

RANCH RECORD

Official Newsletter for the Steiner Ranch HOA

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2011



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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

REGULAR OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday 1:00 – 5:00pm
Friday 10:00am – 5:00pm
Saturday & Sunday CLOSED

STAFF

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Front Office Coordinator

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Maintenance Technician

Angel Alvarado
Macedonio Salazar
Josue Gutierrez

MISSION STATEMENT

Peel, Inc. Community Newsletters

Our goal is to provide the Steiner Ranch community with one source of local news content that is provided by Steiner Ranch residents. Our goal is to help build Steiner Ranch by connecting local businesses with residents and residents with relevant neighborhood information.

"Be the Community."

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

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

STEINER RANCH CONTACTS

Steiner Ranch Community Association Office 512-266-7553
Development Office 512-266-5833

SCHOOLS

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

UTILITIES

Travis County WCID # 17 512-266-1111
City of Austin Electric 512-494-9400
Texas Gas Service
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AT&T
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Customer Service 512-485-5555
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TDS (Trash & Recycle) 512-421-1300
Austin/Travis County Hazardous Waste 512-974-4343

OTHER NUMBERS

Lake Travis Postal Office 512-263-2458

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

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

GO GREEN! GO PAPERLESS!

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directly to your inbox.
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COVER PHOTO

Do you take great photos?

This month's cover photo was taken by Katie Eaton of Katie Eaton Photography of the Self Family at the Steiner Ranch Lake Club. The Lake Club is always a favorite background for many families taking their Holiday photos!

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

Requirements for submission:

- Must have been taken in Steiner Ranch
- Be of High Resolution (240 dpi or higher)
- Prefer "portrait" orientation

We'd love to have something that pertains to this time of the year in some way, such as a great Winter photo. Our January 2012 issue submittal deadline is December 7th and photos should be submitted electronically by the deadline date 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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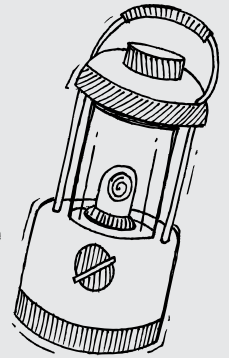
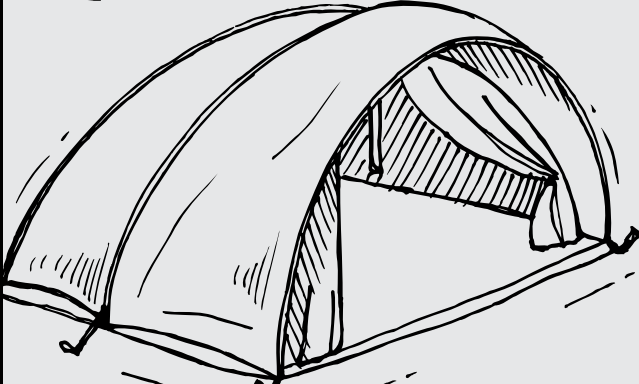
The 5th annual Camping on the Ranch was a huge success with over 150 camp sites and around 400 moms, dads and kids spending the night at the Towne Square Fields under the stars. There may have been a fire ban, but the weather couldn't have been better (well, maybe a little windy)!

Everyone came to the Towne Square Community Center and set up their best camp site, played music, football and enjoyed the neighbors company. Many took advantage of the delicious BBQ dinner from Texas Rib King.

The next morning, Cups & Cones sold their amazing breakfast tacos and the social committee provided free donuts from the Donut Hole, coffee & hot chocolate.

A special THANKS to Gene and Susan Arant of Keller Williams Realty for providing free glow sticks to all the kids and to Jannine Farnum for helping organize this fun, family event!

*Mark you calendars for next year's Camping on the Ranch
scheduled for November 3, 2012.*



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Young at Heart EVENTS

steinerranchyoungatheart@gmail.com

Young at Heart is an informal group of Steiner Ranch residents that plans various activities for those in the 50+ age group to provide opportunities for them meet others with common interests. We have parties, informal wine socials, impromptu get-togethers and one Special Event each year. From these social occasions, friendships have developed and other groups have formed.

BOOK CLUB

Monday, December 12th

The Book Club meets on the third Monday of every month at 1:30 PM at Cups and Cones. Because of the holidays, in December the group will be meeting on the second Monday, December 12th. We will be discussing Caleb's Crossing by Geraldine Brooks. Please contact Maureen Michel (mmichel17@att.net) or Beverly France (bevfrance@aol.com) if you have any questions. Our discussions are quite spirited and most interesting.

BRIDGE CLUB

The Ladies Daytime Party Bridge Group plays on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at members' homes. Those who are interested in playing or subbing, please contact Nancy Harger (n_harger@yahoo.com) or Ellen Kendrick (ellenken@sbcglobal.net) for details.

LADIES LUNCHING OUT

Once a month a group of the Young at Heart women meet for lunch at a local restaurant. Because of a conflict with other holiday events there will not be a Ladies Lunching Out in December.

LADIES GOLF

A Ladies Golf Group is being formed. If you are interested in getting more information or joining, please send an email to steinerranchyoungatheart@gmail.com and put Ladies Golf in the subject line.

MEXICAN TRAIN

Enjoy a lighthearted game of Mexican Train (Dominos) on the first Wednesday of every month at 1:00 PM. We play in the homes of our members and can usually only accommodate eight players. Experience isn't necessary; we'll teach you. There will not be Mexican Train in December because of conflicts with holiday events. Our next game will be on Wednesday January 4th.

TECHNOLOGY GROUP

Monday, December 5th at 1:00 PM

Bella Mar

Topic: Online Shopping, eBay and Paypal

It's the holiday season and shopping online can be a real time-saver, but do you know how to do it safely? Learn tips for safely

using your credit card and even how to pay online without giving out your credit card number at all. Tips for using eBay and some of the newer auction sites will be discussed. Let the stores come to you this holiday season – but safely.

The Technology Group is meeting monthly and is for men and women who want to update their knowledge and skills. The sessions are geared to beginner and intermediate skill levels although everyone interested in the subject is welcome. We are fortunate to have Steiner Ranch's resident Geek, Laurie Scott, teaching and answering questions. She plans to talk about an hour on the topic and then will answer questions for up to another hour. Take home materials will be provided. For more information, please contact Bev France at Bevfrance@aol.com or 266-2960. RSVPs are not required but would be appreciated for planning purposes.

WALKING GROUP

The Walking Group is looking for a new chairperson to coordinate and schedule activities. If you are interested in walking or willing to help planning and organize, please email steinerranchyoungatheart@gmail.com with Walking in the subject line.

WINE SOCIAL

Mark your Calendar for our next Wine Social on Saturday January 14th.

To make it easier for people to connect with others with similar interests, a roster of all Young at Heart members is being prepared. It will include names, addresses, contact information and interests (bridge, golf, book club, hiking, boating, dining out, etc) and will be available to all Young at Heart members. If you want your information included, please email steinerranchyoungatheart@gmail.com with the word Roster in the subject line.

If you are interested in learning more about Young at Heart activities and about our informal social events, add your name to our email list. Just send your name, phone number and email address to steinerranchyoungatheart@gmail.com. Everyone on the email list will be sent information about upcoming events, locations, etc.

Please contact Cheryl Burnaw at cherylburnaw@aol.com or Dottie Thoms at dottie.thoms@gmail.com or at 531-9360 if you have questions or want more information.

We're teeing up something new at The UT Golf Club.



As an exclusive private club, The University of Texas Golf Club has elevated the standards of exemplary golf, premier junior golf programs, memorable dining experiences and quality family entertainment. Soon there will be another unique dimension to the club with the addition of The Edgar O. and Melanie A Weller Tennis Center featuring the Whaling/Snyder Courts - the first of its kind in Central Texas.



Opening summer 2012, The UT Tennis Center will continue the tradition of offering pure Texas luxury that members have come to expect. The center will include six indoor and four outdoor courts, well-appointed locker rooms and tennis shop. The center will be for the year-round enjoyment of club members and also become an additional home for

UT men's and women's tennis programs, one that will help with their pursuit of a national championship.

A limited number of both Local and Regional memberships are available. For information on how you can join The UT Golf Club, contact either Dana or Lisa at membership@utgolfclub.com or call 512-266-6464.

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Around Steiner

Steiner Birthdays

Dec 3rd - Karina Asar

Dec 15th - Faith Falato - Happy 8th Birthday

Dec. 25th - Spoorthi Kamepalli

Dec. 27th - Spandana Kamepalli

*Send your Birthday
announcements to
steinerranch@peelinc.com*



Happy Birthday!

NEWCOMER ORIENTATION

Welcome to Steiner!

Welcome new residents of Steiner Ranch! If you have recently purchased a home here, you will receive an invitation to the Newcomer Orientation held on Thursday, December 1st at 7:00pm in the Towne Square Community Center at 12550 Country Trails Lane. You will have the opportunity to become better acquainted with your new community, as well as with other new homeowners. A brief presentation will be given on the history of Steiner Ranch, the organization of the homeowners associations, the homeowner committees, the assessment rates community rules and regulations and future development plans for Steiner Ranch. Light refreshments will be served.

Not able to attend? The next Newcomer Orientation is scheduled for March 1st.

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

Please RSVP to 266-7553 or to Donan Grant at donan@steinerranchhoa.org.

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW! 2012 Steiner Ranch Social Events

(Dates are Tentative)

Jan 21 – Book Swap

Feb 18 – Chili Cook-off

Mar 3 – Run the Ranch

Apr 7 – Easter Egg Hunt

Apr 14 – Spring Garage Sale

May 5 – Cinco De Mayo

July 4 – Parade

Aug 18 – Concert in the Park

Sept 22 – Garage Sale

Sept 29 – Ladies Night Out

October – Pumpkin Patch – Benefiting Dell Children's
Hospital

Oct 31 – Halloween Event

Nov 3 – Camping on the Ranch

Nov 10 – Holiday Sales Event and Santa Pictures

*All Events are tentative and subject to change or cancel, so
please check monthly issues of the Ranch Record, the Steiner
Ranch website at www.steinerranchhoa.org and Facebook
(Steiner Ranch Social Committee) for updates.*

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HOLIDAY HOUSE DECORATING CONTEST

Your Vote Counts!!!

Get ready for our Annual Holiday House Decorating Contest. We will be awarding 1st, 2nd & 3rd place cash prizes (\$200.00, \$150.00 & \$100.00 respectively). Honorable Mention will be given to the street or sub-division with the most participation.

Here's how it works:

FIRST – Nominate your home (or someone else's home) in the running by emailing the physical address to Sharon Adams, Community Coordinator at sharon@steinerranchhoa.org no later than Sunday, December 16th.

NEXT – Go to the website (www.steinerranchhoa.org) and download the list of participating homes. (Should be posted on Monday, December 17th)

FINALLY – Vote for YOUR favorite home between Dec 17th – December 21st from the list and submit (only one vote per household) to Sharon Adams at sharon@steinerranchhoa.org no later than Wednesday, December 21st

Winners will be announced on the website and Facebook Page!

Good Luck!!!



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BREAKFAST AT STEINER

To Raise Funds for Local Firefighters

The public is invited to a Pancake breakfast on Saturday December 3, at the Towne Square Community Center on 12550 Country Trails Lane to raise funds for the firefighters who came to the aid of local residents in September when fire threatened the neighborhood.

The event will begin at 9 am and continue until 11 am Saturday morning. While breakfast is free, donations to the firefighters fund is encouraged. Residents will also have the opportunity to express their appreciation to those who so selflessly came to their aid.

A display booth with information for preparing an emergency 72 hour kit will be featured, as well as activities for children.

All proceeds will go to replace firefighting equipment depleted in the process of containing the Steiner Ranch fire. This event will be hosted by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints.



Newsletter Article Submissions

Interested in submitting an article? You can do so by emailing steinerranch@peelinc.com or by going to <http://www.peelinc.com/articleSubmit.php>. All news must be received by the 8th of the month prior to the issue. So if you are involved with a school group, scouts, sports etc – please submit your articles for The Ranch Record. Personal news for the Stork Report, Teenage Job Seekers, special celebrations and military service are also welcome.



PIANO INSTRUCTION:

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Around Steiner

Brown Santa Toy/Food Donation Drive

DONATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AT THE HOA OFFICE UNTIL DECEMBER 13TH.

Travis County Brown Santa depends on the generosity of individuals, groups and businesses in the community, like you, to provide items for people in need and those that are less fortunate than others. Since 1981, Travis County Brown Santa has helped thousands of people with more than half of those helped being children.

We accept all non-perishable food items in unopened containers. Some of the main items that are needed for every food box are; corn, green beans, cranberry sauce, instant potatoes, stuffing mix, cake mix and cake icing.

Brown Santa gives toys to each child in the family from age 0 -14 boys and girls. Donations of books, puzzles, stuffed animals, new toys are needed for every age group. The ages that are less donated for are infants to toddlers (0-2) and 10-14 boys and girls.

SUGGESTED DONATIONS FOR THE OLDER KIDS

COULD BE: Wallets, electronics, bath gift sets, basket balls, foot balls, purses, curling irons, hair dryers, hair straighteners, ball caps, sock caps, hat and gloves sets, mittens, board games, etc.

SUGGESTED DONATIONS FOR INFANTS TO TODDLERS COULD BE:

Receiving blankets, bottle sets, teethers, rattlers, stackable rings, diapers & wipes, onesies, etc.

All donations need to be new and unwrapped. We do accept very gently used toys if all pieces are present and are in excellent shape. Donations can be brought to the HOA Office at 2400 12550 Country Trails Lane, until Tuesday, December 13th. Hours of operation will be Mon-Thurs 1p-5pm, Fri/10a - 5p.

BROWN SANTA is a community service program of the Travis County Sheriff's Office, and the many sponsors and volunteers who make it happen each year. www.tcsheriff.org

Brown Santa started in 1981 with a few deputies helping about 25 families in the unincorporated areas of Travis County. Brown Santa helped 1828 families in the 2010 season for a total of almost 20,000 men, women and children. We expect to do the same for the 2011 season. Please share if you can to help make a special Christmas morning for each child.

Help us celebrate the joy of Christmas by donating or volunteering, browse our website for more information. You can also call 24-SANTA (247-2682), or email the volunteer coordinator at volunteer@brownsanta.org.



(By Sarah Jordan) PHOTOGRAPHY




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JUNIOR GOLF TOURNAMENT

Benefits Bikes for Kids Charity

Twin Creeks Country Club was the site on Saturday of "Birdies for Bikes", a tournament for young golfers ranging in age from seven through seventeen years. The tournament was the inspiration of a Steiner Ranch fifth grader and junior golfer, Hailey Derrickson. She heard about the JB & Sandy of Mix 94.7 adult golf tournament to benefit Bikes for Kids and decided that she and her friends could do the same to help finance bikes for underprivileged children. Hailey arranged for the golfers to solicit donations and pledges for each birdie and par that the golfer scored. Local businesses donated prizes for the junior golfers that collected the most money for the charity and for closest-to-the-pin competitions. In total, the young golfers collected more than \$3,000 which will go toward bikes, helmets and bike locks for underprivileged Austin area children this holiday season.



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Trails Update December 2011

"Since the last trails update we have removed all of the t-posts along the Summer Vista and River Heights trails, down toward the intersection of these two trails with Westridge Canyon Trail. These t-posts were driven into the ground to help support logs across the steeper portions of these trails to minimize erosion. Unfortunately these trails are so steep that water was simply eroding sediment from around the logs and posts, creating a significant danger to hikers, bikers and runners. These posts were about four feet long and required a large t-post puller provided by the HOA. I would like to thank all of those individuals who came out and helped with this work. We will continue to remove t-posts from other locations that are a danger to the residents. I hope to have all unnecessary post removed in the next few months.

As I write this update, I'm in the process of working with representatives of the HOA to meet with the developers of the proposed storage facility and apartment complex so they are well aware of the residents' desire to maintain the trails that exist in these areas. My goal is to get a better understanding of their intentions and work with them to maintain the existing trails or, if necessary, construct new trails if the existing trails do not fit in their ultimate development plans. I hope to have more information on this issue in the next update.

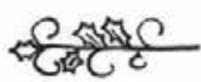
We have also named one of the newer trails in the neighborhood. The trail in Tierra Grande neighborhood has been named "Coyote Run".

I wanted to remind all residents who take their dogs on the trail they need to keep their dogs on a leash. I've heard of a few incidents

where individuals who were walking their leashed dogs were attacked by non-leashed dogs. The last thing anyone wants to deal with is an aggressive dog while enjoying the trails.

If you would you like to provide input or get involved, please come to the next Trails Committee meeting. All residents are welcome to attend. The time, date and location will be posted on the community website, www.steinerranchhoa.org. You can also join the Yahoo! Email group by sending an email to steiner_trails-subscribe@yahoo.com. This is an excellent way to stay apprised of what's going on or to provide input on our trail system.

If you have any questions, comments or thoughts on improving existing trail system, please contact me at 699-6139 or by email at Ed.Perrey@yahoo.com



Christmas is coming...



Santa's Workshop November 12th & 13th

Capture the Christmas spirit with Belle Rouge Photography! Let award winning photographer Teresa Knoop-Troullier create holiday portraits that will be treasured for a lifetime. Let your little ones enjoy the magic of Santa's Workshop or create a classic golden angel portrait with Angels of Hope. Both limited edition sets are perfect to create timeless portraits, gifts, and beautifully finished holiday cards.

Limited Edition portrait sessions are \$35. Print packages start at \$149.
Time slots are filling quickly, so don't delay!

Session length: 15 minutes. Session fee due at time of reservation.



Angels of Hope, November 19th & 20th

*\$10 of each Angels of Hope session will be donated to help victims of Central Texas Wildfires.

Belle Rouge
photography

Custom newborn, child, and family photography
www.bellerougephoto.com
512.551.9930



Saturday Morning Group Trail Run

Please join us for a fun but challenging group trail run each Saturday morning starting at 7:30 am. We meet at the trailhead located at Majestic Oaks Drive and Grimes Ranch Road. The usual run is about five miles with some people occasionally sticking around afterwards to tack-on a few additional miles. All abilities are welcome and those looking to learn the Steiner Ranch trail system are encouraged to attend. If you have any questions about the run please contact Steve at steve@capitalcityrunning.com or call 266-1000. We hope to see you this Saturday morning!

Guided Hike Day

Come join Travis County Staff for a guided hike on Saturday, December 3, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. (weather permitting). This will be a moderate-level hike, descending into a steep canyon, and will include exploring areas not normally open to the public. Don't forget water, hiking boots, and please bring binoculars, as winter birds will be the focus. The hike will begin at the neighborhood trailhead of the Rio Mesa neighborhood (located at the Southeast intersection of Salida del Sol Pass and Rio Mesa Drive). Due to the sensitive area, this tour will be limited to 15 people. Please call William Burch, at 219-6190 x3 or william.burch@co.travis.tx.us for questions and to make reservations.

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Around Steiner

Are you ready for Steiner Ranch to Become a Firewise Community?

With the recent fires in Steiner Ranch, Bastrop, Spicewood and Leander, fire awareness is at an all time high and the Steiner Ranch HOA has had many requests from residents on what they can do to protect their home? Although, there is never a 100% guarantee that your home can be protected from fires, there are steps you can take for your home and your entire community.

WHAT IS "FIREWISE COMMUNITIES/USA"?

Resident involvement is the cornerstone of the Firewise Communities/USA Recognition Program. As participants in the program, you and your neighbors will learn how to decrease the risk of losing your homes and to best protect yourselves in the event of wildfire. The Program draws on a community's spirit, its resolve, and its willingness to take responsibility for reducing wildfire risks by providing the resources needed to achieve both a high level of protection against wildland/urban interface fire and ecosystem balance. The Program utilizes a three-legged template:

- Wildland fire staff from federal, state or local agencies provide a community with information about living with wildfire with mitigation information.
- With the assistance of wildland fire staff, you and your neighbors assess wildfire risks around you and devise a cooperative network of other homeowners, agencies, and organizations.
- You and your neighbors identify and implement solutions tailored to Steiner Ranch.

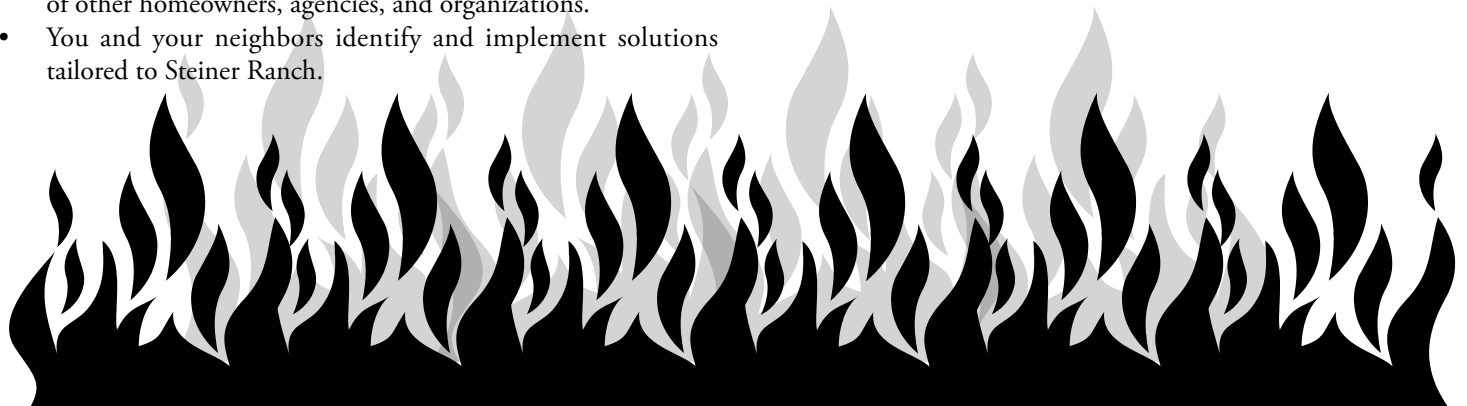
HOW CAN STEINER RANCH BECOME A RECOGNIZED FIREWISE COMMUNITY?


It begins with YOU. Go to www.firewise.org/usa and become familiar with the steps to become a Firewise Community, then Contact Sharon Adams at the Steiner Ranch HOA and let her know you're interested in participating in a Firewise Committee at Sharon@steinerranchhoa.org.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF BEING A FIREWISE COMMUNITY?

1. Creates a defensible space that prevents fires from advancing and endangering homes and lives.
2. Improves property value while reducing risk of loss.
3. Improves community relationships with local fire staff, since firefighters can concentrate their efforts on fighting wildfires.
4. Offers peace of mind, knowing that your home is prepared to survive a wildfire in the event one should occur.

For more information on the Firewise Communities/USA Recognition Program, visit www.firewise.org/usa.






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Around Steiner

GIRL SCOUTS



 **Girl Scouts.**
Where Girls Grow Strong.



On November 4-6th over 400 area girl scouts aged 5 to 15 years old camped out at Camp Champions in Marble Falls. In addition to zip lining, kayaking, fishing, rock wall climbing, nature walks, high ropes and having lots of fun together, the campers made 50 fleece tie blankets which will be donated to the Texas Baptist Children's Home and Bastrop Fire Victims.

PICTURES:

Top Left: Logan Foust, Jordan Lamb and Maddie Beck waiting their turn for the zip line.

Bottom Left: Members of Junior Troop #2417 and Daisy Troop #735 showing off some of the blankets made for donation.

Right: Happy Camper with her hat full of SWAPs



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REGISTRATION IS OPEN 2012 Winter/Spring Programs

2012 Winter/Spring Programs in Steiner Ranch will begin in January! Registration has opened December 1st for Residents, so go online and look for all program information in the 2012 Program Guide at www.steinerranchhoa.org. Here is a summary at what you will find:

PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

Sportball
Tap & Ballet Combo
Gymnastics
Tennis
Spanish
Music

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Neighborhood Sports
Flag Football
Soccer
Spring Break Camps

ELEMENTARY – TEEN PROGRAMS

Sportball
Tab & Ballet combo
Hip Hop
Gymnastics
Karate
Tennis
Art
After School Supper Club

ADULT PROGRAMS

Yoga
Karate
Tennis
Zumba
Stroller Strides
Walk-Live

Registration information can be found on-line at www.steinerranchhoa.org or at the Community Association Office at 12550 Country Trails Lane.

If you have any questions, please call Sharon Adams, Community Coordinator at 512-266-7553 or sharon@steinerranchhoa.org.

American Red Cross Babysitter Training Course

9:00am – 4:00pm

\$50 per person

This is a very popular class, so sign up early for any of the dates below!

Classes for 2012

Jan 7th
Apr 14th
May 12th
Aug 4th
Oct 27th
Dec. 8th

Towne Square Community Center
12550 Country Trails Lane

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

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

Bring a sack lunch!

Space is limited. Prior registration is REQUIRED and the 2011 Program Registration form is available at www.steinerranchhoa.org.



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Holiday Camps for Kids

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

SEND THEM TO CAMP!

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

SPORTBALL HOLIDAY CAMP

December 26th – 30th

Location: Towne Square Community Center

9am to noon

12:30 to 3:30

All day: 9:00am to 3:30pm

\$38 per half-day session

Ages 3-8

Camp space is limited! To register, visit www.sportball.us.

KIDVENTURE'S "WINTER IN TEXAS" HOLIDAY CAMP is back by popular demand! Five unique, individually-themed camp days will be offered at Towne Square Community Center during your child's December break from school:

Art-ic Workshop:

Monday, December 19

Candy Factory:

Tuesday, December 20

Mt. Venture Snow Day:

Wednesday, December 21

Glacier Games:

Thursday, December 22

Hibernation Station:

Friday, December 23

Select individual days or choose them all! Camp is available for children K- age 13. Registration begins Wednesday, November 2nd at 9 AM and limited spaces fill fast. To register, visit kidventure.com.

WINTER "DROP & SHOP" SOCCER CAMP

National Youth Licensed staff, with an average of 15 years soccer camp experience, in addition to National Team and ODP background. The coaching staff is from Argentina, Germany, England, Brazil, and Canada. This will help get kids exposed to different cultures and training sessions.

December 19th – 21st (3 Days)

9:00am – 12:00pm

Ages U5 – U12

\$95

Westridge Park

Daily Activities

Each day, campers will be challenged in a fun and exciting training environment. Campers will receive professional training each day, with a ration of 1:12. Each camper will be grouped by age and ability, to ensure that they are receiving age appropriate instruction. To register, visit www.lonestar-sc.com.



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SOLD! 13305 Bright Sky
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NEW! 12716 Tierra Grande
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Available: 12701 Appaloosa Chase
4 bed/3 bath, hot tub, greenbelt!



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- Cedar Park Town Center
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- Cherry Creek on Brodie Lane
- Circle C Ranch
- Courtyard
- Crystal Falls
- Davenport Ranch
- Forest Creek
- Hidden Glen
- Highland Park West Balcones
- Highpointe
- Hunter's Chase
- Jester Estates
- Lakeline Ranch
- Lakeway
- Lakewood
- Laurel Oaks NA
- Legend Oaks II
- Long Canyon
- Lost Creek
- Mayfield Ranch
- Meadows of Bushy Creek
- Pemberton Heights
- Plum Creek
- Ranch at Brushy Creek
- River Place
- Round Rock Ranch
- Sendera
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WINTER POOL HOURS



BELLA MAR (HEATED)

Closed Monday until 2:00pm

Lap Pool: Tuesday & Thursday 7:15am – 6:30pm

Wednesday & Friday 5:30am – 6:30pm

Saturday 7:15am – 4:00pm

Sunday 5:30am – 4:00pm

Master's Swim Program –

Wednesday & Friday 5:30am – 6:45am;

Sunday 6:30am – 7:45am

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

AES Swimming Monday – Friday 4:30pm – 6:30pm

Lap lanes will be available to lap swimmers during these sessions.

Please do not remove the pool covers.

TOWNE SQUARE

Closed Monday until 12:00pm

Tuesday – Sunday 8:00am – 10:00pm

JOHN SIMPSON

Closed Monday until 1:00pm

Tuesday – Sunday 5:30am – 10:00pm

Please note**Lifeguard are no longer on duty
after the Labor Day weekend.

Swim at your own risk.

STEINER RANCH SOCIAL COMMITTEE IS ON FACEBOOK!

*"Like" the Steiner Ranch Social Committee
Facebook page and stay informed of upcoming
Social Committee events!*



Year Round 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. 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 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.
- \$35 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 Program Registration form at the HOA office, provide a copy your USMS card and submit payment!

As this is a Year Round Program, it's a great way to meet new friends and be a part of a fun community of swimmers and neighbors!

PROTECT YOURSELF WHEN WALKING

- Avoid walking alone at night unless absolutely necessary.
- Keep to routes that are well lit and commonly traveled.
- Avoid shortcuts and dark, isolated areas.
- Walk purposefully, know where you are going, and project a no-nonsense image.
- Avoid potentially dangerous situations.
- If you feel threatened, cross the street, locate an emergency phone, or enter a store or place of business even if you have just left it.
- Have your door keys ready; carry them in your pockets, not buried in a purse.



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- Microdermabrasion
- Laser Hair Removal
- Spider Vein Removal
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ABLE *Home Makeover*

ABLE completed a Senior Home Makeover in south Austin for Ms. Roy Jean Bell, September 1-4 of this year. Emily York was our team leader for the project. Funds, paint supplies and furniture were all donated by our Steiner Ranch community. Landers Premier Flooring was extremely generous donating new carpet and padding to the cause. Some of the accomplishments include:

- removal of old 'outdoor carpet' from porch
- removal of 30 year old carpet indoors
- repainting interior walls
- deep cleaning and organization of kitchen
- slip covering couch and loveseat
- addition of new interior lamps
- removal of 30 year old curtains in den and bedroom
- addition of new curtains in den, bedroom, and kitchen
- addition of shelving in den
- addition of rug in kitchen
- removal of old coffee table
- addition of new coffee table
- removal of old bedding
- addition of new bedding
- cleaning out several truckloads of smoky stuffed animals and home decorations
- organized family pictures on walls
- covered old tables with new tablecloths
- addition of plants

As a result of this home improvement project, our senior's zest for life has greatly improved. Her spirits are high, sense of humor is back and eagerness to keep living to the fullest is quite evident. Our ABLE Mission was accomplished!

A.B.L.E., Inc, (Assisting Better Living Everywhere) Inc. was started approximately two years ago by Erin Newman's father, Ed Todd and friends in Lexington, Kentucky where A.B.L.E.'s headquarters reside. A.B.L.E. also has a chapter right here in Steiner Ranch. A.B.L.E. is 501 (c) (3) approved. It is completely staffed by volunteers and focuses on helping improve living conditions around the world. A.B.L.E. travelers pay for their own trips. For more information about more upcoming and ongoing projects (even here in Austin) please visit www.ablemission.org.

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DECEMBER 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7:00pm - New Owner Orientations (TSCC)	2	3 7:30am - Group Trail Run 9:00am - 12:00pm - BCP Guided Hike
4 	5 1:00pm - Technology Group - Online Shopping (BMCC) 6:30pm - FREE Yoga (TSCC)	6	7	8	9	10 7:30am - Group Trail Run
11	12 1:30pm - YAH Book Club (Cups & Cones) 6:30pm - FREE Yoga (TSCC)	13 6:30pm - Holiday Volunteer Appreciation Dinner (TSCC)	14 YAH Bridge Club	15	16	17 7:30am - Group Trail Run
18 	19 6:30pm - FREE Yoga (TSCC) Kidventure Winter Camp (TSCC) Lonestar Camp (Westridge)	20 1:30pm - YAH Book Club (Cups & Cones) Kidventure Winter Camp (TSCC) Lonestar Camp (Westridge)	21 Kidventure Winter Camp (TSCC) Lonestar Camp (Westridge)	22 Kidventure Winter Camp (TSCC)	23 Kidventure Winter Camp (TSCC)	24
25 Christmas Day	26 Association Office Closed Sportball Camp (TSCC)	27 Sportball Camp (TSCC)	28 Sportball Camp (TSCC) YAH Bridge Club	29 Sportball Camp (TSCC)	30 Sportball Camp (TSCC)	31 7:30am - Group Trail Run



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JANUARY 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 	2 Association Office Closed 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC)	3 7:45am – Free Pilates (TSCC) 6:30pm – Facilities Committee Meeting (TSCC)	4 1:00pm – YAH Mexican Train	5	6 9:00am – 10:00am – Free Walk Live 5K (TSCC)	7 7:30am – Group Trail Run 9:00am – 4:00pm – American Red Cross Babysitting Class (TSCC)
8	9 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC)	10 7:45am – Free Pilates (TSCC) 9:30am – Social Committee Meeting (Cups & Cones) 6:00pm – UT OLLI (TSCC)	11 YAH Bridge Club	12	13	14 7:30am – Group Trail Run YAH Wine Social
15 	16 1:30pm – YAH Book Club 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC) LISD Staff Development Day/Student Holiday	17 7:45am – Free Pilates (TSCC)	18	19	20	21 7:30am – Group Trail Run 9:00am – 5:00pm – Yoga Retreat (BMCC)
22	23 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC)	24 7:45am – Free Pilates (TSCC) 1:30pm – YAH Book Club (Cups & Cones)	25 YAH Bridge Club	26 6:00pm – SRROA Board of Directors Meeting (TSCC)	27	28 7:30am – Group Trail Run
29 	30 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC)	31 7:45am – Free Pilates (TSCC) 3:30pm – SRMA Board of Directors Meeting				7:30am – Group Trail Run

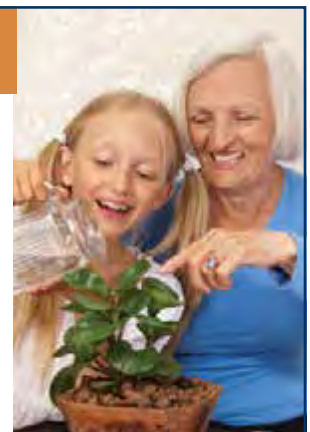
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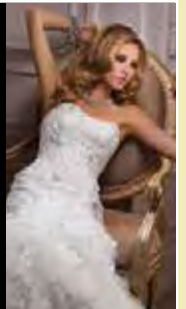
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Parents this is your chance to brag on your kiddos. We want pictures of your kids doing everyday things, school events, plays, sports, etc. Send in your pictures to be featured in the Ranch Record.

E-mail your pictures to steinerranch@peelinc.com by the 8th of the month.



*Brewer's
Dinner*

UNCLE Billy's
LAKE TRAVIS

*Live
Music*

NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH AT UNCLE BILLY'S LAKE TRAVIS

Dinner
\$50
7:30pm - 9pm

**Brewer's Dinner Served With
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Can't join us for dinner? Just come out to
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Visit UncleBillys.com for music line-up and
for info on purchasing advanced tickets.

5-Course Menu

SMOKED BEER CHEESE SOUP

Beer Pairing: Bottle Rocket Lager

SMOKED TOMATO WEDGE SALAD

Beer Pairing: Hell In Keller Pils

SMOKED SALMON

Beer Pairing: Ax Handle Pale Ale

SMOKED PRIME RIB

Smoked prime rib encrusted in roasted garlic and rosemary. Served with jus and fresh horseradish sauce. Accompanied by bleu cheese potatoes au gratin, collard greens with ham and a warm dinner roll with herbed compound butter.

Beer Pairing: Hop Zombie

LEMON-CRANBERRY COBBLER

Beer Pairing: Coffee Porter

Celebrate & Renew with Friends, Fitness, & Fun!!

Celebrate the end of one year and jump start the new year in stride at this FREE indoor community fitness event. Shannan Carrozza, Inspirational Wellness Coach and "Certified Walk Live Leader, is hosting a FREE indoor 5K celebration to get us all walking off those extra pounds we inevitably pick up over the holidays. This event is a fun way to walk with old friends and make some new ones as you move into the New Year, feeling good about your body, yourself, and your future, as well as experience what the Walk Live Classes Shannan leads in our community are all about.

This FREE event is open to everyone regardless of exercise routine, or lack thereof. In just 45 minutes participants will complete a 5K (3.1 mi.) multi-muscle walk inside the Steiner Ranch Towne Square Community Center. No athletic ability or superpower coordination skills required. The entire walk takes place indoors and you move to the music with 4 basic steps that get your heart pumping and your muscles moving. All fitness levels are welcomed and everyone has a blast with Shannan in Walk Live!

Enjoy complimentary water and snacks, and a chance to win some great door prizes!

Plus, every participant will receive a FREE 30 minute Wellness Strategy Session with Shannan. Together you will identify your goals and desires and set a plan of action to start you moving toward a year

of loving your body and your life. (You must register to qualify for the door prizes and free wellness strategy session. All free wellness strategy sessions will be scheduled after the 5K event).

Space is limited and pre-registration is required so register now!

Go to www.WalkLiveAustin.com to register now!

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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. 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, please contact your local Girl Scout Council at membership@gscctx.org or (512) 453-7391.. Discover Girl Scouts online at www.gsctx.org.



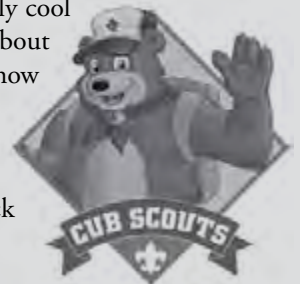
Pack 203 and Pack 205

Welcome all Steiner Ranch Boys!!

Grades 1st-5th

Do you know what Cub Scouts and Scouting is all about? Pack 203 at LWBE and Pack 205 at RRE do 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 Kay Kirby at ktkirby@austin.rr.com (Pack 203) or Tina Millard at csn388@yahoo.com (Pack 205) for more information."



Toastmasters International -

Are you ready to take your public speaking and leadership skills to the next level in a fun and friendly environment? Toastmasters can help you achieve your goals. Several clubs meet in the area with convenient times and locations. See www.atxtoastmasters.org/area-clubs for a details, or call Rob Carruthers at 512-422-1688. Guests are always welcome.

Steiner Ranch Cycling

Steiner Ranch Cycling is a loosely organized group of cyclist, Mountain or Road, who enjoy rides between the lakes. We welcome cyclists of all abilities and not just those who live in Steiner Ranch. Most of our weekend rides start and finish in the Steiner Ranch area, allowing us to tackle some of the more challenging climbs in the hills of Austin. Our rides are typically "no drop" especially for new riders and average anywhere from 15 to 45 miles in distance. We organize our rides through email whenever someone feels like going for a ride they just send out an email: ex. "Saturday morning 8 am ride anyone?" or "Anyone up for a mountain bike ride after work, 7pm?". There are no costs or club fees, just your desire to have fun riding with your neighbors. Come Join Us! www.SteinerRanchCycling.com

Hot Boudin, Cold Couscous!

Love Steiner but miss the people of Louisiana, mon cher ? The culture, the food, and the football-watching traditions are just a few things that make us homesick. Rather than go all the way to Louisiana to get a taste of home, we would like to regularly get together with Louisiana natives living in Steiner or surrounding areas.

We threw our first party in September and it was a HUGE success! 13 Steiner families (50+ guests!) showed up to cheer the Saints to victory over the Texans. For details on upcoming parties, please join our group: www.meetup.com/Louisiana-Natives-in-Steiner or contact me directly. We look forward to passing a good time with our new friends! Taylor Alexander (tayloralexander44@hotmail.com; 225-229-6041)

Steiner Ranch Community Groups & Organizations

Are you a member of a community group or organization here in Steiner? Email the information about your group to steinerranch@peelinc.com and it will be included in each issue. Feel free to submit post event write-ups and photos.

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From the Association Office

Happy Holidays **FROM THE ASSOCIATION STAFF**

The HOA would like to thank those who joined and those who have been serving many years on our Facilities, Social, Architectural, Finance and Golf Club Committees, as well as our Board of Directors for volunteering many, many hours of their time. These are the homeowners who dedicate their time to make the tough decisions and who make Steiner Ranch an enjoyable place to live and raise a family.

We also want to recognize and thank those many sub-committees, such as Trails, Fields, Pool, Tennis, Swim Team & Recycling. They work behind the scenes and help, with little recognition, but contribute in BIG ways!

Finally, we would like to extend a sincere thank you to all of you who have made a concerted effort

to comply with the Steiner Ranch deed restrictions and rules, and who pay assessments in a timely manner. Your consideration and punctuality is greatly appreciated!

Please make a note that our office will be closed and/or have reduced hours on the following days:

- December 15th Open 10am – 12pm (Closed for staff office party)
- December 26th – Closed all day
- January 2nd – Closed all day

Have a wonderful holiday season!



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Association Assessment Payments Due

Semi-annual assessments for January - June 2012 are due on January 1, 2012. Statements will be mailed to each homeowner at the mailing address on file in mid-December. If you do not receive a statement, please contact the Community Associations Office at 512-266-7553. You are not exempt from paying assessments or late fees even if you do not receive a statement. Payments received after January 31, 2012 for any reason are subject to an initial \$40.00 late fee per association and a \$15.00 late fee for each additional month that the assessment remains unpaid. Please note that the assessment must be received by January 31st, not simply postmarked by January 31st. Your escrow account does not pay your assessments.

Online Assessment payments can be made at www.steinerranchhoa.org, by clicking on the "Online Assessment Payments" tab. There is an additional fee* for using this option and you must have your billing statement with you at the time of payment. Credit Cards and "pay by check" are accepted.

*Payment Amount	Fee
0-\$150.00	\$5.00
150.0 - 300.00	\$10.00
300.01 - 500.00	\$15.00
Greater than \$500.01	\$25.00

You can still mail in your payments at the address listed on your statement, or bring them to the Association office at 12550 Country Trails Lane to avoid the On-line fee.

*****Please note, you may lose resident privileges such as pool access, facility rental, and attendance at, or registration for, social functions and programs, if you have delinquent assessment.*****

SCAM ALERT

A potential scam recently popped up on Craig's List from someone using the title "We Search for Lost Pets" and "Scent Tracking for Lost Dogs or Cats" with a website set up through weebly.com. The web site claims to have dogs trained to find lost pets and instructs pet owners to make a \$150.00 "donation" to schedule an appointment with a certified handler with a tracking dog. They insist that you must make a payment first and then email to schedule an appointment. **DO NOT FALL FOR THIS SCAM!** Only hire a pet detective with a search that that (a) you can speak to first and (b) who you can verify through references is properly trained and experienced!

NEVER WIRE FUNDS VIA WESTERN UNION, MONEYGRAM or any other wire service - anyone who asks you to do so is a scammer.

Holiday Decoration Rules

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

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

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



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From the Association Office

Want to Be “In the 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?

GO TO WWW.STEINERRANCHHOA.ORG

1. Enter your email address in the “Join/Edit” the Steiner Ranch mailing list box and press “go”.
2. Enter your email address in the list you’d like to receive:
 - a. Activities
 - b. Safety
 - c. Lost/Found Pets
 - d. Community
3. Once you’ve signed up, you will need to respond to an email to confirm.

Architectural Modifications Submissions

You have a project in mind...?

We encourage all residents to read the Design Guidelines pertaining to your project.

Most are listed on the website, but more information is available in your Steiner Ranch Residential Design Guideline Manual.

Carefully review the Modification Application, initial where required, sign it and attach the refundable deposit check.

The supporting documentation (survey with project drawn in, set-back stated, materials listed, heights noted, and any other information to help describe what it will look like) should be reviewed by the resident prior to submission.

You, as the homeowners, are responsible for making sure that your project is within the design guidelines and that the project is built as submitted.

Any changes that take place after your approval/permit must be submitted to assure that you are still within the guidelines and we do not have any surprises at your final inspection.

Please note your contractor may be a big help by submitting the package for you, but you are ultimately responsible for the work taking place and the end results.



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FIREWORKS / FIRECRACKERS PROHIBITED

Steiner Ranch Fireworks Policy

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

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

There are a number of reasons for this prohibition.

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

Fireworks and firecrackers are and will remain prohibited in Steiner Ranch for the reasons above. Your Board has authorized a warning for the first violation and a \$250 fine for the second violation of Section 2.14 and/or Section 3.13. Violations, once finalized after appeal, are permanent; repeat violations are subject to a \$500 fine. Professional patrols are in place to assist with the implementation of this policy.

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

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

Bulletin Board Posting Policy

Due to the small sizes of the community bulletin boards and the large numbers of residents wanting to post notices, the Boards of Directors for Steiner Ranch have adopted the following restrictions for the bulletin board postings:

1. Bulletin boards are for resident postings only. Association notices have first priority.
2. Notices are posted every Friday and will remain on the board for two (2) weeks. Notices must be submitted by 5:00pm on Thursday.
3. Notices may not be larger than 5"x 7".
4. Association notices are exempt from time and space restrictions.
5. Notices must include either a Steiner Ranch subdivision name OR a Steiner Ranch telephone number.
6. Commercial (for-profit) postings by adults are not permitted. (These include, but are not limited to, offers for in-home childcare, nannies, cleaning service, scrapbooking service, piano lessons, pet care, etc.)
7. Commercial (for-profit) postings for youth (under 18 years) are permitted. Youth postings may be placed on the boards for no more than one (1) month per calendar year.
8. All postings are approved at the Association Staffs discretion.

Thank you for your cooperation with the posting restrictions. If you have any questions, please contact the Community Associations Office at (512) 266-7553.

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School News

Vandegrift HS Marching Band Makes History



This fall the Vandegrift High School Marching Band and Vision Dance Company enjoyed great success in competitions across the state. For the first time, the Viper band qualified for UIL State Finals as one of only 24 bands selected from 250 Texas high school programs. The Viper band exceeded its own goals by placing in the top 10 bands in the state and by finishing in 4th place after preliminaries. This achievement puts the Viper band in the top 2 percent of all Texas 4A schools, which is rare for a very young band with only 16 seniors to lead the way.



The Viper band has only existed for three years and is made up of more than half freshmen. This is its first year to have all four grades represented. "This is truly a remarkable accomplishment from a program only three years in existence," said Jeremy Spicer, Director of Bands for VHS.

Their program, "Visionary" features the music of Dmitri Shostakovich and was created by Mr. Spicer and Holly Lyons, Director of the VHS Dance Department. The Vision Dance Company is comprised of 30 dancers and is directly connected to the

VHS Viper Band. Vision provides the visual elegance for the band during their marching show.

Prior to their success at State, the Viper band took the second-place prize in class 2A at the Bands of America (BOA) Super Regional contest in San Antonio against bands from 58 high schools across the country. In October the Vipers won the Class 2A award and swept all captions - Music, Visual, and General Effect at the BOA Regional in Conroe, TX against 24 schools. The Viper marching band also finished in first place at

(Continued on Page 42)



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THE RESERVE AT LAKE TRAVIS



Renowned billionaire Red McCombs, has the luxury of being able to live anywhere in the world, yet when partner, Hal Jones, showed him the land that is now The Reserve at Lake Travis, he knew he would make a home here. "I took one look and realized this land has a DNA like no other," said McCombs. "It's a truly spectacular piece of property, which my family and I now enjoy immensely." Together, Hal Jones Development and McCombs Properties have built a community on the south shores of Lake Travis that rivals any 5-star resort in the country and that was recently awarded Best Overall Community 2011 by the Greater Austin Home Builder's Association.

Complete with world-class amenities, including an expansive lazy river pool and swim-up bar, a 163-slip marina, a full-

**"It's a truly
spectacular piece of
property which my
family and I now
enjoy immensely."**

- Red McCombs

service equestrian center and a private lake club, The Reserve offers members the ultimate in luxury living – family style. "We wanted to build a community that generations of family members can enjoy. Whether you love boating, horseback riding or just admiring a spectacular

view, The Reserve delivers," says Jones. Located on a peninsula in Spicewood, Texas the community features large 1-11 acre custom homesites and an enclave of Villas that are carefully designed to take full advantage of lake vistas and water frontage. Acreage privacy homesites are priced



from \$199,000, waterfront homesites from \$625,000 and stand-alone villas from \$699,000.



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ReserveAtLakeTravis.com
1.800.214.3142

School News

Vandergrift HS Marching Band- (Continued from Page 40)



the Vista Ridge Marching Festival in Cedar Park against 25 bands. There the Viper band received the Outstanding Music, Outstanding Visual, and Outstanding Auxiliary Caption awards, won Best in Class in 4A, and was named Grand Champion of the entire contest.

With nearly 180 students, the combined Viper marching band and Vision Dance Company is one of the largest organizations on campus. The band has been working hard since August 1 to be ready for the football games and the marching contest season. Now that marching season is over the students will move into concert season. For more information visit www.vhsband.com.

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ROBOTIC TEAMS COMPETE AT 3RD ANNUAL FIRST® LEGO® LEAGUE SCRIMMAGE

Sponsored by Hill Country Education Foundation



Teams from Grandview Hills Elementary, River Ridge Elementary, River Place Elementary, Steiner Ranch Elementary, Faubion Elementary, Canyon Ridge Middle School, Four Points Middle School and Paragon Preparatory Middle School tested their robotic skills at the 3rd Annual FIRST® LEGO® League Robotics Scrimmage sponsored by the Hill Country Education Foundation. Four Points Middle School hosted the well-attended event on November 3, 2011 with more than 100 parents and students present. Judges included employees from IBM, National Instruments, River Place Elementary and the Central Texas FIRST® LEGO® League.

"Science and technology education is important to our future," said Becky Carter, director of the event. "At the scrimmage, I saw America's future. It has great potential!"

Performing the 2011 Food Factor™ "Keeping Food Safe" Challenge, teams treated this scrimmage as a forerunner to the Central Texas Qualifying Tournament that will be held on November 12 and 19 in the Austin area.

This year's teams, including a River Place Elementary Junior team, showcased their research in the area of Food Contamination. Some of the topics presented included: the danger zone of temperatures for safe food conditions, reducing cross contamination in fish processing plants, reducing pesticide residue in food, kiwi fruit damage and corrosion, and many others.

In addition to supporting STEM (science, technology, engineering and math), robotic clubs offer invaluable skills in communication, research, project management, writing, and strategic and analytical thinking.

(Continued on Page 44)



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Dec. 24 Christmas Eve: Special Services

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6 PM Holy Eucharist & Sermon with Christmas Hymns led by our Contemporary Worship Band

10 PM Holy Eucharist & Sermon with Christmas Hymns led by our Adult Choir (no nursery at 10 pm)

Dec. 25 Christmas Day:

10 AM Holy Eucharist & Sermon with Christmas Hymns (no nursery at 10 am)

School News



Robotic Teams First Lego Competition- (Continued from Page 43)

"These robotic clubs are the epitome of the Hill Country Education Foundation," said Kai A. Lamb, president of HCEF. "It's teachers and parents volunteering their time; it's the Foundation providing some financial help, and with that combination, these children are receiving an incredible learning opportunity that will benefit them in school, in college and in their careers. The Foundation is close to achieving one of our original goals – to have robotic clubs at each of the Four Points' area schools."

Due in part to financial support and guidance by the Foundation, eight of the eight area schools now have Robotics club.

Lamb adds, "But what I really value about these clubs is that while they are teaching children all the key skills of engineering, leadership, and teamwork, the children simply view it as a fun thing to do."

SUBMITTED BY MICHELLE BECK



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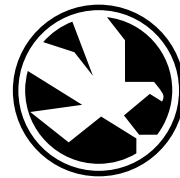
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Business Section

Eight Business Networking Groups in the Area

Are you looking to grow your business in 2012? 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 Tuesday mornings from 8:00am to 9:30am at Hill Country Pasta House. Visitors are welcome! If you are interested please contact Elicia Rudberg at eliciarudberg@gmail.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 please contact Kelly Troy at kelly@troyinsgroup.com or visit www.BNIAustin.com.

FOUR POINTS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Four Points Chamber of Commerce provides networking opportunities at social gatherings, luncheons with guest speakers and activities. The Chamber brings businesses together along highway 620 from Hudson Bend to Anderson Mill and Ranch Road 2222 from Jester to Volente. Four Points Chamber supports business growth in the community where we live, work and play. In less than 6 months Four Points Chamber of Commerce exceeded its first year membership

goals and continues to grow! For information about participating in upcoming events or membership benefits visit www.fourpointschamber.com or call (512) 551-0390. Membership inquiries may also be sent directly to membership@FourPointsChamber.com.

A BUSINESS REFERRAL GROUP MADE FUN!

Networking Northwest Austin is expanding its member base of businesses in our area. We believe in business by referrals and having a limited member base. We have a caring, positive, involved group of people who wish to build their businesses using the strength business referrals. No fees. Business education and speakers. Networking Northwest Austin meets on the second and fourth Mondays at 11:30 at Red Robin on 183. Visit <http://www.meetup.com/NetWorking-NorthWest-Austin/>

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 Lakeside Pizza and Grill located in the Shops at Steiner Ranch at Steiner Ranch Blvd. and Quinlan. Come join us to grow your business.

(Continued on Page 47)



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See My Passion in Action:



LAKEWAY NETWORKING, INC.

We are a diverse group of business professionals in the Lake Travis area, helping our members grow their businesses through qualified referrals. We meet every Wednesday at 8AM at Santa Catarina, 1310 RR 620 South, in Lakeway. Come visit us and see how your business can benefit by being a member of Lakeway Networking. For more information, please contact Kelly Connor at Kellyconnor@austin.rr.com or 512-736-2495.5.

STEINER RANCH MARKETERS

Your boss thinks what you do is voodoo, your spouse thinks your work reflects the latest Mad Men episode, and your kids fear following in your footsteps; growing up to work a cube (unless you are lucky and work from home - then you work on the computer). Fear not! We can find solace in one another. We're a friendly bunch by trade and we excel at networking by nature so why aren't we?! Join us for a respite from the daily grind and a chance to get to know other marketers in Steiner Ranch: meetup.com/Steiner-Ranch-Marketers Questions? paul@seobrien.com.

A+ REFERRALS BY THE LAKE BNI (LAKEWAY)

BNI is a professional business networking group that helps you build a team of partners to market your business.

Come join us on Wednesday mornings from 9:00-10:30 at Hill Country Pasta House. Breakfast is \$10 and visitors are welcome.

Please feel free to contact Sheryl Baker at sherylssendoutcards@gmail.com or visit www.BNIaustin.com for more information.

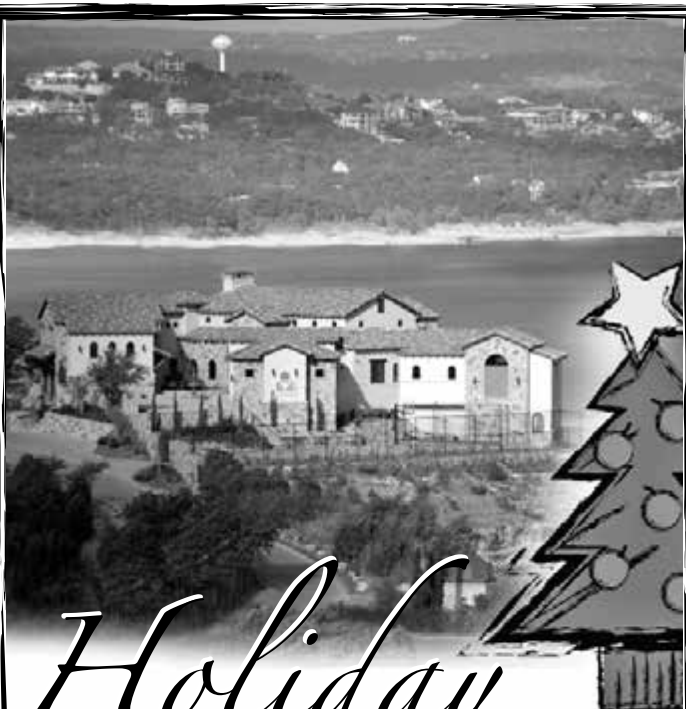
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MOBILE MASSAGETHERAPIST to help with Christmas stress. I'm a Steiner Ranch resident specializing in Swedish and Deep Tissue massage. I will come to you!! \$65 for an hour and a half. Contact Adam to set up an appointment at (352) 871-6890 or email me at steinermassagetherapist@gmail.com.

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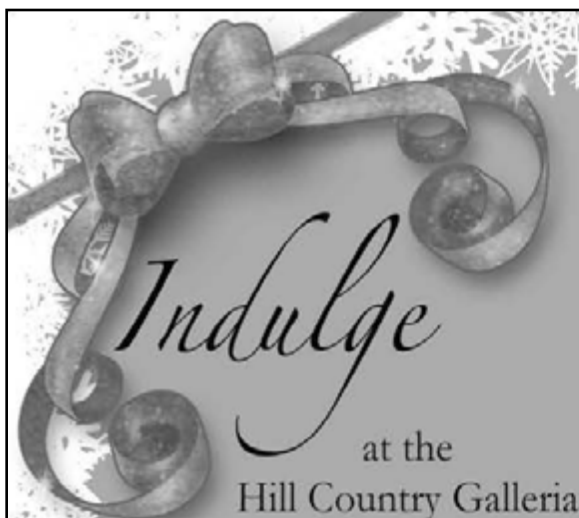
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Preparing your Irrigation System for the Winter



Most residents in Central Texas irrigate their landscapes at least every few weeks through the winter months, and with the anticipated dry weather this winter will be no exception. Normal Texas weather conditions will not cause the need for irrigation systems to be drained or turned off at the backflow device, however, **YOU SHOULD TURN OFF YOUR SYSTEM AT THE CONTROLLER WHEN FREEZING TEMPERATURES ARE FORECAST** to

make sure the system will not try to run during a freeze. If the system runs, it could cause layers of ice to form on your plants and damage them.

Residents who have systems equipped with above ground backflow prevention (Reduced Pressure Zone devices [RPZ]) must make sure equipment is protected from freezing. Most people know that the side pipes need to be wrapped with insulation, however, the valve itself is located in the center, and is

susceptible to freezing also. Because these devices drain water from the bottom of the valve and therefore cannot be fully wrapped, the best way to protect them is with an open bottom RPZ insulated pouch which simply slips over the top of the entire device and attaches to the ground with some small stakes. Adding a layer of mulch around the base of the pouch will help seal off wind.

For additional protection, an insulated box can be placed over the pouched device with another layer of mulch at the base. These pouches and artificial backflow enclosures can be made or purchased locally. Insulating boxes may also be purchased in the form of various decorative faux rocks which can be left in place year round. With this system in place, your RPZ valve is protected from freezing weather and can operate normally whenever you run your irrigation system.

If you don't have an insulated pouch or box and freezing weather is predicted, turn off your irrigation system and lightly wrap your RPZ in an old towel or blanket. (Tightly wrapping the blanket eliminates the air gap between the blanket/towel and the device and leaves the device vulnerable to cold wind.) Use tape or string to tie the towels or blanket in place. When the weather warms up and you are ready to irrigate again, remove the blanket. It is important to remember not to block the drain port at the bottom of the device when you are irrigating.

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WCID 17 will be averaging household water usage during the billing cycle beginning November 8 and ending February 15, 2012 (when outdoor irrigation is usually shut off) to calculate the customer fee for wastewater service to be billed beginning in October, 2012 for the following year. Minimizing your water usage during these months will result in keeping your wastewater bill low.

WCID 17 Holiday Office Closures

WCID 17 offices will be closed Friday afternoon November 18th and Thursday and Friday, November 24-25, 2011, in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. The offices will also be closed December 23-26, 2011 for Christmas, and January 2nd for New Year's Day. Should you have a water or wastewater emergency, please call 512-397-9061.



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*Wishing everyone a
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Travis County Sets Up Reverse 911 For Cell Phones

Travis County Emergency Services is making reverse 911 services available to residents' cell phones. The county already offers this service to residents' landlines. Reverse 911 is used in emergencies where there is a threat to public safety. The message gives warnings and instructions.

People can register their cell phones for up to five geographical locations and if there is an emergency in one of those areas, they will get a call. To find out more info about the program, you can go to <http://www.capcog.org/divisions/homeland-security/ens/>

To register, people are asked to go to the Capital Area Council of Governments' website at <http://wireless.capcog.org>.

Sidestepping Solicitors

Annoyed by the persistence of solicitors' unwelcome knocks on the door? It seems like no matter what they do, they always manage to show up on your front porch. They come with fliers, door hangers, a rehearsed speech and the distinct ability to ignore the polite decline of the products they're peddling—cleaning supplies, appliances, cosmetics, magazine subscriptions, home-improvement products, coupons for local businesses and other unwanted items—sometimes even making you feel trapped in your own home.

Steiner Ranch is a particularly attractive and frequent target of commercial, religious and political solicitors; part of the appeal is that population density makes our community an easy environment for them to canvas. Because of this, finding a way to keep solicitors away can be invaluable.

The simplest way to deter solicitors is by posting a "No Solicitors" sign on your door or in your front window. If you get knocks on the door anyway, you also can ask solicitors for their license, permit or company identification; many don't have it and will leave.

While a visit from a solicitor is often annoying, they can sometimes be more than just a nuisance; some might have ulterior motives, such as fraud, canvassing a home to commit a crime or other unseemly behavior. If you believe a solicitor is acting suspiciously or you feel threatened, call the Travis County Sheriff's Office immediately at 974-0845.

So stay safe, keep your sanity and do your part in discouraging solicitors from trolling our community. You'll soon hear just how sweet an un-rung doorbell sounds.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

9:30, and 11:00 am
at HCBC Steiner Ranch

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Saturday, December 24 // 2, 3, 4:30, 5:30 and 6:30 pm
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CHRISTMAS DAY CELEBRATION SERVICE

Sunday, December 25 // 11 am - Noon
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College Costs are Soaring – Fight Back!



College costs have skyrocketed: a 467% jump since 1986, compared to an inflation increase of 107%! Here are some ways to trim the bill.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAMS.

High schoolers can earn college credit through Advanced Placement tests, and 90% of four-year colleges in the U.S. will count them as college credit. This can save you a semester or more of classes – and shave big bucks from your tuition, room and board.

STAY CLOSE TO HOME.

Staying at an in-state public college can keep costs lower

than a private or out-of-state college (tuition is usually lower for in-state residents). For even lower costs, consider attending a nearby community college. Students who have yet to decide on a major can get prerequisite classes out of the way for a fraction of the cost, and transfer later if they choose to go to a four-year university that ranks high in their field.

RENT TEXTBOOKS.

These days, even used textbooks are expensive. Consider another option: renting books through a service such as chegg.com or bookrenter.com, which boast student savings of up to 80%. Some services will ship anywhere

in the country with free return shipping.

STRETCH YOUR SAVINGS.

If you have a child at home, consider opening an Education Savings Account today for him or her. It's an excellent way to keep up with rising college costs and stretch your tuition dollars. Your financial counselor can help you get started today. Contact Rich Keith, Primerica Financial Services richkeithprimerica@austin.rr.com Source: Primerica Financial Services and Money. msn.com, July 12, 2011

SUBMITTED BY RICH KEITH

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Russian Tea Cakes

Whether you call them Mexican Wedding Cookies or Russian Tea Cakes, these treasures will melt in your mouth! Always on our Christmas Cookie making list, there are so many variations of the recipe. What I am sharing with you today is the best of my best - tweaked here and there - but with amazing results.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 C butter, softened
- 1/2 C powdered sugar
- 1 t vanilla
- 2 1/4 C all-purpose flour
- 3/4 C finely chopped pecans
- 1/4 t salt
- Powdered Sugar to roll in

DIRECTIONS:

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Cream butter with 1/2 C powdered sugar and vanilla in a large bowl. Stir in flour, nuts and salt until the dough holds together. With clean hands, roll dough into 1 inch balls and place about 1 inch apart on an ungreased cookie sheet. Bake 10 - 12 minutes or until set but not brown. Remove from cookie sheet, cool slightly, then roll the warm cookies in powdered sugar. This makes about 40 cookies.

SUBMITTED BY STACEY RIDER





*Merry Christmas
from our family to yours!*

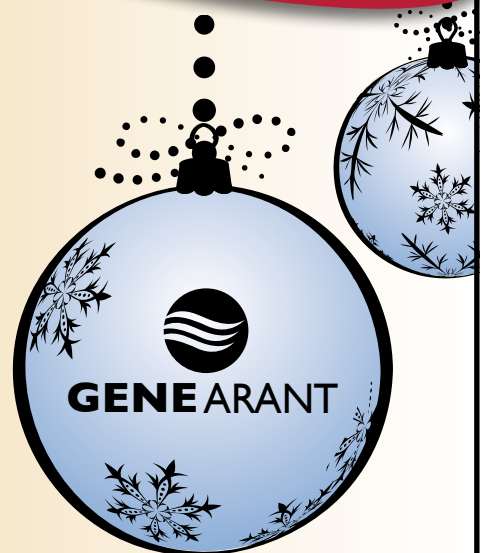
Gene, Susan, Olivia, Sophia, Ford & Elivs Arant

Cheers to...

loving what you do, loving your
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- 3412 Oxsheer, 0 DOM, 97% SP/OLP, \$115/SF
- 12809 Little Dipper, 148 DOM, 97% SP/OLP, \$122/SF
- 12729 Oxen, 69 DOM, 97.5% SP/OLP, \$122/SF
- 12541 Belcara, 51 DOM, 97.4% SP/OLP, \$118/SF
- 3124 Burks, 89 DOM, 95.4% SP/OLP, \$126/SF
- 3808 Epperson, 63 DOM, 93% SP/OLP, \$98/SF
- 3608 Rip Ford, 4 DOM, 100% SP/OLP, \$124/SF

of Listings Expired = 0

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