduled; some we've had before and some are new! Registration forms and current information are available on-line at www.steinerranchhoa.org. Some camps fill up fast, so don't delay.

Here are some of the summer camps we will be offering:

Dallas Cowboys Football Camp	Steiner Tennis Camp
Cheer Bliss Cheerleading Camp	Academic Explorers Camp
Austin Aztex Soccer Camp	Abakadoodle Art Camp
Lonestars Soccer Camp	LZM Clay Making Camp
Brown's Gymnastics Camp	Kidventure Camp
Tap-N-Toe Hip Hop & Dance Camp	Mad Science Camp
Sportball Multi-sport Camp	

2010 Summer Camp Guides are available to download at www.steinerranchhoa.org. Please read camp descriptions carefully. Some camps offer online registration, while others require registration through the HOA office.

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

May 7

Jun 11

Jul 9

Aug 13

Sept 10

Oct 8-10 Scrapathon

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



Tax Assessment Protest Workshop

Is your 2010 Travis County Property Tax Assessment higher than you think it should be? If you are considering a protest, be sure to attend my tax assessment protest workshop on Thursday, May 13 at 7:00pm in the Towne Square Community Center. We will review the process, deadlines, and I'll provide you with comparable sales to use in your protest. For more information, visit www.RealEstateInAustin.com. Refreshments provided. RSVP helpful, but not required.

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Custom Ceramic Tile Two Day Workshop

Adults and Mature Teens
Saturday May 1 and May 8,
Time: 10am-12:30pm
Towne Square Community Center
Cost: \$30 plus \$15 for Supplies

Description: This short workshop meets two times. In the first session you will learn the basics of Ceramic Tile construction and some basic low relief carving and building techniques while you create your own tile. In the second course you will refine your tile and glaze it. The Instructor will take your tiles home and fire them, and deliver them to the HOA office where you will just come in to pick up your finished piece of artwork! Hang these tiles as decoration in your home, use them as coasters or trivets, or learn how to custom design your own kitchen or bathroom tile! The class is appropriate for beginning and intermediate students who want to learn more about the ceramic process. A great way to customize your home and dip your toe into the world of ceramics!

Register using the 2010 Program Registration form found online at www.steinerranchhoa.org.

Sudoku

The challenge is to fill every row across, every column down, and every 3x3 box with the digits 1 through 9. Each 1 through 9 digit must appear only once in each row across, each column down, and each 3x3 box.

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

*Solution at www.PEELinc.com

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Around Steiner

June Summer Camp Schedule

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Kidventure—Brazil, Journey through the Amazon (TSCC) LZM Studio—Creations in Clay Camp (BMCC)						
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Kidventure—Madagascar: Island Jam (TSCC) Neighborhood Sports—Camp Cowboys Summer Youth Football (Westridge) Tap-N-Toes—Level II Tap/Ballet (BMCC)						
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Brown's Gymnastics—Gymnastics Camp (TSCC) Steiner Tennis—Tennis Camp (TS Courts) Mad Science—Science Explorations (BMCC) Tap~N~Toes—Hip Hop Camp (BMCC) Aztex Professional Soccer—Soccer Camp (Westridge)						
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
Sportball Camp—Multi-sports (TSCC) Cheer Bliss—Cheerleading Camp (TSCC) MadScience—Spy Academy (BMCC)						

Camp schedules are subject to change without notice.



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Around Steiner

Workshop Series

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

MAY 4TH - COMMON SPORTS INJURIES AND HOW TO PREVENT THEM, by Orthopedic Surgeon, Steiner Ranch resident and former UT football player Christopher Danney, MD. Dr. Danney will provide tips on overcoming common sports injuries as well as easy steps to staying healthy and active. If you are an avid runner, weekend warrior, or just like to get outside and enjoy the Steiner Ranch community, this seminar is for you! Light refreshments will be served. 6:30pm TSCC • Free • RSVP: 439-1100 or lbranon@texasorthopedics.com

MAY 6TH - WOMEN & FINANCE, by Rich Keith. As our financial success continues to grow, so do our financial responsibilities. But for many women, meeting these financial responsibilities can be a far greater challenge than it is for men. We explore the challenges and the opportunities that are unique to women so you can create a financial road map that covers key areas of your life. With such a roadmap you can make better financial decisions. Free, offered as a public service. 10:00am BMCC • RSVP: 632-0162 or send email to RichKeithPrimerica@austin.rr.com

MAY 6TH - WOMEN'S HEALTH, by Dr. Edgerton. Dr. Screven Edgerton (your Steiner Ranch Neighbor) of Austin Area Obstetrics and Gynecology will be giving a free seminar on a variety of Women's Health issues. Dr. Edgerton will discuss topics

ranging from obstetrics, gynecology, surgery and hormones! Have you ever felt like you didn't get all of your questions answered at your doctor's appointment? Dr. E will discuss all issues in a comfortable manner and let the seminar attendees pick the topics. Free • 7:00pm TSCC • RSVP to cathyp@aaobgyn.com

MAY 13TH - 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. Free, offered as a public service.

(Continued on Page 27)

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Workshop Series- (Continued from Page 26)

10:00am BMCC • RSVP: 632-0162 or send email to RichKeithPrimerica@austin.rr.com

MAY 13TH – USING CHINESE MEDICINE FOR THE IMMUNE SYSTEM, by Dr. Gayl Hubatch, OMD. Details: Topics to be covered: Allergies - food, airborne. Digestive function. Chronic pain. Learn how Chinese Medicine works: Acupuncture & herbs. Practice a simple chi gong exercise for greater well-being
Free • 7:00pm BMCC
RSVP: (512) 266-2059

MAY 13TH - HOW TO PROTEST YOUR PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT by Craig Smyser - If you think that your 2010 property tax assessment is too high, this is the workshop for you. We'll discuss the protesting process, deadlines, and expectations for success. All attendees will receive the comparable sale information necessary to protest. Refreshments provided.
Free • 7:00pm TSCC
RSVP helpful but not necessary: 735-7200 or Craig@RealEstateInAustin.com.

MAY 18TH – LOOK 10 YEARS YOUNGER - Join us for an in-depth session on anti-aging from the inside out. Get full anti-aging treatment compliments of Mary Kay Cosmetics. Learn tips

on how to freshen up your hair from a professional stylist, punch up your style with insight from an image consultant. Ladies only, and bring your best girlfriend with you to receive your bonus!

Free • 7:00pm TSCC

RSVP: Patty Yambay and Catherine Slezak 512-914-7711

MAY 25TH – WELLNESS WORKSHOP; BOOST YOUR ENERGY BY 300%, by Dr. Ross Coccimiglio - STESSED? DECREASED ENERGY? NO MOTIVATION? Dr. Ross Coccimiglio from Four Points Family Chiropractic will discuss the 7 biggest mistakes people are making today that are robbing you of your energy and how to get it back. He will talk about depression and how to wake up your body to survive and navigate today's cultural obstacles. Don't miss it!

Free • 6:00pm TSCC

RSVP: 512-345-WELL

MAY 27TH – TAX DIVERSIFYING YOUR RETIREMENT, by Greg Erp - Retirement used to be more predictable. You could retire comfortably on Social Security benefits, a company pension (in many cases) and a modest amount of personal savings. There were higher tax rates and more tax brackets, making tax-deferral an effective retirement planning strategy. But, is this still the case?

(Continued on Page 29)

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Around Steiner

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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.

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How Do You Feel About A Skate Park In Steiner Ranch?!

Information is being gathered on the interest for a skate park in the Steiner Ranch community. Of course, the Home Owner's Association is most likely to seriously consider the construction and maintenance of a facility that Steiner residents really want. If you have an opinion about a community skate park in the Steiner Ranch, let your voice be heard! Visit <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SupportaSkateparkinSteinerRanch> and answer a short survey. Your time, interest and support is important!

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- Undetected vision problems are significantly associated with learning and behavioral difficulties

343-2020

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Vision & Medical Insurance Accepted

Workshop Series- (Continued from Page 27)

With the uncertainty of where taxes are going in the future, tax diversification can be a helpful way to mitigate this risk - which may otherwise eat away at your hard-earned savings. Join us for a free educational seminar at Bella Mar on Thursday, May 27th from 7pm-8pm at BMCC to learn more. Please RSVP to Greg Erp at (512) 658-3173 or through email at gerp@ft.newyorklife.com so that we may reserve your spot.

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

SPEEDING IN STEINER

PLEASE SLOW DOWN!

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

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

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



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

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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 Pack 203 at <http://austin-pack203.org/contact> for more information.

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

BOATS AND WATERCRAFT PARKING

Where can I park them?

As summer approaches, boats and other watercraft are frequently seen in Steiner Ranch. Please remember that boats and watercraft must be stored in enclosed spaces at all times. Do not store them on your driveway or park them in the street. They are unsightly in your driveway and are an extreme safety hazard in the street. Repeat violators are subject to fines and/or towing.

If you see a boat, trailer or other recreational vehicle, feel free to report it to the Association at www.steinerranchhoa.org through the "Report a Problem" link. Please include a description of the violation and the address where the violation has occurred.

SPRING IS IN THE AIR

...and that means lawn maintenance!

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 spring time 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 because 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.

Remember that all homeowners must keep all shrubs, trees, grass and plantings of every kind on their lot, including any Common Area platted as a part of their lot, cultivated, pruned, mowed, edged and free of trash and other unsightly materials.

If you use a lawn service or do it yourself, make sure your lawn clippings are disposed of correctly and remember to keep the bags of clippings out of site and put them at the curb on trash day only.

If your neighbors are not keeping their lawns maintained, it affects everyone, so please let the Association's Office know by going to www.steinerranchhoa.org and click on the "Report a Problem" link.



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Greenbelt Tree Cutting

One aspect of Steiner Ranch that makes it such a beautiful place to live in is the extensive amount of natural greenbelts that surround each of the neighborhoods. There are some homeowners that love the greenbelts just the way they are. And then there are other homeowners that might have a bit of a view of Lake Austin or of a valley so they would like to cut down a few trees. That is a request that the Architectural Committee (the "AC") will consider approving within certain parameters.

Approval by the AC is required BEFORE any disturbance to the greenbelt. The greenbelts are private property of the HOA. Disturbing the greenbelt without prior written approval by the AC will result in fines that could cost the offending homeowner thousands of dollars, plus the cost to replace the trees that were cut down. Other additional fines and penalties could be enforced depending on the severity of the disturbance.

Please help us maintain the beautiful, natural trees and vegetation we are so fortunate to have throughout Steiner Ranch. If you back to a greenbelt and would like to remove some cedar trees, please submit a request to the AC before you do any cutting.



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From the Association Office

I Didn't Know...

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

HOW?

1. Go to www.steinerranchhoa.org
2. Enter your email address in the "Join/Edit" the Steiner Ranch mailing list box and press "go".
3. Enter your email address in the list you'd like to receive:
 - a. Activities
 - b. Safety
 - c. Lost/Found Pets
 - d. Community

Once you've signed up, you will need to respond to an email to confirm.

Where Am I?

Do you know the addresses for the Towne Square Pool or the Lake Club? If you have an emergency while you are at a Steiner Ranch facility and you call for help from your cellular telephone, the emergency dispatcher will not receive a display identifying your location. (For address identification, a call must originate from a landline telephone.) In the event of an emergency, the following names and addresses of Steiner Ranch facilities will help the dispatcher locate you:

BELLA MAR COMMUNITY CENTER

(Pools, park, tennis courts, multi-purpose fields, etc.)

12401 Bella Mar Trail

TOWNE SQUARE COMMUNITY CENTER

(Pools, park, tennis courts, soccer fields, etc.)

12550 Country Trails Lane

JOHN SIMPSON COMMUNITY CENTER

(Pools, park, tennis courts, etc.)

3506 John Simpson Trail

THE LAKE CLUB

12300 River Bend Road

FLAT TOP PARK AND ATHLETIC FIELDS

13200 Flat Top Ranch Road

SAVANNAH/LAS BRISAS PARK



12317 Capella Trail

CANYON GLEN PARK

4114 Hughes Ranch Road

MAJESTIC OAKS PARK

2836 Lantana Ridge Drive




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- ☒ Learn something new
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Playscape Structure Submittal

If you are thinking about getting the kids a playscape, don't forget that it will need to be reviewed to the Architectural Committee first. Things you should keep in mind when selecting a playscape:

- Must be constructed with a lumber that resists rotting and deterioration, i.e. redwood or treated lumber.
- Canopies on the playscape must be a solid color, preferably green or earth tone.
- Setbacks for playscapes are to be no less than 5' from each property line.
- Views of the playscape must be minimized from public streets and adjoining units.

Once you've decided on the playscape and location, complete the Architectural Modification form and include the requested items (i.e. photo of playscape, description of materials to be used, etc.) along with the required \$500 refundable deposit check to the Association for review by the Architectural Committee.

If you have any questions regarding Architectural submittals, please contact Brandi Moegelin, Architectural Coordinator at brandi@steinerranchhoa.org or 512-266-7553.

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. Animal Control will respond to reports of injured or trapped coyotes.

Call 3-1-1 to report a coyote attack on a human (to date there have been no reports in Travis County of coyotes attacking humans).

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.

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From the Association Office

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.

Facilities Available for Rent

Do you have a holiday party or wedding reception to plan? Baby shower too big for the backyard? Birthday party coming up? How about a school/office party? Is your living room too small for a large celebration? We can accommodate a gathering of any size for a very reasonable price!

Being a resident of Steiner Ranch has many advantages. One of them is the variety of facilities available to rent. Many of you do not even realize that we have two indoor clubhouses with full kitchens! Another benefit is our electronic key tags that long ago replaced the "old-fashioned" keys that give you access to all indoor and outdoor facilities. If you do not have a facility tag or if you have lost* yours, please visit the HOA office to pick one up!

To rent any one (or more) of our facilities just follow these easy steps:

1. When and Where? Go to our website at www.steinerranchhoa.org and click on Facility Reservations (on the left). The available areas have a hyperlink that you can click on to check availability. Once you have the date and time in mind, call the Associations Management Office to place your name on the calendar.
2. First come, first served. Your reservation is only good for TWO days until you turn in your completed reservation form and make full payment (including deposit, if required). We will not make calls to remind you to pay. If you have not made a payment for your reservation after the two days, your reservation will be relinquished.
3. What now? Once you have turned in your payment and paperwork, you need not do anything else. The HOA office will activate your facility tag and post a sign at each

designated facility letting all visitors know you have it rented.

4. What do you get for your money? All reservations are set and priced for 6 hour blocks. Even if you plan to use it for only 2 hours you must pay the minimum price. All of our outdoor covered pavilions and uncovered areas and parks are \$25. You do not have to rent out the parks unless you want a guaranteed spot. Towne Square is our larger indoor facility that can hold 80 seated persons and costs \$100. Bella Mar is our newer facility that can hold 40 seated persons and is \$75. Both indoor facilities require a \$300 deposit.
5. Cleaning Up. Please remember that there may be a reservation coming in right after you. You are required to clean up after your event. We have a maintenance staff on-site that checks in and takes pictures of damage and/or untidiness of the facilities. You may opt for our staff to clean up after you for an additional \$100. (You are still required to dispose of your trash.)
6. Cancelling. If you need to cancel your reservation please call the Association Management Office at least 3 days prior to your reservation for a full refund.

Please call (512) 266-7553 if you have additional questions.

**If you have lost your facility tag, it needs to be reported as LOST immediately to prevent it from getting into the wrong hands. There is a \$20 replacement fee required to obtain a new tag.*

Please note: The Steiner Ranch HOA provides each facility "as is" with tables and chairs. Outdoor heaters, fire pits, set-up/break-down and ashtrays are not provided.



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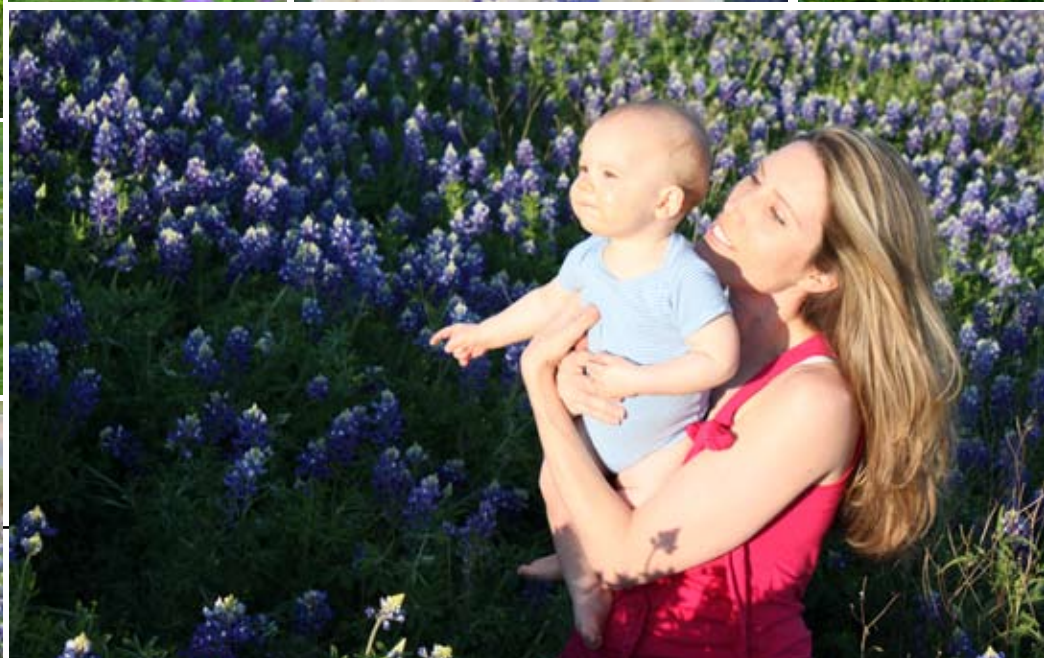
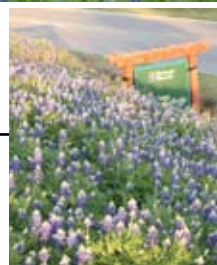


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Steiner BLOOMS



MAY 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
SPONSOR THIS CALENDAR PAGE: <i>Call Peel, Inc at 512-263-9181</i> <i>or visit our web page www.PEELinc.com</i> <i>for more information on advertising.</i>						1 10:00am – 12:30pm – Custom Ceramic Tile Workshop (TSCC)
2 6:00pm – Chess Club (TSCC)	3 10:00am – SAIVA (TSCC) 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC)	4 6:30pm – Common Sports Injuries and Prevention Tips (TSCC)	5 Cinco de Mayo	6 8:00am Free Pilates (TSCC) 10:00am – Women & Finance (BMCC) 	7 Swim Team – Beginning of the Season Party (JS) 6:00pm – Scrapbooking (TSCC)	8 8:00am – 12:00pm – Large Item Trash Disposal (TS Parking Lot) 10:00am – 12:30pm – Costume Ceramic Tile Workshop (TSCC)
9 Happy Mother's Day 6:00pm – Chess Club (TSCC)	10 Stars Swim Team After-school Swim Practice Begins (BM LAP pool) 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC)	11 6:30pm – Social Committee Meeting (TSCC)	12 8:00am Free Pilates (TSCC) 10:00 am – Education Funding (BMCC) 7:00pm – Using Chinese Medicine for the Immune System (BMCC) 7:00pm – How to Protest Your Property Tax Assessment (TSCC) 	13 8:00am Free Pilates (TSCC) 10:00 am – Education Funding (BMCC) 7:00pm – Using Chinese Medicine for the Immune System (BMCC) 7:00pm – How to Protest Your Property Tax Assessment (TSCC) 	14 7:00pm – 11:00pm – Casino Night (TSCC)	15 7:00pm – 11:00pm – Casino Night (TSCC)
16 6:00pm – Chess Club (TSCC)	17 10:00am – SAIVA (TSCC) 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC)	18 7:00pm – Look 10 Years Younger (TSCC)	19 8:00am Free Pilates (TSCC) 	20 8:00am Free Pilates (TSCC) 	21 6:30pm - Card Making (BMCC)	22 6:30pm - Card Making (BMCC)
23/30 6:00pm – Chess Club (TSCC)	24/31 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC)	25 3:30pm – SRMA Board of Directors Meeting 6:00pm – Wellness Workshop; Boost your Energy By 300% (TSCC)	26 8:00am Free Pilates (TSCC) 6:00pm – SRROA Board of Directors Meeting (TSCC) 7:00pm – Tax Diversifying your Retirement (BMCC) 	27 8:00am Free Pilates (TSCC) 6:00pm – SRROA Board of Directors Meeting (TSCC) 7:00pm – Tax Diversifying your Retirement (BMCC) 	28 6:30pm - Card Making (BMCC)	29 6:30pm - Card Making (BMCC)



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JUNE 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 6:30pm – Facility Committee Meeting (TSCC)	2	3 7:00pm – Trails Committee Meeting (BMCC)	4 Last Day of School Steiner Ranch Elementary, Laura Bush Elementary & River Ridge Elementary 5th grade parties – TS, BM & JS Pools	5
6 6:00pm – Chess Club (TSCC)	7 Summer Camps Begin (See camp schedule) 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC)	8 6:30pm – Social Committee Meeting (TSCC)	9	10	11 6:00pm – Scrapbooking (TSCC)	12 Stars Blue Team Home Meet – Bella Mar Closed until 1:00pm
13 6:00pm – Chess Club (TSCC)	14 Flag Day 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC)	15	16	17	18 6:30pm - Homemade Cards (BMCC)	19
20 6:00pm – Chess Club (TSCC)	21 First Day of Summer 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC)	22	23	24 6:00pm – SRROA Board of Directors Meeting (TSCC)	25	26 Stars Red Team Home Meet – Bella Mar Closed until 1:00pm
27 6:00pm – Chess Club (TSCC)	28 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC)	29 3:30pm – SRMA Board of Directors Meeting 6:00pm – Wellness Workshop; (TSCC)	30	TSCC – Towne Square Community Center BMCC – Bella Mar Community Center JSCC – John Simpson Community Center		

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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. These 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 Kelly Peel at kelly@peelinc.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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LESS THAN A PENNY: You can run a business classified in The Ranch Record and reach all of Steiner Ranch for less than a penny per home. Call 512-263-9181 for details.

Classified Ads

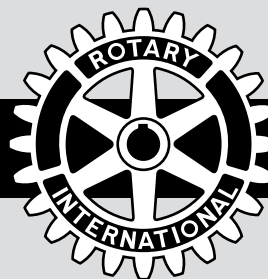
Personal classifieds (one time sell items, such as a used bike...) run at no charge to Steiner Ranch residents, limit 30 words, please e-mail steinerranch@peelinc.com.

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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Kelly Peel

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Kindergarten and Pre-K Registration Set for May 5, 2010



Registration for the 2010 - 2011 school year will be held on Wednesday, May 5, 2010, from 7:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. at all LISD elementary campuses, including Steiner Ranch Elementary, Laura Bush Elementary and River Ridge Elementary.

To be eligible for the half-day Pre-K program children must:

1. Be 4 years of age on or before September 1, 2010. AND
2. Be a resident of Leander Independent School District. AND
3. Meet immunization requirements. AND
4. Meet at least one of the following conditions:
 - Child is unable to speak and Comprehend the English language; OR
 - Child is homeless; OR
 - Child has a parent or official guardian who is an active duty member of the armed forces of the United States, including the state military forces or a reserve component of the armed forces, who is ordered to active duty by proper authority; OR
 - Child has a parent or official guardian who is a member of the armed forces of the United States, including the state military forces or a reserve component of the armed forces, who was injured or killed while serving on active duty; OR
 - Child has ever been in foster care; OR
 - Child is eligible to participate in the national free or reduced-price lunch program due to limited family income.

NOTE: Due to federal guidelines, income status must be verified on or after June 23, 2010. Until that time, a space will be reserved for the child. Transportation is provided for the Pre-K program in accordance with district guidelines.

TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR KINDERGARTEN CHILDREN MUST:

1. Be 5 years of age on or before September 1, 2010.
2. Be a resident of Leander Independent School District.
3. Meet immunization requirements.

Parents wishing to register their child for Pre-K or Kindergarten must bring the child's birth certificate, social security card, immunization records, a photo ID of parent/guardian, and proof of residency, (i.e. an electric bill, water bill, etc...).

Please note: Pre-K and Kindergarten registration are ongoing in Leander ISD. If you are unable to make the above date, please register your student(s) at your earliest convenience prior to August 1.



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Cultural Diversity Fair

Laura W. Bush Elementary is hosting their 1st Annual Celebrating Cultural Diversity Fair on Friday, May 21, 2010. The fair will begin at 8:00 a.m. with a traditional Chinese Lion Dance through the halls of the school. Then the students will get to experience a few of the 22 different countries and cultures that make up our diverse population. If you have any questions or need additional information please contact Mary Ellen Santerre, ESL Teacher at maryellen.santerre@leanderisd.org.



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Vandegrift Valor Day

On April 21st, 2010, the faculty and students of Vandegrift High School started a new tradition called Vandegrift Valor Day. Valor Day marks schools namesake, Lt. Matthew Ryan Vandegrift will be honored for his sacrifice to our country

Vandegrift High School is named in honor of Lt. Matthew Ryan Vandegrift, a Leander High School honors graduate (Class of 1999) and athlete – who was killed in Iraq on April 21st, 2008. He graduated from Texas A&M University with Honors and a degree in International Business, before enlisting in the United States Marine Corps in August 2005. He was killed just four days past his 28th birthday.

The ceremony was held on the Vandegrift campus at Monroe Stadium at 9:00 a.m. The event includee the landing of a Blackhawk helicopter followed by guest speaker Capt. Barrett Vandegrift. Capt. Vandegrift is a former Cedar Park High School graduate and is currently a USAF helicopter pilot stationed at F. E. Warren AFB in Cheyenne, WY. Capt. Vandegrift assisted in the presentation and raising of the American Valor Flag that flew over the U.S. Capital in Matthew's honor. The Valor flag was presented to Vandegrift High School by Senator John Cornyn and is only flown twice a year on Veteran's day and April 21st. The VHS Viper Band performed and the US Marine Corp presented the flags and provided a 21 gun salute ceremony.

Vandergrift High School VIPERPALOOZA

WHAT: Viperpalooza VHS Carnival & Spring Viper Football Scrimmage

WHEN: May 22nd, 2010
(11AM- 4PM, Spring Game 4PM)

WHERE: Vandegrift HS
and Monroe Stadium Complex

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Steiner Ranch Elementary News



EARTH WEEK AT STEINER RANCH ELEMENTARY

While Stallions worked hard on TAKS testing in April, they also found time to practice good stewardship of our environment. The students participated in Earth Week (4/19-4/23) activities by wearing green, collecting paper for the Abitibi paper recycling contest and holding an aluminum can recycling drive. Classes heard from a guest speaker from the local water district, WCID#17. During P.E., the kids played Recycling Relays, the object of which was to quickly and correctly sort various items into specific recycling bins.

Stallions reinforced their knowledge of how to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle items which are often treated as trash or waste.

They learned that they could help the environment by walking or cycling to local places instead of taking a car. Stallions were encouraged to collect and save rain water to water their plants during the drier summer months ahead. They also learned that letting the faucet run for five minutes uses almost as much energy as leaving the bedroom light on for 14 hours! Given the important role trees play in producing oxygen and utilizing carbon dioxide from the air we breathe, students were also invited to celebrate Earth Week by planting a tree.

Earth Week was fun-filled and educational. The PTA sincerely thanks Laura Stiehl and all the parents and staff who helped make Earth Week at Steiner Ranch Elementary a huge success!

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK, SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR AND SPRING FLING FAMILY EVENT AT STEINER RANCH ELEMENTARY

While most people were winding down the school year and focusing on summer plans, the Steiner Stallions PTA kept the excitement going at Steiner Ranch Elementary. The Stallions kicked off the first week of May with Teacher Appreciation Week –and- its spring Scholastic book fair. Students and parents expressed their heartfelt appreciation for their beloved teachers by showering them with food, gifts and treats all week long. The

Stallions also enjoyed shopping for books and resources to keep their minds sharp and alert throughout the summer. Thank you, Jannine Farnum, Melinda McAfee, Katherine Mathis, their committee members and the many parent volunteers who made Teacher Appreciation Week and the spring book fair such an exciting week for all!

On May 21st, the PTA, local businesses and community groups sponsored Spring Fling Family Event to celebrate an outstanding school year! Students and their families had an amazing time. They devoured hot dogs, pizza, popcorn, snow cones, ice cream, popsicles and candy. They also enjoyed inflatable jumpers, arts and crafts activities, face painting, relays, races, carnival games, performances from local gymnastics and martial arts schools, live music from kids' rock bands, and much more!

The Steiner Ranch Elementary PTA extends its heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to all the parents, students, businesses and community groups for their generosity and support for our school. Please visit our PTA website at <http://steiner.my-pta.org> for a list of Stallion sponsors who made Spring Fling Family Event such an outstanding event this year. We LOVE our sponsors!



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Spring Fling Family Event

Sponsored by Four Points Chamber of Commerce and local businesses and community groups

Come support the students, family and faculty of Steiner Ranch Elementary.

Help sponsor our school's Spring Fling Family Event!

Steiner Ranch Elementary
Friday, May 21, 2010
5:00-7:30pm

Consistent with its mission and purpose, Steiner Ranch Elementary PTA seeks to encourage public and community involvement at our school. The PTA cordially invites local area businesses and community groups (Groups) to participate in this fun family event. Spring Fling is not a fundraiser. It is intended as a celebration of a great school year and serves as a reward to the students, the parent volunteers and their families.

Participating Groups will be a huge blessing to our students and families. In return,

Groups will receive excellent publicity, exposure leading into the summer months and opportunities to establish connections with the school's families. The Groups will garner respect and a positive reputation just by being there and showing their generous support. Of course, they will also have our Stallions' most sincere gratitude!

Donations of time, food, services or products are all considered charitable donations to the Steiner Ranch Elementary PTA and the school itself. Need ideas?

- **Food or beverages** – provided and managed by your group. Ex/ pizza, hotdogs, popcorn, bottled water, sodas, juice boxes, cotton candy, chips, etc.

- **Game or activity, perhaps with small prizes** – created and managed by your group. Ex/ corn hole, beanbag toss, obstacle course, dunking machine, basketball hoops challenge, sack races, face painting, water-soluble

tattoos, hair braiding, balloon creations, craft stations, etc.

- **Entertainment** – provided and managed by your Group. Ex/ live or pre-recorded music; exhibitions/demonstrations; dunking machine; jumpers and inflatables; little barrel train rides; etc.

REQUIRED: Each person working at this event must be an approved volunteer in the Leander Independent School District. Volunteer approval is a simple process. Visit: <http://www.leanderisd.org/default.aspx?name=comm.volunteer> to apply.

REGISTRATION: Go to <http://steiner.my-pta.org/> for instructions to register online.

Thank you very much for your time and support!

Jean Wong - PTA President
Steiner Ranch Elementary

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Steiner Ranch Elementary's



Registration - Spring Fling Family Event Friday, May 21, 2010 5:00-7:30 p.m.

1. Name of Group: _____

2. Local Business ☐ or Community Group ☐

3. Contact Information -

Name: _____ Business Number: _____

Address: _____ Cell Number: _____

_____ Email Address: _____

4. LISD Approved Volunteer -

☐ Yes ☐ No

Each person working at this event must be an approved volunteer in the Leander Independent School District.

Volunteer approval is a simple process. Visit: <http://www.leanderisd.org/default.aspx?name=comm.volunteer> to apply.

5. Member of Four Points Chamber of Commerce -

☐ Yes ☐ No

6. Please provide a brief description of how you plan to participate as a Spring Fling Family Event sponsor.

Please identify type of activity, entertainment or donation.

7. Will you need a table during this event?

☐ Yes ☐ No

One 6-foot table will be made available to each sponsor. Please bring another table, if needed.

8. Steiner Ranch Elementary cannot support the electrical needs of such a large outdoor event. There are very few electrical outlets outside. Please plan to provide your own access to electricity, such as the need for generator or batteries.

9. **Deadline** to secure your group's space at this event and ensure adequate sponsorship publicity is **Wednesday, April 7, 2010.**

Thank you very much for your time and support!

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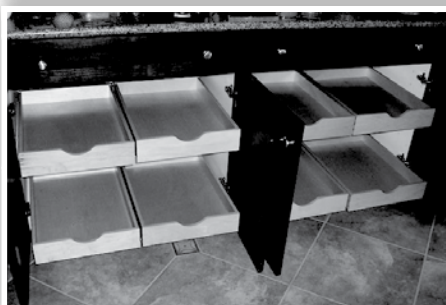
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Travis County ESD No. 6 Honored for Leadership



SAFE-D President Don Grogg (right) congratulates Lake Travis Fire Rescue Chief Jim Linardos and Travis County ESD6 Commissioner Brad Ellis after ESD6 won SAFE-D's Ladder Award at the association's annual statewide conference.

Travis County Emergency Services District No. 6 (ESD6) was recognized for its statewide leadership Feb. 13 at the annual conference of the State Association of Fire and Emergency Services Districts (SAFE-D). ESD6 was named recipient of the annual Ladder Award, recognizing the district that most advanced the professionalism of all Texas emergency services districts.

ESD6 officials, cooperating with State Rep. Valinda Bolton, worked tirelessly during the 81st Legislature to give local residents the chance to provide additional resources for fire protection. "ESD6 led the charge," observed SAFE-D President Don Grogg, "Emergency services districts were created to assure reliable funding for fire protection and emergency medical care.

Specifically, ESD6 worked to raise the visibility with the state legislature for the

(Continued on Page 53)

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Travis County ESD No. 6 Honored- (Continued from Page 52)

need to re-evaluate funding models for ESDs. Currently, funding and taxation laws are designed only to support rural population densities. In urban and emerging suburban densities, additional resources are required to ensure the response times necessary to save lives and property.

"ESD6 worked to make sure that, even in tough economic times, those services don't falter." Lewis continued, "Although the legislative effort fell short by two votes, ESD6 efforts raised awareness of emergency services districts at the Legislature, and those efforts will have profound effect as the discussion continues."

Accepting the Ladder Award were ESD6 Commissioner Brad Ellis and Lake Travis Fire Rescue Chief Jim Linardos. Travis County ESD6 operates Lake Travis Fire Rescue (formerly the Hudson Bend Fire Department) as it provides fire protection and emergency medical first-response to residents in more than 200 square miles of western Travis County.

SAFE-D is the only organization dedicated to helping the men and women of emergency services districts as they protect the lives and property of Texans.

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Gardening in the Hill Country

Spring is in full swing with bright green mornings full of sunshine and bird song. Area garden centers are bursting with eager gardeners loading carts with compost, flowers and landscape supplies. While riding the energy of the season to beautify your yard, keep in mind a few things that will help the garden flourish through spring and summer.

Healthy soil supports a healthy landscape. Dedicate energy every year to improving your soil, and you will be richly rewarded with better blooms, improved water efficiency, and fewer disease problems. Work compost into garden and flower beds, and top-dress established areas and lawns with compost. Compost improves soil quality, and reduces or eliminates the need for fertilizer.

Water your garden efficiently and effectively. Although some watering is necessary to sustain gardens in the Hill Country, many people water too much! Over-watering wet or shallow soil results in weakened or diseased plants as well as runoff (water and money down the storm drain). For our thin and clay Hill Country soils, ½ inch, twice per week is the maximum amount you should need to water—even during the heat of summer. During spring and fall, ½ inch once per week is plenty.

Watering between dusk and dawn further increases the effectiveness

of the water you use by reducing evaporation and increasing the amount of water that makes it to plant roots.

Twice per week summer watering is good for landscapes and also good for water supply. Over 60 percent of residential water is used on landscapes in the summer, resulting in water treatment plants experiencing peak demands. Efficient watering reduces the need to build new water treatment plants.

Healthy soil and efficient watering will insure that the vibrant flowers in your shopping cart at the garden center thrive in your yard throughout the growing season. Be sure to consider using native and adapted plants that are drought tolerant. For more information on drought tolerant plants and tips on water conservation, go to the LCRA web site: <http://www.lcra.org/water/save/index.html>.

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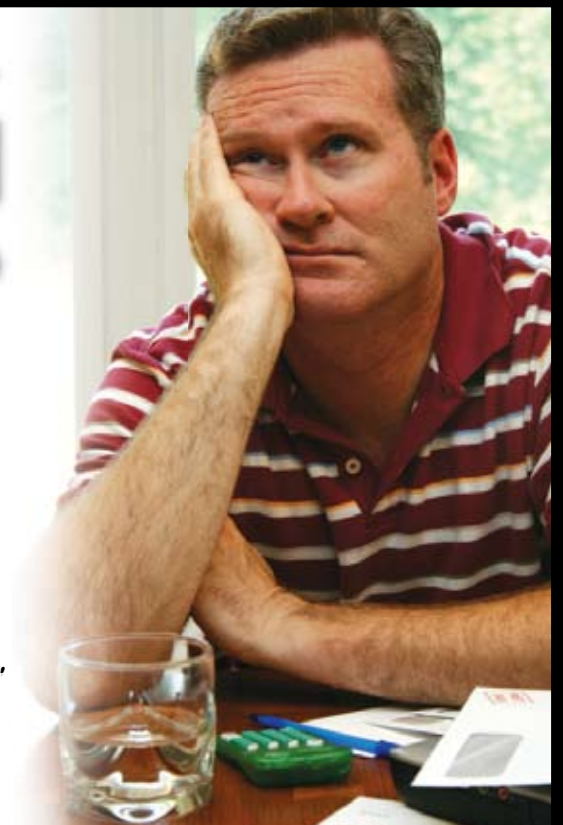
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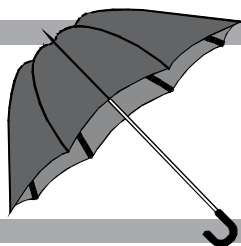
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Can the Weather Affect My Child's Asthma?

Weather and Asthma

The effect of weather on asthma symptoms isn't fully understood, but clearly there is a link. Numerous studies have shown a variety of connections, such as increases in asthma-related emergency department visits when certain weather conditions are present. Some people find that their asthma symptoms get worse at specific times of year. For others, a severe storm or sudden weather change may trigger an attack.

Exposure to cold, dry air is a common asthma trigger and can quickly cause severe symptoms. People with exercise-induced asthma who participate in winter sports are especially susceptible. Dry, windy weather can stir up pollen and mold in the air, leading to problems for some people.

Hot, humid air also can trigger asthma symptoms, and wet weather encourages the growth of mold spores, another asthma trigger. In certain areas, heat and sunlight combine with pollutants to create

ground-level ozone, which is also an asthma trigger.

Studies have shown that thunderstorms can trigger asthma attacks. One study showed that during thunderstorms, the daily number of emergency department visits for asthma increased by 15%. The study concluded that the problem was caused by the number of fungal spores in the air, which almost doubled. It wasn't rain, but the wind, that caused this increase. Changes in barometric pressure may also be an asthma trigger.

Avoiding Allergy Triggers

If you suspect weather is playing a role in your child's asthma, keep a diary of asthma symptoms and possible triggers and talk to your child's doctor. Once you know what kind of weather triggers asthma symptoms, you can take steps to protect your child:

- Watch the forecast for pollen and mold counts as well as other conditions (extreme cold or heat) that might affect your child's asthma.

(Continued on Page 57)

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Can the Weather Affect... - (Continued from Page 56)

- Limit your child's outdoor activities on peak trigger days.
- Make sure your child wears a scarf over his or her mouth and nose outside during very cold weather.
- Keep windows closed at night to keep pollens and molds out. If it's hot, use air conditioning, which cleans, cools, and dries the air.
- Keep your child indoors early in the morning (before 10 AM) when pollen is at its highest levels.
- Your child shouldn't mow the lawn or rake leaves, and should be kept away from freshly cut grass and leaf piles.
- Dry clothes in the dryer (hanging clothes or sheets to dry can allow mold or pollen to collect on them).
- Make sure your child always has rescue medication on hand.

Your child's written asthma action plan should list weather triggers and ways to manage them, including any seasonal increases in medication. A child whose asthma seems to be allergy-related may also need to see an allergist for medication or allergy shots.

Reviewed by: Elana Pearl Ben-Joseph, MD, Date reviewed: June 2007

This information was provided by KidsHealth, one of the largest resources online for medically reviewed health information written for parents, kids, and teens. For more articles like this one, visit www.KidsHealth.org or www.TeensHealth.org. ©1995-2006. The Nemours Foundation

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Please include a photo if possible.



Many Women Risk Retirement To Fund College

A recent survey by Oppenheimer Funds reveals that women are highly committed to getting their kids to college and drive most households' college planning – but many take a back seat when it comes to college savings. Nearly three quarters – 74% -- of 1,099

women polled said it's very important for their children to obtain a college degree, compared with 66% of 559 men polled. However, in households that have begun planning financially for college, primary responsibility for this critical exercise most often belongs to men.

It's often true that women are keenly involved in making sure the kids are ready for higher education. But academic preparation



is not enough – the financial side often is addressed too late in the game. The poll indicates about eight of 10 women agree that it's important to plan financially for retirement and college costs at the same time. But only 10% of women strongly agree that they have such plans in place.

It's important to not rob one's retirement savings to pay for college. And figures quickly show that borrowing for college costs a lot more than many people realize. The cost of borrowing really impacts the ability to save for retirement. And since women on average live longer than men, this reduced savings affects women more than men. Time is a powerful key to achieving financial security.

Source: Oppenheimer Funds 2010.

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Limited time offer. Expires on January 30, 2010

New Event Announcement from the Travis County Master Gardeners Association:

Gardening for Butterflies and Hummingbirds

Friday, May 7, 2010 • 1:00-2:30pm

Demonstration Garden at AgriLife Extension Office of Travis County

1600 B Smith Rd, Austin 78721

Gardening for Butterflies & Hummingbirds is appropriate for anyone wanting to incorporate the correct plants into the garden to attract these beauties into your surroundings. Learn plant foods sources, host plants, and nesting places for the most common butterflies and hummingbirds in Central Texas.

How to Create a Wildlife Habitat

Saturday, May 22 • 9:00-11:00am

Demonstration Garden at AgriLife Extension Office of Travis County, 1600 B Smith Rd, Austin TX 78721

Learn how to attract butterflies, birds, insects, toads, etc. by utilizing plants which create food, cover, places to raise young and water. A Master Naturalist volunteer will lead the discussion. This seminar is free and open to the public.

Become a Garden Detective

Saturday, May 29, 2010 • 10am-Noon

Zilker Botanical Garden

2220 Barton Springs Rd.

Austin TX 78746

Just when you think you've done everything right by your plants, one of them starts to go downhill. One of the biggest challenges for gardeners is correctly diagnosing plant problems and finding effective, safe solutions. Is your plant dying because of an insect, environmental or disease problem? Join us to learn the causes of plant problems, the process for diagnosing plant problems, and preventive garden management techniques. This seminar is free and open to the public.

For more details, see <http://www.tcmastergardeners.org> or call the Travis County Master Gardener's help desk at (512) 854-9600.

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Recipe of the Month

Cheesy Potatoes

6 medium potatoes, cooked & chunked

Pour cooked potatoes into a lightly greased 8 x 10" baking dish.

Cook the following in ¼ lb. margarine or butter until tender:

1 small onion, chopped

1 green pepper, chopped

3 stalks celery, chopped

Add the following to cooked vegetables:

1 can cream of mushroom soup

1 small can evaporated milk

½ lb. Velveeta cheese

1 small jar pimientos

Sprinkle with parsley if desired. Stir until cheese melts and pour over potatoes. Bake in 350 degree oven until bubbly.

REGISTRATION IS HERE!!

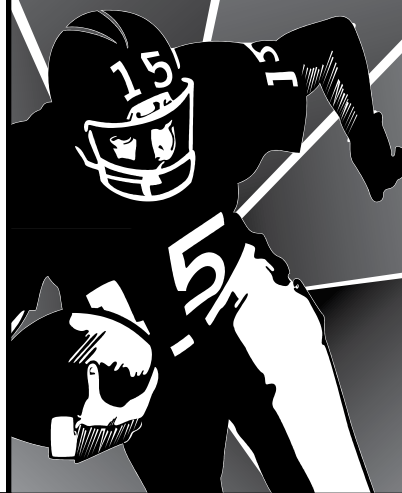


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NATURE WATCH

Filter Feeders

What makes no sound and cannot see? Often lives for decades, but seldom moves from a secure spot? Causing a stir, making us ponder their future as well as our own? The answer to this riddle is freshwater mussels! Nearly three hundred species of native freshwater mussels (also called unionids) live in the United States, with more than 50 of them found in Texas. Yet nearly 70% of the known species are extinct, endangered, or in need of special protection, largely due to the changes that have occurred in their ecosystem in the last 200 years.

Living buried in the sand and gravel at the bottom of river and streams, with a few adapted to the quiet waters of lakes and ponds, freshwater mussels are filter feeders. They draw their food to them by siphoning water into their shells and using their gills to filter out algae and small particles from the water and to take in oxygen. Although freshwater mussels have a muscular 'foot', they don't move very much but use this foot to burrow into the mud or provide limited travel if disturbed by droughts or floods.

Freshwater mussels are protected from predators by a hard, calcium-based shell consisting of two halves joined by a hinge. Thin-shelled species live on average 4 to 10 years, while thick-shelled species can live 20 to 40 years or more. With colorful common names including terms like floater, pocketbook, fatmucket, pimpleback, pistol grip, and washboard, Texas unionids were often named after items that resembled the shapes of their shells, by those who harvested them for their pearls and for use in the shell-button industry. Fifteen species of Texas freshwater mussels are now on the state threatened list, which means they are protected and cannot be collected or killed. Those found in the Colorado River system in central Texas include the False spike (*Quadrula mitchelli*), Smooth pimpleback (*Quadrula houstonensis*), Texas fatmucket (*Lampsilis*

bracteata), Texas fawnsfoot (*Truncilla macrodon*), and the Texas pimpleback (*Quadrula petrina*).

In addition to their unusual common names, these bivalves also have a very unusual reproductive cycle. First, eggs held inside the female need to be fertilized by sperm released into the water from a nearby male. The resulting young mussels, or glochidia, are in turn released by the female and temporarily attach themselves to a fish's fins or gills. This sounds like tricky business, and it is!

Female mussels have evolved to attract certain species of host fish by using insect, worm and fish-shaped lures – tissue-based extensions of their bodies – developed to bring the fish in close enough for the dispersed glochidia to attach. During this harmless parasitic stage, the glochidia grow into tiny mussels and within a few weeks drop from the fish and down to the river bottom or stream bed to mature and continue the cycle.

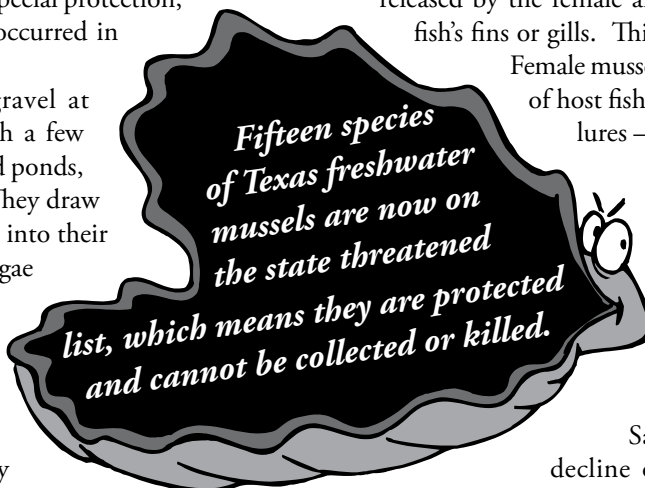
Sadly, there are many reasons for the decline of freshwater mussel populations in

Texas, and most of them are man-made. Changes in the natural flow of rivers and streams due to dams and lake construction, increased deposition of silt due to runoff caused by the clearing of indigenous vegetation, introduction of aquatic contaminants and exotic plant species, and the lack of native fish hosts are a few of those reasons contributing to the decline.

Freshwater mussels are an important indicator of the vitality of our aquatic ecosystems. Healthy populations would reflect more pure, clean water for humans as well as many other aquatic plants and animals!

Send your nature-related questions to naturewatch@austin.rr.com and we'll do our best to answer them. If you enjoy these articles, look for our book, *NatureWatch Austin*, to be published by Texas A&M University Press in 2011.

SUBMITTED BY JIM AND LYNNE WEBER



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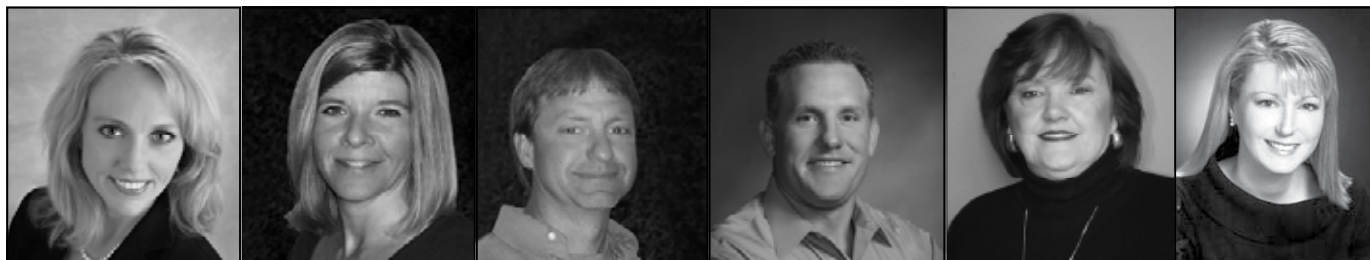
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Doesn't that mean we have plenty of water and don't need to conserve?

Why should I be concerned about my water use?

Because your water is a precious, limited resource. Central Texas is one of the fastest growing areas in the country. To ensure water supplies will be sufficient to serve future needs, water conservation needs to be a way of life for us, and not simply a response to periodic droughts.

Because conservation saves you money and saves energy. Conserving water saves on both your water and sewer bills; you use less water, and put less down the drain. Less water use means less pumping and lower energy costs for the utility.

Because conservation reduces excessive runoff into your rivers and streams. Watering less means less water running down streets and into storm drains where it can pollute your environment with fertilizers and insecticides.

Because conservation saves you tax dollars and fees by delaying the construction of new treatment facilities.

Because the state requires it. All water utilities are required by state law to prepare water conservation plans and implement specific control measures triggered by preset conditions such as water usage levels or drought duration. Utilities are also required to report

usage levels and actions that are being taken to reduce per capita consumption. The regional water planning authorities and Texas Water Development Board have set the District's objective to reach a .24% reduction in per capita consumption over the next five (5) years.

Because it is the ethical and responsible thing to do. Central Texas has a hot dry climate in the summer, and is subject to occasional drought periods. As summer temperatures rise and rainfall decreases, much more of our water system's supplies are used for outside purposes such as watering lawns and trees, refilling swimming pools and washing cars. In the summer, many customers use over 5 times what their average use is during the year, and about 60 percent of this water is used on landscaping. If the demand for outside use is greater than the District's ability to treat that water, there may not be enough water for all uses. For example, even though everyone still has enough water, tank levels (our reserves) become much lower, and fire protection could be jeopardized. When pumping and treatment is overworked, mechanical failures can occur creating water outages

(Continued on Page 63)



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Lake Travis Looks Full-
(Continued from Page 62)

for everyone. When tank levels are lower, your water pressure will be lower.

Because adequate supply does not mean unlimited use. The water treatment plant is designed for a maximum peak day production of 1 gallon per minute per living unit equivalent (single family home) or about 35,000 gallons per month for a 5/8 inch meter in a hot summer month. This is 30 percent greater capacity than the state requires.

The District will continue to follow its state approved conservation plan this year; beginning May 1st all residential outdoor watering systems must water using the two-day watering schedule only. (Commercial and Multi-family customers water two days or less year-round.) Thank you for helping conserve water for today and tomorrow! Visit www.wcid17.org for further conservation tips.

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

NO CALENDAR IS NEEDED,

all you need to do is set your irrigation system
to your two designated watering days.

STEINER RANCH RESIDENTS:

odd numbered addresses will water Wednesdays and Saturdays
even numbered addresses will water Thursdays and Sundays.
Residential customers will be required to adhere to this schedule
May 1 through September 30,
and encouraged to adhere to it the rest of the year.

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

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



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News You Can Use

Northwest Austin Circle of Friends Spring for Children Membership Drive

Northwest Austin Circle of Friends would like to invite you to our **Spring for Children** Membership Drive. Bring the kids & join us for a fun afternoon in the park to find out what our group is all about and how you can help Dell Children's Medical Center.

Northwest Austin Circle of Friends, organized in 1997, is a group of neighbors, friends, and community members from the northwest Austin area who meet once a month and host 2 FUNdraising events per year. All proceeds from these events directly benefit to Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas. There are currently 11 Circle Of Friends chapters in the Austin area, with each chapter being committed to continued support through grassroots fundraising activities throughout the year. In the northwest Austin area, we are blessed with a large and diverse population, and the sky is the limit when you consider what we can do for such a worthwhile cause – we just need more members to help.

So please come join us to learn more about this fun way to help the children!

Northwest Austin Circle of Friends
Spring for Children Membership Drive
Sunday May 2, 2010 from 2:00 – 5:00
Mountain View Park
9000 Middlebie Dr.*, Austin, TX 78750

- Drop by and find out what our group is all about, meet some members and Dell Children's representatives, find out how you can join or help the cause
- Come and go, presentations at 2:45 and 3:45
- Free: kids' activities, refreshments, music, and door prizes

Circle of Friends - Raising funds and awareness for Dell Children's Medical Center

* In The Mountain subdivision

Turn off of Spicewood Springs Rd onto Scotland Well Dr., then right on Westerkirk Dr, parking lot is down on the left (Middlebie Dr is a cul-de-sac, no parking)

For more info, contact Karen Peoples: klpeoples@austin.rr.com, 219-9628,
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Learn about Historic Texas Hotels At Lake Travis Community Library

Lake Travis Community Library continues its speaker series with author Liz Carmack on Sunday, May 16 at 2 p.m. Her talk entitled Historic Texas Hotels: Distinctive Destinations will help you prepare for summer travel in the Lone Star State.

Carmack wrote Historic Hotels of Texas: A Traveler's Guide that was inspired by her love for authentic Texas travel destinations and her desire to provide travelers with a comprehensive, practical reference to Texas' historic hotels. The book, which includes more than 70 color photographs and maps, is in its second printing from Texas A&M University Press.

"We have some patrons who are systematically working their way through Carmack's book," said Lake Travis Community Library Director Morgan McMillian. "I can't wait to hear stories and see images of these famous, fancy hotels!"

During her research for the book, Carmack traveled more than 20,000 miles across Texas to visit all 64 of the hotels featured in her book.

"I interviewed local historians, innkeepers and hotel guests, and uncovered historic hotel details in archives, libraries and museums," said Carmack. "During my talk, I will share historic anecdotes

about hotels, provide tips on the best historic hotels suited for particular trips and travel tastes, and recount some of my travel adventures."

Carmack's travel articles have appeared in national and regional publications including Subaru's Drive magazine, Texas Highways and Heritage magazine. She is the Austin City Expert for homeandabroad.com, where her insider tips about Austin help travelers make travel plans.

Many other events are happening at Lake Travis Community Library in May, as well. The Friends of the Library host their spring Book Sale on Saturday, May 1. Purchase an entire bag of books for only \$8! This spring, the sale will be held at Jack Brown Cleaners (1508 RR 620 South) from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. You don't want to miss this popular event!

The library offers dozens of additional events this month. Join a book club, memoir group, genealogy class, computer help, or craft club. Please contact the library for more information at (512) 263-2885 or www.laketralislibrary.org. We look forward to seeing you!

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We are dedicated to promoting drowning prevention and helping equip Austin residents with the best tools to keep Austin families safe in and around water.

1. Always have a pool fence around home pools. This includes having a locked and securely fastened gate that is not accessible to little ones.
2. Continuously educate children on water safety. This is a great thing to do at home, on the boat, at the pool, wherever there is water. Each time you are getting your little one ready for a swim session or water play, go over the
3. Designate a "Water Watcher." This is a responsible adult who sticks to alcohol-free beverages during swim time and who is in charge of keeping both eyes on the pool while it is in use. Or, better yet: consider renting a Lifeguard for your party or group event.
4. Remove all pool toys, floaters, ring buoys and other child-enticing items from the pool area when it is not in use. One wrong reach for that floating rubber ducky could be disaster.
5. Clear homes of common household items that can be dangerous to a curious toddler. It takes just 2 inches of water for a child to drown in a bucket. Put all mop buckets, dog dishes and coolers out of children's reach.
6. Never leave a young child in the pool or bathtub--even "just to get the phone."
7. Enroll your child in swim classes. Start lessons early. The longer a child has lessons the more they understand water safety. A great time to do this is in the spring! This way your kids are already prepped and ready to roll for the summer swim season. You'll want to find an inside heated pool and lesson times geared towards working families.
8. Supervise, Supervise, Supervise! Try to have your eyes on your children in and around the pool at all times. Adults should always be present when any child is in the pool area.

Let's help our kids love the water while also respecting it by being safe and well-trained at all levels.

SUBMITTED BY LYNN NEILLIE



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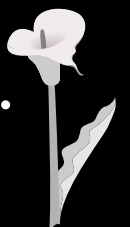
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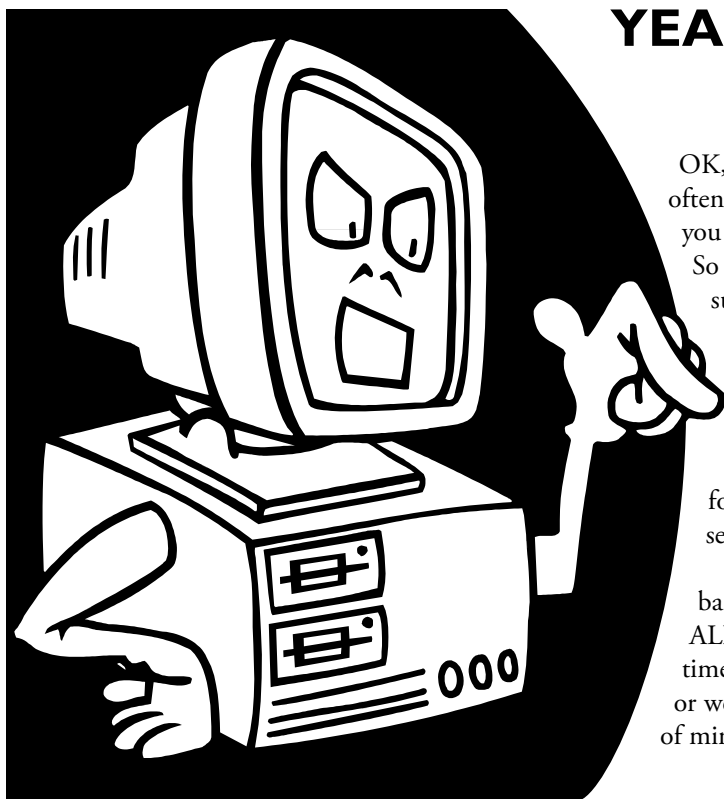


11517 Woodland Hills Trl
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YEAH YEAH, BACKUP BACKUP, *Nag Nag!*

OK, my clients are used to hearing it, “backup backup backup.” I can say it often but it’s never too often. Let me put it another way, how much pain are you willing to endure? The hard drive in your computer **WILL** fail someday. So **WHEN** it does, how are you going to feel? School’s almost out for the summer. How will you feel when that final paper or report disappears right before you’re ready to submit it to the teacher or professor?

Maybe you’re a young family, and you have thousands of digital photos and videos recording everything your babies have done their first few years. Their first haircut, first birthday, first Christmas, the first time they walk, their **FIRST WORDS!** All in a pristine, digital format that is very easy to duplicate, yet all **GONE**, possibly never to be seen by anyone again.

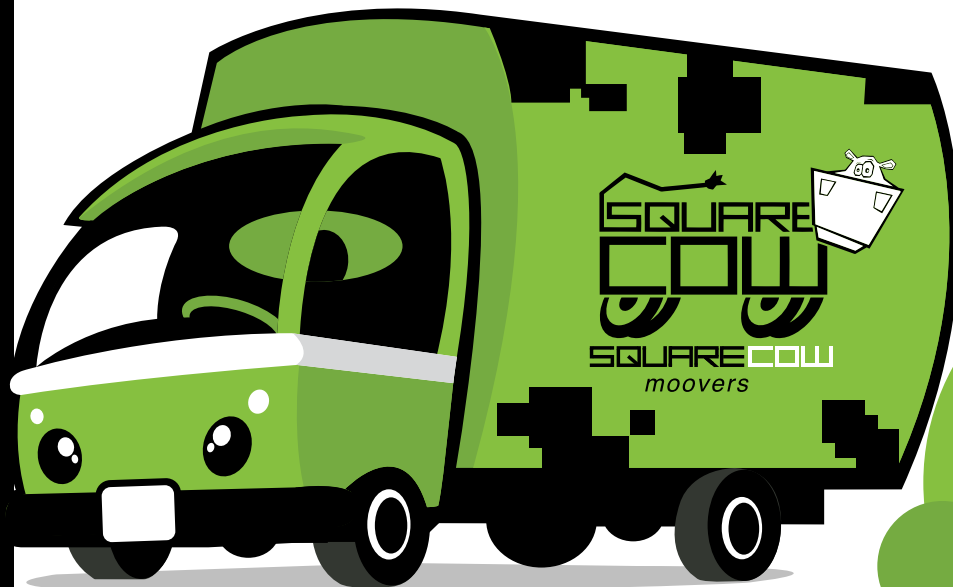
You use something like Quicken or Microsoft Money and keep your banking records on your computer, or you own your own business and **ALL** your financial records are stored on your hard drive. It’s almost tax time and the information can’t be retrieved. You now have to spend days or weeks recreating your records as best you can (this happened to a client of mine.) The “computer ate my homework” won’t fly with the IRS.

(Continued on Page 69)



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Yeah Yeah, Backup Backup - (Continued from Page 68)

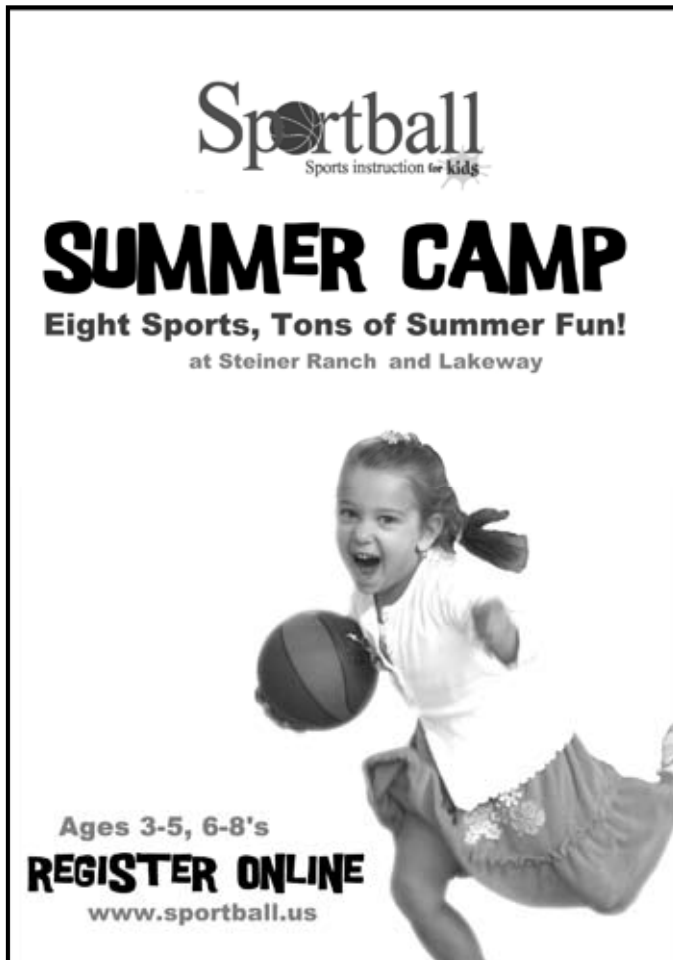
So I'll ask you again, how much pain are you willing to endure? You do have a few options to backing up your valuable data. One way is to do it yourself (I'll go into more detail later.) Another way to preserve your memories is to pay someone else to do it. Yet a third way is probably the most common way, intentional or not – prayer. No plan, no system, just the hope that nothing goes wrong with their computer. Since I'm not aware of a Patron Saint of the PC, I'll concentrate on the first two methods – you're on your own for the third option.

Want to do it yourself? Purchase an inexpensive external hard drive and plug it into your computer's USB port. You can pick up a 500GB (that's gigabyte) external hard drive at Best Buy for around \$80, and maybe a terabyte drive (that's 1,000 gigabytes) for \$100. If you like to shop around online you can probably find something even cheaper. Just about anything you buy will include backup software. If you don't like it, you can try downloading my favorite, SyncBack. Go to 2BrightSparks.com, click on "Downloads" and choose their freeware. Download SyncBack in whatever language you like and go at it.

Of course, if you're not inclined for any reason to do it yourself,

you can always pay someone to do the above for you. Also, you can keep the "upfront" cost to a minimum by going with an online solution. Two advantages are you don't have to spend very much up front, and the other is that even in the event of burglary, fire, etc. you can buy a new computer and download all your backed up files. The two most well known services are Mozy and Carbonite, they cost about the same (\$55 a year.) Mac users also have me.com as an option (though it is a little more expensive.)


Now, not all hope is lost if your hard drive should fail. There are services available that will take your hard drive, have employees in "bunny suits" take it into a "clean room" (much cleaner than an operating room), disassemble it, remove the platters (the parts with the information) and rebuild it with matching parts in an attempt to extract the data. If they are successful, plan on spending approximately \$2,000 to get the data back. If that's a lot of money to you, then look at doing it yourself or hire an expert to do it for you. It's not hard at all to do – but you need to do it. If you don't, you're going to remember how you were "nagged" and didn't do anything when you could have, and there will be a geek waiting for your phone call.



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In the Know...

What you know matters! Don't be afraid to report a crime. Did you know? Did you hear about the great new tool used by Law Enforcement Agencies to alert citizens of crimes, suspects and other pertinent information that could be used to help solve crimes?

CitizenObserver is a web based notification toolset for law enforcement that enables citizens to receive and respond to text, email, and web alerts from our agency. Sign up today through the website.

CitizenObserver is being used by the Travis County Sheriff's Office to communicate information to Citizens ranging from crime alerts to offender notifications. Be in touch with what's happening!

For the citizen observer website, log on to www.citizenobserver.com

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!

STOP!

**DID YOU LOCK YOUR VEHICLE?
DID YOU LOCK YOUR
DOORS AND WINDOWS?**

- Secure your vehicles, homes, garage doors at all times (if you have an alarm, use it!)
- Utilize timers for lights, radios, and televisions when you are out of town.
- Secure patio doors with a rod or piece of plywood.
- Keep the perimeter of your home well lit.
- Never leave a vacation message on your answering machine.
- Keep shrubbery trimmed, to prevent hiding places.
- Park in well-lit areas at night.
- Do not leave valuables in plain sight. Lock them in the trunk or take them inside.
- Organize a community watch program in your neighborhood.
- Secure all windows and doors when you are home and away.
- **LOCK YOUR CARS!!!!**

This was another message from your local TCSO Criminal Investigations Division.

Until next time, Be On the Look Out! www.citizenobserver.com

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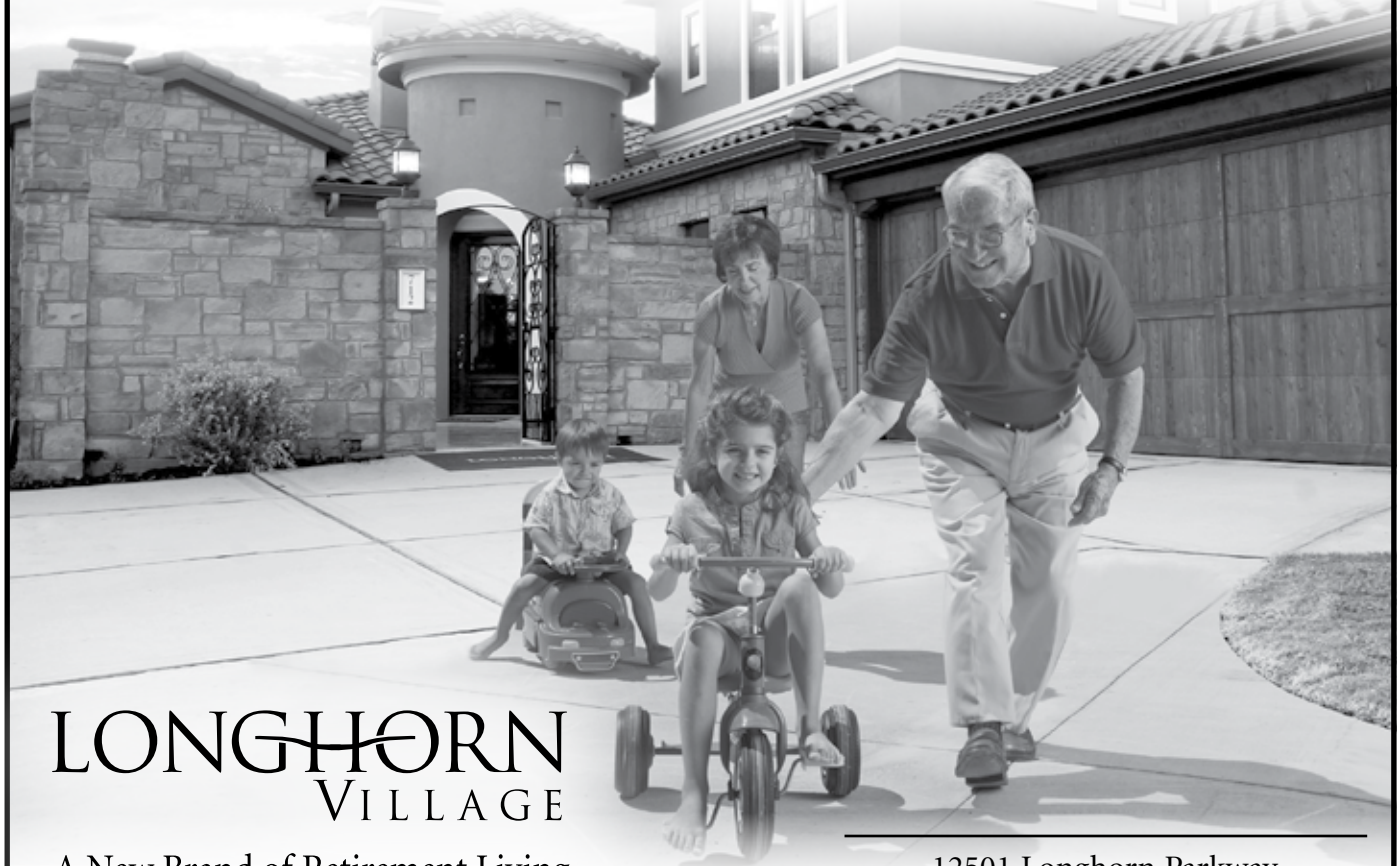
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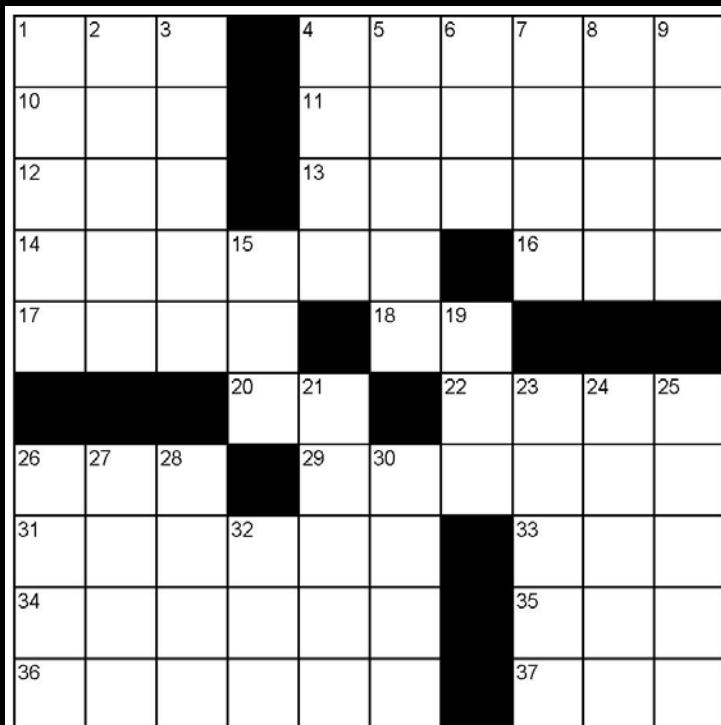


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News You Can Use

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

1. Bad (prefix)
4. Asks for legally
10. Monkey
11. Author of "Sense and Sensibility"
12. Gross national product (abbr.)
13. Plan
14. More humble
16. Swab
17. Retired persons association (abbr.)
18. Education (abbr.)
20. Headquarters (abbr.)
22. Cool
26. Poisonous snake
29. African country
31. Penzoil is this (2 wds.)
33. MD
34. Build
35. Kimono sash
36. Walk quietly
37. Misty

DOWN

1. Lava
2. Sleep disorder
3. Biblical outcast
4. Casing
5. Money
6. Tree
7. Detail
8. Business note
9. Metal fastener
15. Kilometers per hour
19. Cell stuff
21. Capital of Ecuador
23. Give
24. Mud brick
25. Inferred
26. Account (abbr.)
27. Dress
28. Secondary
30. Rejoicing
32. Grain

37. Misty

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Fax: 512.346.0527
www.riverplaceclub.com

You Are Invited To Our Open House Event Sunday, June 6th from Noon to 4pm

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

Come see everything River Place has to offer!

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Elementary School Programs (Ages 5 - 12)

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Teen Programs (Ages 12 and up)

Karate, Golf, Swim Lessons, Swim Team, Tennis, Magic Camp

Please call Raquel Hebben, the Membership Director if you would like to receive information regarding Membership, Summer Programs, or to RSVP to our Open House Event at 512.346.1114 (x3903) or raquel.hebben@riverplaceclub.com

The Dominion



Golf Group

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- Kids Stuff -

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

Why Exercise Is Cool

Kids exercise all the time without even thinking of it. Just being active, like when you run around outside or play kickball at school, is a kind of exercise. What else counts as exercise? Playing sports, dancing, doing push-ups, and even reaching down to touch your toes.

When you exercise, you're helping build a strong body that will be able to move around and do all the stuff you need it to do. Try to be active every day and your body will thank you later!

EXERCISE MAKES YOUR HEART HAPPY

You may know that your heart is a muscle. It works hard, pumping blood every day of your life. You can help this important muscle get stronger by doing aerobic (say: air-o-bik) exercise.

Aerobic means "with air," so aerobic exercise is a kind of activity that requires oxygen. When you breathe, you take in oxygen, and, if you're doing aerobic exercise, you may notice you're breathing faster than normal. Aerobic activity can get your heart pumping, make you sweaty, and quicken your breathing.

When you give your heart this kind of workout on a regular basis, your heart will get even better at its main job — delivering oxygen (in the form of oxygen-carrying blood cells) to all parts of your body. So you want to do some aerobic exercise right now? Try swimming, basketball, ice or roller hockey, jogging (or walking quickly), inline skating, soccer, cross-country skiing,

biking, or rowing. And don't forget that skipping, jumping rope, and playing hopscotch are aerobic activities, too!

EXERCISE STRENGTHENS MUSCLES

Another kind of exercise can help make your muscles stronger. Did you ever do a push-up or swing across the monkey bars at the playground? Those are exercises that can build strength. By using your muscles to do powerful things, you can make them stronger. For older teens and adults, this kind of workout can make muscles bigger, too.

Here are some exercises and activities to build strong muscles:

- push-ups
- pull-ups
- tug-of-war
- rowing
- running
- inline skating
- bike riding

EXERCISE MAKES YOU FLEXIBLE

Can you touch your toes easily without yelling ouch? Most kids are pretty flexible, which means that they can bend and stretch their bodies without much trouble. This kind of exercise often feels really good, like when you take a big stretch in the morning after waking up. Being flexible is having "full range of motion," which means you can move your arms and legs freely without feeling tightness or pain.

It's easy to find things to do for good flexibility:

- tumbling and gymnastics
- yoga
- dancing, especially ballet
- martial arts
- simple stretches, such as touching your toes or side stretches

EXERCISE KEEPS THE BALANCE

Food gives your body fuel in the form of calories, which are a kind of energy. Your body needs a certain amount of calories every day just to function, breathe, walk around, and do all the basic stuff. But if you're active, your body needs an extra measure of calories or energy. If you're not very active, your body won't need as many calories.

Whatever your calorie need is, if you eat enough to meet that need, your body weight will stay about the same. If you eat more calories than your body needs, it may be stored as excess fat.

EXERCISE MAKES YOU FEEL GOOD

It feels good to have a strong, flexible body that can do all the activities you enjoy — like running, jumping, and playing with your friends. It's also fun to be good at something, like scoring a basket, hitting a home run, or perfecting a dive.

But you may not know that exercising can actually put you in a better mood. When you exercise, your brain releases a chemical called endorphins (say: en-dor-funz), which may make you feel happier. It's just another reason why exercise is cool!

Reviewed by: Mary L. Gavin, MD
Date reviewed: February 2009

This information was provided by KidsHealth, one of the largest resources online for medically reviewed health information written for parents, kids, and teens. For more articles like this one, visit www.KidsHealth.org or www.TeensHealth.org. ©1995-2006. The Nemours Foundation



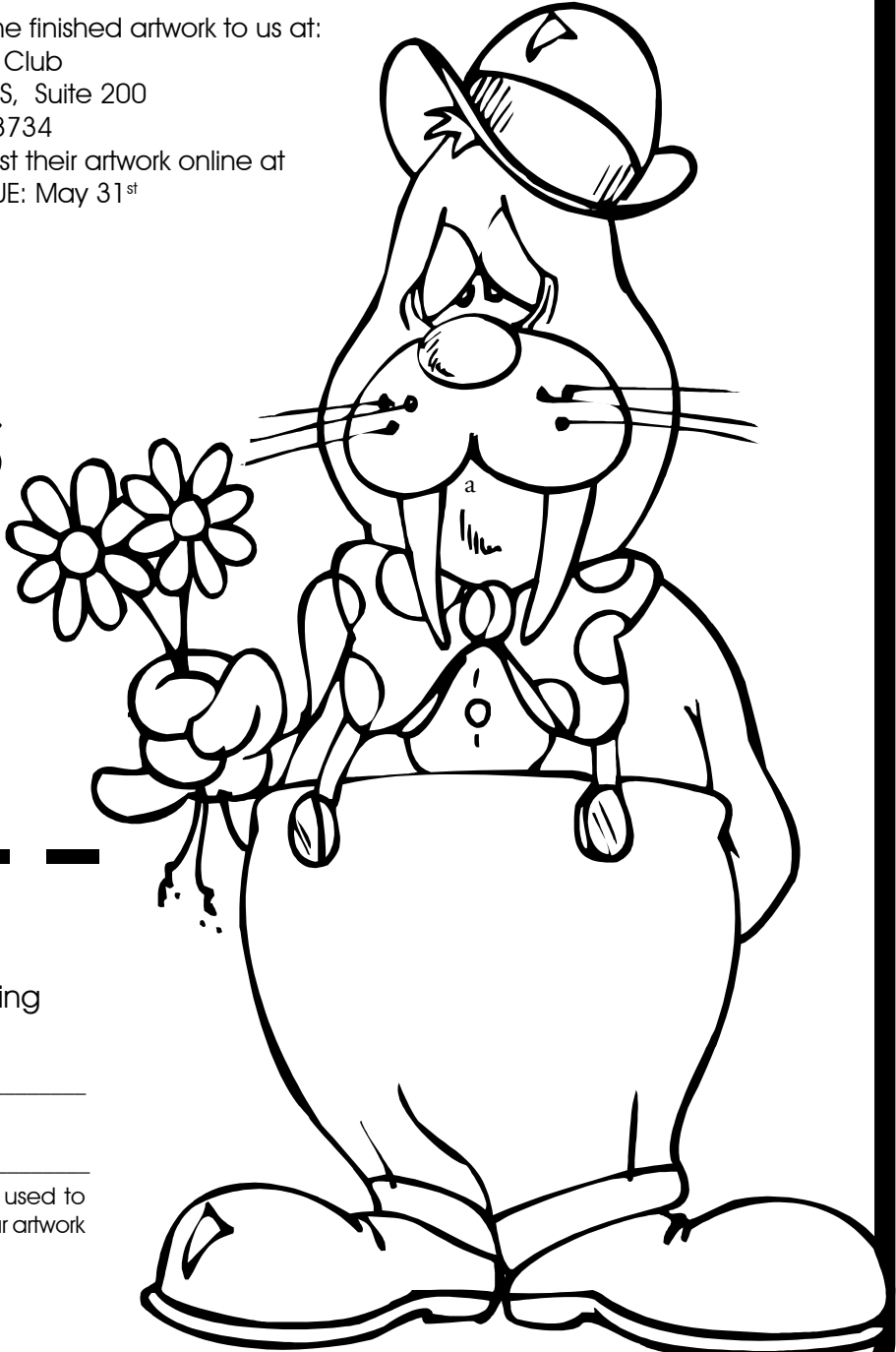
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Showers
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May**



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We interviewed several realtors and chose Elicia after her presentation proved her knowledge of the real estate world, and Steiner Ranch in particular, to be extraordinary. Elicia gave us great information and helped us decide exactly what to do and when to do it to give us the best opportunity.

Elicia's marketing approach worked wonders as we received an offer within 8 days of listing our home. Elicia did not stop there. She continually worked with the buyer's realtor and when it came time for the appraisal, the detailed information she provided to the appraiser insured our home would appraise at or above our contracted price.

Elicia's expertise gave us the edge we needed over other homes for sale in our neighborhood. And, she stood by us throughout the entire process. We highly recommend Elicia to anyone selling or buying a home. She is our realtor, as well as our new family friend."

-Liz and Darrell Schulte, Steiner Ranch



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