

RANCH RECORD

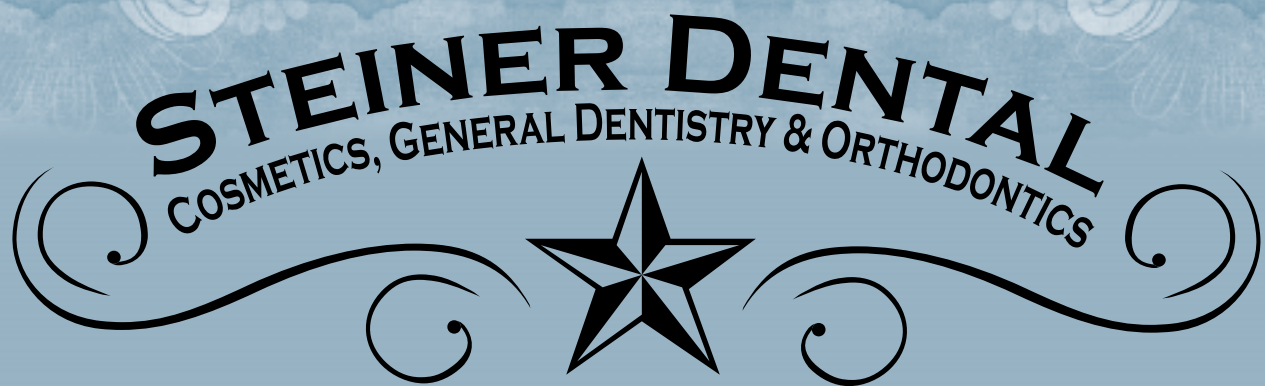
Official Newsletter for the Steiner Ranch HOA

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2013



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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

The Association Office is no longer open on Saturdays. Please make a note of the “Regular” office hours that are now in effect.

REGULAR OFFICE HOURS

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

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Maintenance Technician

Angel Alvarado
Macedonio Salazar
Ricardo Gonzalez

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 512-974-2000

STEINER RANCH CONTACTS

Steiner Ranch Community Association Office 512-266-7553

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
Custom Service 1-800-700-2443
Emergencies 512-370-8609
Call Before You Dig 1-800-344-8377
AT&T
New Service 1-800-464-7928
Repair 1-800-246-8464
Billing 1-800-858-7928
Time Warner Cable
Customer Service 512-485-5555
Repairs 512-485-5080
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!

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



TORNADOS

Home Athletics Schedule February/March 2013

DATE	SPORT	OPPONENT	TIME
2/1	BB	Lubbock Christian	4:00 p.m.
2/2	BB	Lubbock Christian	1:00 p.m.
2/7	WBB	Texas Lutheran	5:30 p.m.
	MBB	Texas Lutheran	7:30 p.m.
2/9	WBB	Schreiner	1:00 p.m.
	MBB	Schreiner	3:00 p.m.
2/14	WBB	Sul Ross State	5:30 p.m.
	BB	Texas Lutheran	7:00 p.m.
	MBB	Sul Ross State	7:30 p.m.
2/15	BB	Sul Ross State	10:00 a.m.
	SB	Trinity (DH)	4:00 p.m.
2/16	BB	Ozarks	10:00 a.m.
	WBB	Howard Payne	1:00 p.m.
	MBB	Howard Payne	3:00 p.m.
	BB	Howard Payne	4:00 p.m.
2/17	BB	Texas-Dallas	12:00 p.m.
	SB	George Fox (DH)	2:00 p.m.
2/22	BB	Louisiana College	7:00 p.m.
2/23	BB	Louisiana College (DH)	1:00 p.m.
3/8	SB	Mary Hardin-Baylor (DH)	5:00 p.m.
3/9	SB	Mary Hardin-Baylor (DH)	2:00 p.m.
3/12	BB	Dallas (DH)	3:00 p.m.
3/22	BB	Sul Ross State	7:00 p.m.
3/23	BB	Sul Ross State (DH)	1:00 p.m.
3/28	SB	Texas Lutheran (DH)	2:00 p.m.
3/28	BB	Mary Hardin-Baylor	7:00 p.m.
3/29	BB	Mary Hardin-Baylor (DH)	1:00 p.m.
3/29	SB	Texas Lutheran (DH)	2:00 p.m.

MBB (Men's Basketball)

WBB (Women's Basketball)

BB (Baseball)

SB (Softball)

CTX Athletics is Now Accepting Tornado Club Applications!!!

For up-to-date information about CTX
Athletics, please check out our website at:

athletics.concordia.edu

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.

COVER PHOTO

This month's cover photo was taken by Steiner Ranch resident, Stefanie Federlin of her daughters, Jade and Sabina on an outing to the South Congress coffee shop where this graffiti is found. It wasn't taken in Steiner, but the sisterly-love was so apparent and perfect for the February's Valentines issue!

Do you take great photos?

Would you like to see your photo published?

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

REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBMISSION:

- Must have been taken in Steiner Ranch (some exceptions)
- 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, so be creative and give it a try. Our March 2013 issue submittal deadline is February 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.

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Around Steiner

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

FEB 9TH

**SLOANE ADELL
HAPPY 1ST BIRTHDAY**



FEB 10TH

SYDNEY SCHAEFER



FEB 20TH

DECLAN RAMIREZ

FEB 23RD

**CHRISTOPHER
BACUNGAN**



DEC 2ND

HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY — MIA RICE

Mark Your Calendars

2013 Steiner Ranch Social Events

FEB 16

Chili Cook-Off

MAR 2

Run The Ranch 5K and KidsK

MAR 30

Easter Egg Hunt

APR 5-7

Spring Scrap-a-Thon

APR 13

Spring Community Wide Garage Sale

MAY 11

Casino Night

JUN 1

Movies in the Park

JUL 4

Parade

JULY 20

Movies in the Park

AUG 3

Movies in the Park

AUG 17

Concert in the Park

SEPT 28

Ladies Night Out

OCT 5

Fall Community Wide Garage Sale

OCT 20

Pumpkin Patch

OCT 27

Halloween Trunk or Treat

NOV 2

Camping on the Ranch

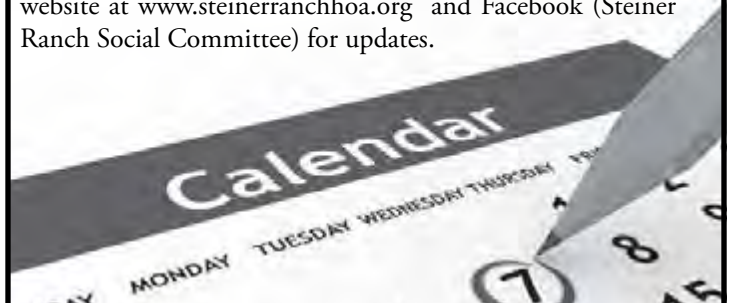
NOV 8-10

Fall Scrap-a-Thon

NOV 16

Holiday Sales Event & Santa Photos

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.





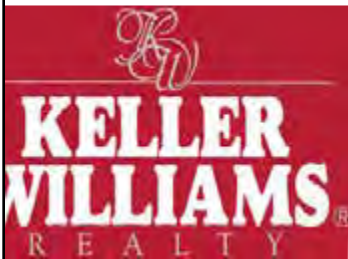
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Around Steiner

STEINER RANCH ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF

FEBRUARY 16TH

6:30pm – 9:30pm

\$15 per person at the door
Or \$10 plus 2 canned goods

Come join us as we bring our community together for a good time, hot food and cold beer, and help the Hill Country Community Ministries stock their pantry!

Think your Chili is the best in Steiner? Chili entry forms and rules can be found online at www.steinerranchhoa.org. Entry fee is \$15 per chili entry with entrance fee waived.

1st – 3rd place awarded a cash prize, and you can vote for your favorite chili in the People's Choice.

LIVE MUSIC!

It wouldn't be Austin without some live Music! Entertainment will be provided by Chris Austin Martinez. Chris has played this event several times and always gets the crowd going!

Hope to see you there!



HILL COUNTRY COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

FOOD PANTRY SHOPPING LIST

Shopping list is updated monthly. All items are needed, but critical items for the month are marked (*).

CANNED ITEMS

- Stew*
- Tuna
- Chicken
- Chili*
- Soup
- Spaghettios*
- Spaghetti sauce*
- Tomatoes*
- Tomato sauce*
- Pork 'n' beans
- Corn
- Peas
- Green beans
- Mixed vegetables
- Fruit cocktail
- Pineapple
- Apple sauce
- Peaches
- Peanut butter*
- Jelly*
- Orange juice
- Apple juice*

DRY ITEMS

- Dried beans (1 or 2 lb. pkgs. only)
- Spaghetti/pasta (1 or 2 lb. pkgs. only)*
- Rice (1 or 2 lb. pkgs. only)
- Macaroni & cheese
- Cold cereal
- Hot cereal

PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

- Bar soap
- Dish soap*
- Laundry detergent
- Toilet tissue
- Toothpaste

Make an impact.

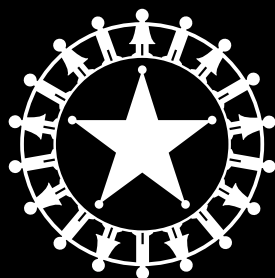
Call today to reserve this space.

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COMMUNITY NEWSLETTERS

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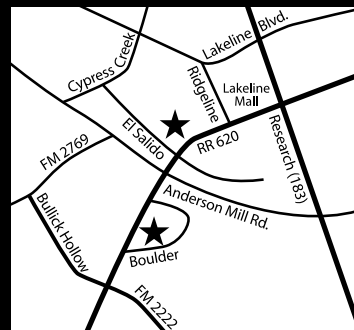




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Around Steiner

Newcomer Orientation

Welcome new residents of Steiner Ranch! If you have recently moved into or purchased a home here, you are invited to the Newcomer Orientation held on Thursday, February 7th at 6:30pm 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 residents. A brief presentation will be given on 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? You can come to any of the 2013 Orientations! The next one is scheduled for May 2nd.

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

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



SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 19TH ANNUAL Easter Egg Hunt

*Saturday, March 30th
9 – 11a.m. - Rain or Shine
Hunt will start at 10:00am (sharp)*

Easter Bunny
Face Painters
Balloon Twister

Pony Rides
Petting Zoo
And more to come!



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Brandy.MyAustinHouse.com



STEINER RANCH HOMEOWNERS MAKE 3 BIG MISTAKES WHEN PUTTING THEIR HOME UP FOR SALE



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*"Brandy, there's just no better place to look
for homes for sale in Steiner Ranch and learn
about the community than your website,
RealEstateInSteinerRanch.com."*

--- Kelli Williams

Young at Heart Events

steinerranchyoungatheart@gmail.com

Young at Heart is a group that plans various activities for Steiner Ranch residents in the 50+ age group to provide opportunities for people to meet others with similar interests. Since so many people travel or are away from home for extended periods of time, activities are planned to be enjoyed as frequently as members want. Whenever possible, these events take place in Steiner Ranch or close by. Those who are on the Young at Heart contact list receive emails announcing upcoming activities. If you would like to receive announcements and invitations from Young at Heart, just send your name, phone number and email address to steinerranchyoungatheart@gmail.com. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Dottie Thoms at dottie.thoms@gmail.com or at 512-531-9360.

Activities take place weekly, monthly or occasionally. Dates, times and places are included in the monthly emails.

Among the upcoming events and activities are:

SPECIAL EVENT

Cruise the Caribbean with Ports of Call at Belize City (Belize), Roatan (Honduras) and Cozumel

Royal Caribbean Mariner of the Sea - Feb. 10-17, 2013

Sailing from Galveston. We have chartered a bus that will pick us up in Steiner Ranch on Feb. 10 and bring us back on Feb. 17.

BOOK CLUB

Wed., Feb. 13 - Ladies Lounge UT Golf Club - Half Broke Horses, by Jeannette Walls

LADIES SOCIAL BRIDGE

Weds, Feb. 13 & 27 - A friendly afternoon Bridge game and conversation.

EVENING BRIDGE

Group of experienced Bridge players meets monthly for dessert & Bridge.

BUNKO

Thur., Feb. 21 - Towne Square Community Center - Join this group meeting monthly for a casual game of Bunko and light refreshments.

CANASTA

A friendly casual evening game of Canasta held at the home of members.

CINEMA CLUB

Tue., Feb. 26 - This enthusiastic group of movie lovers meet monthly to discuss a movie selected by the members and viewed before the meeting.

CONCERTS AND PLAYS

The chairperson of this group coordinates persons interested in attending specific events ranging from just 2 people to large groups.

DINNER GROUPS

Young at Heart members are organized into groups of four couples (singles are welcome) with common interests who meet to share meals in each other's homes or at restaurants.

EPICUREANS

A fun-loving group of people (limited openings) who love to cook and entertain. Events range from Wine Tastings to Cooking Classes to Theme Dinners. Our next dinner on March 23 will feature a Moroccan theme.

EXPLORING AUSTIN

Occasional trips around Austin and the Hill Country to visit places of interest and - usually - eat while enjoying the company of other YAHs.

GAME NIGHT

Fri., Feb. 1 - 7 pm - Couples getting together to play various board games, Charades, Pictionary and others. At this first Game Night, we'll share ideas as to what games we'd enjoy, meeting places and other details as well as playing some games.

GARDEN CLUB

Thur., Feb. 21 - "Developing a Drought-resistant Garden Using Succulents" - If you enjoy "digging in the dirt" or just learning about gardening, this is for you. It's a combination of hands-on, guest speakers and field trips.

HAPPY HOUR

Our next Happy Hour will be in March. In Feb. there will be a Wine Social.

HIKING

Group of avid hikers who get together occasionally to hike on trails in and around Steiner Ranch. If you would like to be part of the Hiking Group, add your name to the list and you'll be contacted.

LADIES GOLF

Members of the Ladies Golf Group meet monthly to golf at various courses around Austin. Dates and places are decided by the group. If you'd like to participate, have your name added to the list and you'll be contacted.

LADIES LUNCHING OUT

Tues., Feb. 19 - 12 Noon - University of Texas Golf Club - Each month the ladies meet for a casual social lunch at nearby restaurants.

MEXICAN TRAIN (DOMINOES)

Wed., Feb. 6 - 1 pm - A casual afternoon of fun while playing a very easy to learn Dominoes game. Games are played in the homes of those who play. An evening Mexican Train group is also being organized.

ROMEO (RETIRED OLD MEN EATING OUT)

Mon., Feb. 11 - You don't have to be old or retired to enjoy having lunch with the guys at various restaurants around Austin.

TECHNOLOGY GROUP

Thur., Feb. 7 - "TPhotography" - Laurie Scott, our local Steiner Ranch Geek, will show us how to download photos from our cameras and upload them to our computers. She will also show how to organize photos and keep them safe as well as demonstrating how to take a treasured photograph and improve it using a free program, "Picasa".

WALKING GROUP

Every Thur. - 8:30 am - The group of walkers focuses on easier trails and flat surfaces. Ideal for those with limited mobility but would like to walk for an hour or so with others.

WINE SOCIALS

Fri., Feb. 22 - 7 pm - Casual get-togethers in members' homes. Everyone brings a bottle of wine or beverage of choice and an appetizer to share. Alternates monthly with Happy Hours which are held in restaurants.

A woman with dark hair, wearing a white t-shirt and black shorts, is running on a paved path. In the background, there are green trees and a large, light-colored building with a chimney. The sky is clear and blue.

www.runtheranch.org

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Ranch Record - February 2013 13

SADDLE UP AND RIDE!

Steiner Ranch Cycling is a group of fun loving cyclist that enjoys rides between the lakes. Our weekend rides include anywhere between 10 – 25 riders of all skill levels. If you are interested in getting some exercise and meeting some great people and most importantly, having fun, come out and join us. Our rides are completely FREE other than the calories you will need to expend to participate.

SATURDAY RIDES: We post our Saturday and Sunday rides on the home page of our website at www.steinerranchcycling.com and our Facebook Page at “Steiner Ranch Cycling”. Our Saturday rides are faster and the average speeds are above 17 mph and while we try to keep the group together if you fall behind there is no designated sweeper.

SUNDAY RIDES: Our Sunday rides are fun and all within Steiner Ranch. This is a NO drop ride.

Saturday February 2 – Our group leaves Cups & Cones at 8:30am and we roll out of Steiner Ranch for a minimum of 40 miles. We have at least 5 routes we rotate between.

Sunday February 3 – Our group leaves Cups & Cones at 8:30am and we ride all within Steiner Ranch. This is a great ride for beginners or if you are just looking for a recovery ride. While this ride is only about 22 miles there are a number of hills.

Saturday February 9 – Our group leaves Cups & Cones at 8:30am and we roll out of Steiner Ranch for a minimum of 40 miles. We have at least 5 routes we rotate between.

SCHEDULE

Sunday February 10 – Our group leaves Cups & Cones at 8:30am and we ride all within Steiner Ranch. This is a great ride for beginners or if you are just looking for a recovery ride. While this ride is only about 22 miles there are a number of hills.

Saturday February 16 – Our group leaves Cups & Cones at 8:30am and we roll out of Steiner Ranch for a minimum of 40 miles. We have at least 5 routes we rotate between.

Sunday February 17 – Our group leaves Cups & Cones at 8:30am and we ride all within Steiner Ranch. This is a great ride for beginners or if you are just looking for a recovery ride. While this ride is only about 22 miles there are a number of hills.

Saturday February 23 – Our group leaves Cups & Cones at 8:30am and we roll out of Steiner Ranch for a minimum of 40 miles. We have at least 5 routes we rotate between.

Sunday February 24 – Jack & Adams and the Steiner Ranch Steakhouse will host a Sunday Brunch ride that leaves the Steakhouse at 8:30am for about a 12 and 30 mile ride. There is a beginner, intermediate and advance ride. There is usually over 100 riders and it is a lot of fun. After the ride the Steakhouse will host a ½ price brunch.

Thank you to the following sponsors to supporting cycling in our community and when making your next purchase please consider the following companies and organizations:

Austin City Living, Cups & Cones, Independent Investment Bankers Corp., Lake Travis Eye and Laser, Microventures, Mogen Consulting Financial & Training, Moreland Properties, Munsch Hardt Kopf & Harr, PayPal, Pinnacle Sports Performance and Rehabilitation, PMB Helin Donovan, RoadBikeGear.com, Sendero Homes, South Oaks Family Medicine, Texas Beef Council and Wild Basin Fitness.

RIDE DISCLAIMER: Each rider is responsible for his or her own safety on our rides. Steiner Ranch Cycling ride leaders assume no responsibility for your participation.



Summer Camps in Steiner

Yes, that's right - it's already time to start planning for the summer and we have some great camps scheduled; some we've had before and some great new ones! We are accepting registration now. Look for registration forms and current information online at www.steinerranchhoa.org. Here are some of the summer camps we will be offering:

- Dallas Cowboys Football Camp
- Lonestar Soccer Camp
- Brown's Gymnastics Camp
- Tap-N-Toe Hip Hop Camp
- Sportball Multi-sport Camp
- Steiner Tennis Camp
- JW Tumbles Camp
- LZM Art Camp
- Kidventure Camp (Registration begins Feb. 1)
- Mad Science Camp
- Lego Camp
- Culinary Cooking Camp



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Around Steiner

Walk Your Dog This Month For a Good Cause

Submitted by Kristen West

On Saturday, February 23 at 10 a.m., Steiner residents will come together to walk their dogs to raise money for local dog rescue and rehabilitation organization Wags, Hope and Healing. Steiner Serves is a group of volunteers in Steiner Ranch who promote one charitable cause every month. This month they have organized the Steiner Community Wag and Walk, which will take residents and their dogs on a 1.75 mile walk from John Simpson Park off of Steiner Ranch Blvd. Proceeds from the walk will go to the nonprofit rescue to help them continue to provide much needed dog rescue and community support services in Austin. Available dogs for adoption will also be featured at the event. There is still time to register for the walk or to become a supporting sponsor. Visit www.steinerserves.org/Steiner_Serves/February for walk and registration details.



Girl Scout Troop #2417

Submitted by Michelle Lamb

Girl Scout Cadettes from Troop #2417 enjoyed helping keep Austin beautiful by spending a January afternoon un-decorating the trees along highway 360. The girls filled garbage bags full of tinsel, broken ornaments and old garland from the ground, trees and bushes along the north west hillside near the Arboretum. Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place.



life is full of challenges.

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Around Steiner



Since the September 2011 fires, a resolute band of community residents and leaders have championed the Firewise and READY-SET-GO! programs in Steiner Ranch. These folks have coordinated fuel reduction workdays in selected areas -- reducing the risk that a wildfire could ignite and spread, and increasing homeowners' chances of protecting property should a wildfire come to their area. The committee also coordinated Home Ignition Zone, training a team of volunteers to identify specific wildfire hazards around residents' homes. They've been in ongoing contact with local political officials, public service leaders, and state and government agencies to discuss options for protecting people and property when the next wildfire hits our community.

As talented and capable as the committee members are, they need your help to fully integrate the Firewise program in our community. One way you can help is to become a volunteer representative for your neighborhood. Representatives are asked to attend meetings, organize fuel reduction workdays in their neighborhoods, and act as the liaison between residents in their neighborhoods and the Firewise committee. The following areas currently have representatives: Savannah Point, Towne Hollow, Majestic Oaks, Eastridge, Plateau, Rocky Ridge, Parkside, UT Golf Course, Canyon Glen, River Heights Overlook, Headlands, and Shire Ridge.

Representatives are still needed for all other areas. If you live in one of these unrepresented areas, please consider becoming part of the Firewise committee and help our community protect lives and property. Meetings are held the 3rd Monday of each month at the Bella Mar Community Center. You can contact Nathasha Collmann at SRFirewise@gmail.com for more information.

State Agency Hearing Suburbs' Case for Lower Electric Rates

You probably noticed that your electric bill got bigger and more complicated starting in October. If you compared that bill to the previous October, a typical Steiner household would likely have seen a 15-20% or more increase. Meanwhile, across most of Texas, people are seeing their electric bills fall, along with the decrease in the cost of natural gas.

The Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) is currently hearing the case brought by Homeowners United for Rate Fairness (HURF) to roll-back Austin Energy's enormous October 1 electric rate increase. This past summer, the Steiner Ranch Neighborhood Association (SRNA) and HURF worked hand in hand to gather signatures from almost one third of Steiner households. Across the suburbs, HURF gathered twice the number of signatures required to force this case at the PUC. This is an historic opportunity to either reduce Austin Energy's rates or else live with them for years to come.

The process at the PUC began officially in December 2012, and will extend thru the middle of June 2013. HURF has hired lawyers and utility experts to show the PUC why Austin Energy's huge rate hike is unjustified. We believe we are presenting a strong case for why suburban electric rates need to be significantly reduced, and the five-tier rate structure scrapped. In the likelihood that we prevail, Austin Energy will have to reduce its rates and refund the increases it began charging October 1, 2012.

HURF urgently needs your financial support to pay the experts needed to probe Austin Energy's books, ask the tough questions, and present a compelling case. The outcome could save you thousands of dollars in electric bills. Please give today at www.hurf.org.

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Around Steiner

REGISTRATION IS OPEN 2013 WINTER/SPRING PROGRAMS

2013 Winter/Spring Programs in Steiner Ranch has begun! Registration opened December 1st for Residents, so go online and look for all program information in the 2013 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
- Touchdown Tots

ELEMENTARY – TEEN PROGRAMS

- Sportball
- Tab & Ballet combo
- Hip Hop
- Gymnastics
- Karate
- Tennis
- Art
- Cooking
- Zumbatronics
- Jump Rope

ADULT PROGRAMS

- Yoga
- Karate
- Tennis
- Zumba
- Stroller Strides
- Walk-Live
- Camp Gladiator

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

- Neighborhood Sports
- Flag Football
- Soccer
- Spring Break Camps

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.



Make one of your New Year's resolutions to attend one of the great Workshops offered in Steiner. They are all Free to Steiner Ranch Residents! We are always looking for more unique and different workshops to offer residents so if you or someone you know can provide education opportunities that are not already being offered for Steiner Ranch residents, please contact Sharon Adams at sharon@steinerranchhoa.org or 512-266-7553.

FEBRUARY 19TH

5 Organizing Tips that get you from To-Do to DONE!

Do you have tons of things to do - but never quite seem to get them all done? Is your day busy and jam-packed from sunup to sundown, but you never finish the important tasks? Are thoughts swirling around in your head and keeping you up at night? Are you tired just thinking of everything you have to do? Learn the top 5 organizing tips that every successful person knows, and the 2 things you **MUST** do before your go to sleep at night. You will be able to 'make' time as these proven strategies help you become more productive with the time you do have.

6:30pm TSCC

To RSVP, please contact Karin Flagg either by phone (512) 585-8424 or email Karin@OrganizeWithPurpose.com

FEBRUARY 19TH

Building Financial Strategies for Families

Find out how you can get on the path to financial independence at this educational seminar. There is no magic here folks: it's a matter of taking stock, protecting what you have, planning for emergencies, reducing debt, and making wise choices with income and savings. But how exactly is this done? Which should you do first? And what tools are available to you? For educational purposes only; no products will be sold. Interactive discussion encouraged. Couples welcome.

7:00pm BMCC

To secure your seat at this seminar email Rich Keith richkeithprimerica@austin.rr.com or call (512) 632-0162 with number of seats needed and your contact info. For additional information go to www.steinerranchhoa.org or contact Sharon Adams, Community Coordinator at sharon@steinerranchhoa.org.

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Around Steiner

SPEEDING IN STEINER

PLEASE SLOW DOWN!

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

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

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

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Mr. Zhang will be offering free Tai Chi Chuan lessons at TSCC every week day now through 2/28/2013. This is a beginner's class; Mr. Zhang will start with the basic forms.

**MON, WED, FRI: 8 - 9 AM TSCC
TUES, THURS: 8 - 8:45 AM TSCC**

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6:30 - 9:00 PM

Rib Eating Contest 7:30 - 7:45 PM

- ★ Round Rock I-35: Round Rock High School
- ★ 620 Four Points: Vandegrift High School
- ★ 360 South: *Defending Champions* Westlake High School
- ★ 183 North: Anderson High School
- ★ Former Longhorns & current NFL players will serve as honorary "Rib Eating Coaches"
- ★ Help local high school teams as they compete for the "Rudy's Golden Rib Trophy" for most ribs eaten!

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Pool & Swimming News

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.

Our swim schedule is as follows:

Wed - Fri 5:30 a.m. - 6:45 a.m. | Sun 6:30 a.m. - 7:45 a.m.

\$40 per month for Residents | Come on and give it a try! It's easy to sign up | You must be 18 yrs. and older.

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. 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!

News from the Pool Committee

The winter is upon us and of course most people don't want to think about going swimming during the winter, burrrr... However the Bella Mar pool is open on limited hours with a heated lap pool. We are trying a new cover system called "Liquid Cover" that should keep the heat in and save us even more on energy even though the pool doesn't seem to be covered. With this new system, we are able to keep lanes open longer each day during the week. However, keep in mind that the VHS Swim Team and Austin Eliete Swim Team are conducting practice and their schedule is on the HOA website as well as the Winter Pool Hours article below.

The pool committee is not hibernating though. We are still aggressively pursuing options for the coming summer to make pool usage more enjoyable and more accessible. We will be expanding pool cleaning responsibilities to do our best to keep those pools free of debris and looking great. Of course your help is always appreciated, if you see debris in the pool or notice it is cloudy please let the lifeguard know. If there is not one on duty, then let me know or the HOA office so we can make sure to maintain the pools during heavy usage. In addition, we are working on some major projects to continue the great amenities you have and experience an even better environment at the pools. Enjoy the winter and we look forward to seeing you now and in the summer. Any questions or comments about how we can improve the pools please feel free to contact me at Rodney.g.mogen@gmail.com.

WINTER POOL HOURS

BELLA MAR

Closed Monday until 2:00pm

Lap Pool: Tue-Sun 5:30am - 10:00pm

Master's Swim Program - Wednesday & Friday 5:30am - 6:45am;
Sunday 6:30am - 7:45am

VHS Swimming Monday - Friday 7:15am - 9:30am;

February Exceptions: February 4-6th - practice 5:30am - 7:30am.
February 8th - no practice

February 22nd - 28th - no practice

Austin Elite Swimming Monday - Friday 4:30 - 6:30pm

A maximum of two lap lanes will be available to lap swimmers during these sessions.

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.*

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February 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 7:00pm YAH Game Night	2 Groundhog Day
3	4 9:15am - Free Walk-Live (TSCC) 6:30pm - FREE Yoga (TSCC) LISD Break	5 LISD Break	6 1:00pm YAH Mexican Train LISD Break	7 8:30 am - YAH Walking Group 1:00pm YAH Technology Group (TSCC) Newsletter Articles Due 6:30 pm - New Resident Orientation (TSCC)	8	9 Yoga Retreat (BMCC)
	10	11 YAH ROMEO 6:30pm - FREE Yoga (TSCC)	12 9:30 am - Social Committee Meeting (Cups & Cones) 7:00pm - Kidventure Camp Night (TSCC)	13 YAH Bridge Club YAH Book Club Ash Wednesday	14 8:30am - YAH Walking Group	15 6:30 pm - Chili Cook-Off (TSCC)
17	18 6:30pm - FREE Yoga (TSCC) President's Day 6:30 pm - Firewise Committee Meeting (BMCC)	19 12:00pm YAH Ladies Lunching Out (UT Golf Club) 6:30 pm - 5 Organizing Tips (TSCC) 7:00pm - Building Financial Strategies for Families (BMCC)	20 YAH Bridge Club	21 8:30 am - YAH Walking Group YAH Garden Club YAH Bunco	22 7:00pm YAH Wine Social	23 Soccer Skills Day (TS Fields) 10:00am - Dog Walk (JS Park)
 Flag Day	24	25 6:30pm - FREE Yoga (TSCC)	26 YAH Cinema Club	27 YAH Bridge Club 3:30 pm - SRMA Board of Directors Meeting (TSCC)	28 8:30 am - YAH Walking Group 6:00 pm - SRROA Board of Directors Meeting (TSCC)	

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March 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Scheduled Grand Opening of UT Golf Club Tennis Facility Run The Ranch 5K and Kids K (TSCC)
3	4 9:15am - Free Walk Live (TSCC) 6:30pm - FREE Yoga (TSCC)	5 6:30 pm - Facilities Committee Meeting (TSCC)	6 8:30am - Free Walk Live (TSCC) YAH Bridge Club	7 8:30 am - YAH Walking Group Newsletter Articles Due	8	9
 10 Daylight Savings Time Begins	11 9:15am - Free Walk Live (TSCC) YAH ROMEO 6:30pm - FREE Yoga (TSCC)	12 9:30am - Social Committee Meeting (Cups & Cones) YAH Ladies Lunching out	13 8:30am - Free Walk Live (TSCC) YAH Book Club	14 8:30 am - YAH Walking Group	15	16
17	18 6:30pm - FREE Yoga (TSCC) 6:30 pm - Firewise Committee Meeting (BMCC)	19 6:30pm - Home Office Sanity (TSCC)	20 YAH Bridge Club	21 8:30am - YAH Walking Group YAH Garden Club YAH Bunco	22	23
 24/31	25 6:30pm - FREE Yoga (TSCC)	26 YAH Cinema Club	27 3:30 pm - SRMA Board of Directors Meeting (TSCC)	28 8:30am - YAH Walking Group 6:00 pm - SRROA Board of Directors Meeting (TSCC)	29	30 Easter Egg Hunt (JS Park)

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From the Association Office

COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT

Have you ever wondered how to get more involved in your community? The Answer is simple! Join a Committee! Steiner Ranch has several Committees that you can join, simply by attending meetings and getting involved. Many of these committee members have gone on to become Board members and leaders in the Steiner Ranch community. Take a look at each of these and simply call the contact of the committee to take the first step.

FACILITIES COMMITTEE:

This committee makes 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. Meetings are held on the 1st Tuesday of MOST months at 6:30pm. Committee Chair: Rodney Mogen, rodney.g.mogen@gmail.com. If you are only interested in one aspect of the committee, such as Trails, or Tennis, then subcommittees are for you!

SOCIAL COMMITTEE:

This committee creates and oversees the social events in Steiner Ranch such as the Chili Cook-off, Easter Egg Hunt, and Camping on the Ranch. They are involved with the Young at Heart Group (50+) and the Mom & Tots Group and help facilitate their activities. If you are interested in this committee or these groups contact Committee Chair: Jannine Farnum, jannine@farnum.net.

FIREWISE COMMITTEE:

This committee is the newest committee and was started as a result of the 2011 Labor Day fires. This committee was instrumental in Steiner's Firewise Communities Certification in 2012! This committee helps homeowners who back to greenbelts organize community clean ups, work closely with the Fire Departments and help raise money for much needed equipment. Committee Chairperson: Nathasha Collman, srfirewise@gmail.com.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

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

GOLF COMMUNITY COMMITTEE:

This committee is specific to the needs of those members living in the Golf Community. Meetings are held quarterly. For more information, please contact Scott Selman at scott@steinerranchhoa.org.

Do You Need a Field for Practice?

Are you planning on coaching a team in the Spring?

Need a place to practice?

Then mark your calendar for the 2013 Spring Field Lottery to be held on February 15th.

*Register your team*** by sending an email to sharon@steinerranchhoa.org. Registration must be in by 5:00pm on Thursday, February 14th with the following information:*

- Name
- Coach name (if different)
- Address
- Phone number
- Organization (CC United, Town & Country, etc.)
- Sport (soccer, baseball, etc.)
- Age group
- 1st, 2nd & 3rd choice of field, day & time. (See below)

If you are coaching more than one team, please list each team separately. On Friday, February 15th, I will be contacting you by email with assigned field.

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

FIELDS:

- ☐ Towne Square
- ☐ Bella Mar Baseball Side
- ☐ Bella Mar Tennis Court Side
- ☐ Westridge Fields (off of Flat Top Ranch Road)
- ☐ Steiner Ranch Elementary
- ☐ River Ridge Elementary
- ☐ Laura Welsh Bush Elementary

TIMES:

**Hourly beginning at 4:00pm until Sunset
(Daylight Savings Time begins March 10th)**

DAYS:

- ☐ Monday – Friday only
- ☐ Saturday – Game Days

No field assignments on Sunday to leave open for Resident recreational use.

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



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Giddy Up Gala

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Save the Date for the Largest Fundraising Gala for All Eight Four Points Area Public Schools

Saturday, February 23, 2013 | 6 p.m. at The Oasis

The one fundraising event that benefits all students in the Four Points area. Join your friends in the community for a fun evening at this third annual event where we raise vital funding to enhance the educational experience of our students at:

- Grandview Hills Elementary
- Laura Welch Bush Elementary
- River Place Elementary
- River Ridge Elementary
- Steiner Ranch Elementary
- Canyon Ridge Middle School
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Business Section

Seven Business Networking Groups in the Area

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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 the Oasis. Visitors are welcome! If you are interested please contact Michael Bennett at michael@bennett-tech.net for more information 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.

NETWORKING NORTHWEST AUSTIN

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 Cheddars HWY 183 and Anderson Mill Rd. Visit <http://www.meetup.com/NetWorking-NorthWest-Austin/>

STEINER RANCH MARKETERS MEETUP GROUP

Join other marketers who live in Steiner Ranch and work in online marketing, search engine optimization, affiliate marketing,

search engine marketing, social media optimization, social media marketing, pay-per-click advertising, email marketing, and other areas of Internet marketing. Informal get-togethers in the community to learn and share things, as well as make connections with others. The group is open to anybody who lives in Steiner Ranch and is interested in Internet marketing: entrepreneurs, freelancers, 9-to-5ers, business owners and aspiring marketers alike. More details at SteinerRanchMarketers.com

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.

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 Thursday 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.

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 Mondays from 11:30-1:00pm at Fore in Lakeway. Lunch is \$10 and visitors are welcome. Please feel free to contact Kimberly McLaughlin at kimberly@LaHaPro.com or visit www.BNIAustin.com for more information.



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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.

FOUR POINTS

CHAMBER of COMMERCE

Visitor Center

Opening Soon

FOUR POINTS MAPS BEING CREATED

A new Four Points Chamber of Commerce Visitors Center is set to open soon, housed in the Bartlett Real Estate Group office.

To go along with the new space at 6816 RM 620 N. will be a new glossy map showcasing the Four Points area streets, businesses and landmarks. These will be available in the Visitor Center and at area businesses in a few months.

"We are excited to offer these amenities to our growing community," said Ray Freer, Chairman of the Four Points Chamber.

Over the past year, hardly a month has gone by without a new business opening in Four Points.

"We are ready to solidify our spot in Austin with an official map and Visitor Center," said Freer, owner of RF Insurance Masters and Steiner Ranch resident.

The Bartlett Real Estate Group location near the intersection of RM 620 N and FM 2222 is a prime location. Bartlett was established in Four Points when there were a few hundred houses, no shopping centers and dirt roads. Now the group has a team of a dozen.

"We believe it's a win-win for Bartlett Real Estate Group and Four Points Chamber of Commerce," said Marissa Radack, Co-Owner Bartlett, Keller Williams Realty.

"As a founding member of the Four Points Chamber of Commerce, we are so appreciative of the work done by the Chamber and are pleased that we are able to offer some space for the new Visitor Center in our building," Radack said.

The Four Points Chamber of Commerce and its 120 members bring businesses together from Mansfield Dam to Anderson Mill and FM 2222 from Jester to Volente.

For more information about the Chamber, Visitor Center or Map visit www.fourpointschamber.com.



ATTENTION TEENAGE JOB SEEKERS

In order to ensure that our Teenage Job Seeker List information is accurate all names have been dropped from the list. Please submit your information to steinerranch@peelinc.com if you would like to be added to the list.

Teenage Job Seekers

Name	Age	Baby Sitter	House Sit	Yard Work	Phone
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White Raspberry Cake

Ingredients:

- 2 egg whites
- 1 C milk
- 3 t vanilla
- 3 C cake flour, sifted
- 4 t baking powder
- 1 1/2 C sugar
- 1 t salt
- 12 T unsalted butter

Directions: Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Prepare 2, 9 inch round cake pans by buttering and flouring or line with parchment paper. In a small bowl, combine egg whites, 1/4 C milk and vanilla. Mix and set aside. In large mixing bowl, combine the flour, baking powder, sugar and salt and beat on low speed until incorporated. Add the butter and remaining milk to the dry ingredients and mix on low speed until moistened. Increase speed and gradually add the egg white mixture (in 3 batches), beating well after each addition. Pour into pans and bake 30 minutes until top springs back when lightly touched.

Buttercream Frosting

Ingredients:

- 2 C shortening
- 8 T butter
- 1/3 C heavy whipping cream
- 2 t raspberry extract
- 8 C powdered sugar

Directions: In mixer beat shortening and butter until light and fluffy. Add the cream and raspberry extract and mix well. Add 1/2 powdered sugar and beat for 5 minutes. Add remaining sugar and continue to beat. If it is too thick, add a bit more cream. For the fluffiest buttercream, beat for an additional 5 minutes or longer.



To assemble: Cut each cooled cake in half to form 2 layers. I put a dollop of buttercream down on my patter first, to secure the first layer. Top with raspberry jam then add another cake layer, topping with buttercream. Add another cake layer, repeat with raspberry jam and add last cake layer. Tint the remaining buttercream frosting if you want to get a soft pink color and frost entire cake. I embellished with edible pearls and piped icing.

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TRIM YOUR WASTE-LINE IN 2013

Submitted by Nissa Lind, Steiner Ranch Resident

This year resolve to reuse – start with these 10 waste reducing ideas. It is never too late to make a change that benefits the environment and strives to make it better for future generations.

- 1. Switch to reusable bags** - In the United States alone, an estimated 12 million barrels of oil is used annually to make the plastic bags that Americans consume. The average American uses about 500 PLASTIC BAGS EACH YEAR, for an average of 12 MINUTES before they are discarded. So whether you buy the less expensive store brand reusable bags or the nicer looking and more stylish bags, each person that brings their own bags to the store can make a big impact over the course of the year.
- 2. Pack a waste free lunch** - According to the EPA, each child who brings a brown bag lunch to school every day generates about 67 pounds of waste by the end of the school year. This applies to adults who take frozen entrees or other baggie laden lunches. There are lots of reusable options now for both kids and adults available on many different websites and in just about every store that carries kitchen products. My favorites have been the various bento box style lunch systems.
- 3. Bring your own beverage container** - 2,480,000 tons of plastic bottles and jars were thrown away in one year (2008). Plastic bottles are among the most prevalent source of pollution found on our beaches. A report by the Pacific Institute explained how 17 million barrels of crude oil were necessary to fuel Americans' bottled water habit in 2006. As of 2006, an estimated 60 billion PET single-use beverage containers were bought. Approximately 45 billion of these were discarded after use. (*Container Recycling Institute*). There are all kinds of options for reusable; refillable beverage containers whether you choose plastic, stainless steel, glass or ceramic, just pick the one which works best for you and your lifestyle.
- 4. Bag plastic baggies** - Less than 1 percent of plastic bags are recycled each year. Recycling one ton of plastic bags costs \$4,000. The recycled product can be sold for \$32 (*Clean Air Council*). Cotton produce and bulk bags are readily available in stores and online to eliminate all those plastic produce bags. On the go, there are also reusable options for lunches made out of cloth, polypropylene, or PETA (a vinyl free option) and if you must use disposable, then try waxed paper bags.
- 5. Ditch paper towels** - A massive 3,000 tons of waste get thrown in the landfill every day because of them. Impossible to not use paper towels you say? Not necessarily, even if you have kids. Clean with microfiber cloths that you can throw in the wash and reuse. Several options are

available for the kitchen and bath made out of bamboo, cotton and recycled wood cellulose. Many are even biodegradable if composted correctly. You might have a little more laundry, but that's a much smaller price to pay than adding waste to the landfills.

- 6. Rethink your gift wrap** - From Thanksgiving to New Years Day, household waste increases by more than 25%. Added food waste, shopping bags, packaging, wrapping paper, bows and ribbons - it all adds up to an additional 1 million tons a week to our landfills. (*EPA and Use Less Stuff*). In the U.S., annual trash from gift-wrap and shopping bags totals 4 million tons. (*Use Less Stuff*). For the last several years, my family has been moving to fabric wrapping for the winter holidays. A trip to the fabric store to pick out some holiday prints when they are 50% off, have several yards cut of each one, whether you get coordinating or completely different fabrics. You can use it over and over or switch it out every other year. There are several websites that have instructions on how to wrap to make a pretty fabric bow that allows you keep the festive look for the holidays. If it is a gift I'm giving away outside of the family, then we re-use birthday gift bags or if I can find it in a store, I buy paper wrapping that can be recycled (generally brown paper type).
- 7. Mix your own sports drinks** - Yes, there are products out there. Not only do you keep the plastic bottle out of the landfill, but the mix your own products are sometimes healthier with less additives and sugar than buying the bottled drinks at the store.
- 8. Cut out plastic cutlery** - Bamboo and stainless steel are the most common options. Choosing something reusable other than plastic is the best, but if you do use plastic, then why not wash and reuse.
- 9. Replace plastic wrap and foil** - Using plastic or glass storage containers at home is the best option to eliminate excess plastic or ziploc baggies, aluminum foil, and plastic wrap.
- 10. Nix disposable dryer sheets** - If your clothes washer doesn't make it easy to use liquid fabric softener, your other options include pvc-free rubber dryer balls, wool dryer balls, and reusable dryer sheets. Everyone has different preferences and different chemical tolerance for their household, so I didn't include my favorite brands for these categories. You can find a plethora of choices for each product category with a basic internet search. Some resources if you need more inspiration or product ideas are www.use-less-stuff.com, www.ewg.org, www.reuseit.com, and www.bagitmovie.com.

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FISCAL CLIFF SIMPLICITY

*Submitted by
Steiner Ranch Resident Rodney Mogen*

The New Year brings hope and it brings excitement to everyone. It also brings the talk of budgets and finance planning in households, companies and the government. We're inundated with news about how taxes are increasing or staying the same and how there are surpluses or deficits depending on the government budget you are looking at. The last couple months talk has been dominated by the "Fiscal Cliff" worries and now will be dominated through Mid-March about the Debt Ceiling.

All sides in the discussion have expressed great points and will want to filter their views through legislation, but the true facts sometimes get lost in the coverage. Some factions want to be able to provide for those in need and be their safe harbor in life, others want to drastically eliminate independence on the government and slash budgets drastically, while still other want to find a balance. This is very similar to your household and managing all parts of your household's needs. I tend to be very frugal, my wife won't spend to spend but she wants to be able to enjoy, and we have to find a balance between both when it comes to our daughter. So there is a constant clash, just like you would find in your household and a compromise is found on a regular basis. To truly understand what is going on in the economy one needs to understand why these issues being discussed are so important and what they actually mean.

First the so called "Fiscal Cliff" issue was not being expressed very clearly. There are two parts of the issue, the first being some automatic cuts to the budget that were quite significant that were agreed upon by Congress and the Senate back in 2011 when they couldn't agree on what to do about spending when they voted to raise the debt limit back in 2011. Think of this like your family got a \$200,000 increase in their credit limit with no immediate affects but in 16 months you would overnight need to cut your spending by 15% immediately overnight at the start of 2013, could you do it? What would be the effects on your personal economy? The second

part of the Fiscal Cliff was the immediate removal of several tax cuts including tax rates and favorable treatment on dividends and capital gains potentially resulting in higher taxes and lower takes home pay. So it would have a dual effect of forcing an automatic spending cut in your budget on items you need to buy and then further reducing your income further reducing your budget. The fear here is it would damage the already fragile economy with consumers feeling less likely to spend as they have less money and their credit is now maxed out.

That leads us to the next issue that is looming and will be discussed about over the next couple months. Currently the Federal Budget is running at \$3.8 trilling in expenses but only takes in \$2.4 trillion in revenue, leaving an annual deficit of \$1.4 trillion with an accumulated credit balance of \$16.4 trillion and increasing. In a household budget terms it would look like this:

Income: \$24,000

Deficit: \$14,000

Expenses: \$38,000

Current Debt of \$164,000

So in other words you would be adding \$14,000 a year to an already high debt while barely paying down that debt or at all. The Fiscal Cliff deal only addressed 38.5 billion in cuts and net increased revenues leading to essentially a \$385 payment on the debt. That is what the issue is, how can the government decrease their budget deficit spending without hurting the economy. How would you handle it, if this was your annual budget? In addition, when they discuss deficit spending they are addressing the annual deficit not the already high national debt, no plans have been made to pay that down either they just pay the interest or service the debt.

So with this understanding of the talks, what does this mean to you? Your taxes no matter what your income are going up. While the Bush Era Tax cuts were maintained for almost all the tax paying population, the employee share of F.I.C.A (otherwise known as payroll taxes) has been raised from 4.2% to 6.2% for 2013. Whether

(Continued on Page 43)

Fiscal Cliff Simplicity (Continued from Page 42)

you are employed somewhere or are self-employed this part will be increased, decreasing your overall net income. Now this wasn't a special raise, there had been a Holiday that the 112th Congress and Senate (the one that just left) and President Obama had put in place two years ago. With the current state of the "entitlement" programs including Social Security, the payroll tax had to be increased and the holiday was going to end at some point, the net result is a tax increase which would have had to happen this year no matter what. Secondly, long term savings in tax bearing accounts (those accounts that are taxed as they grow excluding 401(k)'s, IRA's, Pensions and other similar accounts) will continue to be treated at a lower Capital gains rate for most taxpayers as long as total income is less than \$400,000 single and \$450,000 households. Lastly, the economy should continue its recovery mid-year 2013 depending on exactly what the resolution is to the new debt ceiling deal, the raising of the country's debt limit, and how quickly they get there. This is expected to be a drawn out battle with both sides digging in their heels. Expect the economy to plateau as people wait to see what will occur. What are your thoughts?

Some think that a constant level of spending and debt carryover is needed to fuel the economy. Those individuals have a point, where in the UK Austerity or deep budget cuts have slowed the economic growth more than the rest of the world. However, they are mostly a government run economy where this economy is closer to that of a free

market economy and while government policy affects it, there is not a direct correlation to government behavior and economic behavior. Don't confuse economic behavior though with stock market performance or lack there-of. Economic performance is based more on the actual work that is done and stock market is a more subjective process. This is very similar to your income and your evaluation. Your normal salary is economic performance. You have ebbs and flows in your working life with raises, layoffs, and other job interruptions and promotions. These are natural cycles in your economic life just like recessions (a job change) depressions (layoff or losing your job) recovery (first few weeks at a new job) and prosperity (several months or years at a job with promotions and salary increases). These cycles are natural. The stock market is more a subjective view of your performance. Think of the stock market as your peer and superior review done annually. You could have had a great year numbers wise but you weren't the most friendly person so they knocked your review down, or you went out and schmooze don a regular basis and your numbers were so-so but you got a great rating. That is exactly what the stock market is, a subjective and emotional view of economic performance, based on some facts but built on emotional reactions.

The preceding are comments the current economy attempting to be presented in a simplified manner. Rodney Mogen is a Financial and Business Consultant with no ties to a Broker/Dealer. The comments above are not a representation of tax or financial advice. Any specific information to your specific situation should be directed to your advisors.

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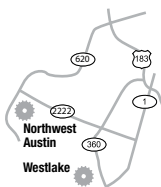
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- Trust your instincts! If you feel uncomfortable in a place or situation, leave.
- Get to know your neighbors where you live and work. Make a note of those businesses that are open late.
- Try and keep your vehicle in good running condition to avoid breakdowns away from home; if your vehicle breaks down, call for help, raise the hood, use flares, or tie a white cloth to the door handle or antenna. Stay inside the locked vehicle until help arrives. If it is dark, call a friend to come and wait with you.
- Drive with all your doors locked; windows up whenever possible.
- Do a quick visual of the inside of your vehicle before you get in.
- If attacked in an elevator, hit the alarm and as many floor buttons as possible.
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Cake Arts Soar To New Heights This February

2013 "That Takes the Cake!" Sugar Art Show and Cake Competition
February 23 and 24, 2013, North Austin Event Center, 10601 Lamar Avenue, Austin, TX 78753

The 9th annual "That Takes the Cake!" Sugar Arts Show lands in Austin on the last weekend of February, with a weekend full of events that include the acclaimed cake and sugar art competition, classes, vendors, demonstrations and more. The competition is broken into three categories: Showcakes, Divisional, and Tasting. Decorators are challenged to enter the Showcake competition using the theme of "Cake to the Air: All Clear for Cake-Off!" to build enormous cakes of airplanes, birds, butterflies, hot air balloons, or anything that flies.

The Divisional competition is open to all ages and skill levels and is further divided into style categories, such as Novelty cakes or Wedding cakes.

This year's themed categories for the Tasting competition are: Angel Food Cakes, Moon Pies, Mini-Bottle Cakes, Cookies and Candies.

"Last year we had 32 Show Cakes and about 400 Divisional entries, which makes us one of the largest cake shows in the country," said Jennifer Bartos, Show Director and owner of Make It Sweet. "We get adorable cakes from very little kids through to awe-inspiring creations from the top decorators in the world."

Kyla Myers, President of Capital Confectioners – the local club that hosts the event – agreed that the show has a global reach.

"Competitors, instructors, and guests come from all over the world every year to join us because our show not only has a reputation for magnificent edible creations, but also for down-home Austin hospitality."

A big draw of attending the Show is the opportunity to take classes with top sugar artists. This year's celebrity lineup includes some of the most respected names in the industry, including some popular participants from televised competitions such as Mike McCarey, Lauren Kitchens, Marina Sousa, Rick Reichart, Joshua John Russell, and Nicholas Lodge.

An internationally renowned sugar artist, Lodge has been the head judge at "That Takes the Cake!" for the last 5 years and will be back in 2013. "I have always been impressed with the overall level of workmanship in the competition entries at That Takes the Cake," Lodge said. Bartos mentioned that classes come in a variety of skill levels from beginner through to advanced just as the competition does. "Some are day-long professional level classes before and after the

show weekend, others are short and feature beginner-level tips. There are even some classes focused on the business side of cake decorating. Our show covers everything from basic buttercream to engineered cake stands," she said.

Myers emphasized that those interested should register fast. "Some classes have already sold out but there are still some really unique ones available to fit a variety of budgets," she said.

"Whoever you are and however long you've been decorating, there's a class and competition level for you."

General admission to the Show includes viewing the competition entries, access to specialty vendors from all over the country, entry to watch live cake decorating competitions, and participation in the hands-on informal demonstration area. A schedule of events is available at <http://thattakesthecake.org>.

"This is a family-friendly event with free admission for kids under 18, including as competitors," said Kimberly Chapman, a longtime Capital Confectioners member, show

volunteer, and past Showcake and Divisional Competition winner. "After seeing all of the incredible cakes, kids of all ages can decorate a cupcake or cookie of their own for only \$1."

Online registration is now open through February 15th at <http://thattakesthecake.org/> for general admission, the competition, and classes. The early bird discount for competition entries goes through January 18th and all competition entries must be registered by February 15th as unregistered entries are not accepted at the door. Tickets can be purchased at the door for general admission and remaining spots available in classes.

MORE INFORMATION:

"That Takes The Cake!" is hosted by Capital Confectioners' Cake Club, an organization dedicated to sharing, promoting, encouraging, and expanding the appreciation and practice of the arts of cake decorating, confections, and related media. More information about the club is available at www.capitalconfectioners.org. A portion of the proceeds of "That Takes The Cake!" is used to fund scholarships for local culinary students. Press passes for the general show should be requested via email before February 16 to be available for pickup at the volunteer pre-paid ticket booth in the entryway. Please provide reporter's name and organization in the email.

General admission is \$8 per day or \$14 for a weekend pass when purchased online in advance (door: \$10/day or \$17/weekend). Bring a non-perishable food item for Capital Area Food Bank to save \$1 off at-the-door entry price. Children under 18 are free. All other events Classes require separate registration.



SEND US YOUR *Event Pictures!!*

Do you have a picture of an event that you would like to run in this newsletter? Send it to us and we will publish it in the next issue. Email the picture to steinerranch@peelinc.com. Be sure to include the text that you would like to have as the caption. Pictures will appear in color online at www.PEELinc.com.



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HEADACHES

Submitted by Dr. Jeff Echols

I've been treating headaches for over 25 years and I believe they are very misunderstood by the general public.

It's only human nature to have a reason for why something is occurring, so when people get a headache they usually try to determine the reason for their headache. Some of the reasons I hear are quite amusing. "My husband gives me a headache, ... my boss, ...my kids." "I sit at a computer all day and THAT is the reason I have a headache." Sometimes people think that headaches are just normal and everyone gets them. I can assure you that headaches are not normal. Headaches are a sign that there is something wrong. Just like all symptoms are signs that something is wrong.

Headaches can be caused by a lot of different things. They can be caused by exotic and dangerous things like a brain tumor, but more often they are caused by common things. The most common reason is pressure on the nerves of the neck that radiate back into the head. When the bones of the spine are misaligned it will put pressure on the delicate nerves that exit the spine. This will in turn cause the muscles of the neck and shoulders to become

tight and develop knots in them. You can actually reach up and feel the knots in your muscles. These knots are not normal and are a sign of spinal misalignment and soft tissue damage. Once the spinal misalignments are corrected the muscles relax more and the headaches are gone. Just for fun, I sometimes ask a headache patient when was the last they had a headache, once they have had their spine corrected. They will usually say something like "Gosh I haven't had a headache in months". I will ask them if they got divorced and they will look at me funny and say "NO, why?" You said your husband was the cause of your headaches! "Oh I guess I was wrong!"

So headaches are not normal, but are very common. They're usually caused by nerve pressure built up in the neck which causes tight muscles in the neck and shoulders. They can usually be corrected with gentle chiropractic therapy. You should get this checked even if the headaches are mild because if the bones of the spine are misaligned it will cause arthritic changes to form in the bones of the spine which will limit your ability to move and bend as well as other difficulties. Be proactive about your health.

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Heart Healthy Lifestyles

By: Concentra Urgent Care

Approximately every 60 seconds, an American will die from a coronary event. According to the American Heart Association (AHA), an estimated 71 million Americans have some form of heart disease, the most common being high blood pressure. And most of these problems are self-created by poor lifestyle choices.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO LIVE HEART HEALTHY? THE AHA RECOMMENDS:

- Eating a healthy diet
 - Lean, skinless meats and poultry
 - Fat-free, 1% fat, and low-fat dairy products
 - Avoid foods containing partially hydrogenated vegetable oil or added sugars
 - Avoid foods high in dietary cholesterol
 - Prepare foods without added salt, saturated fat, and trans fat
 - Exercising regularly
 - 20-to-60 minutes per day, 3-to-5 times per week
 - Avoiding tobacco products and tobacco smoke
 - Limiting your alcohol intake
 - Women: 1 drink per day (maximum)
 - Men: 2 drinks per day (maximum)
- In addition to poor lifestyle choices, heredity plays a factor in heart

disease, too. It is therefore important to know your family history to help identify familial risk factors and help prevent the development of certain familial illnesses.

WHAT SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN A FAMILY HISTORY?

- Any known congenital or hereditary disorders
- Major illnesses
- Chronic ailments or risk factors
- Smoking
- Obesity
- Alcohol problems
- The cause and age of death of any deceased relatives
- Childhood conditions
- Major illnesses
- Vaccinations
- Surgeries
- Treatments, especially those involving radiation

For more information on living a heart healthy lifestyle, you can contact your health care provider or visit the American Heart Association's Web site at www.AmericanHeart.org.

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