

RANCH RECORD

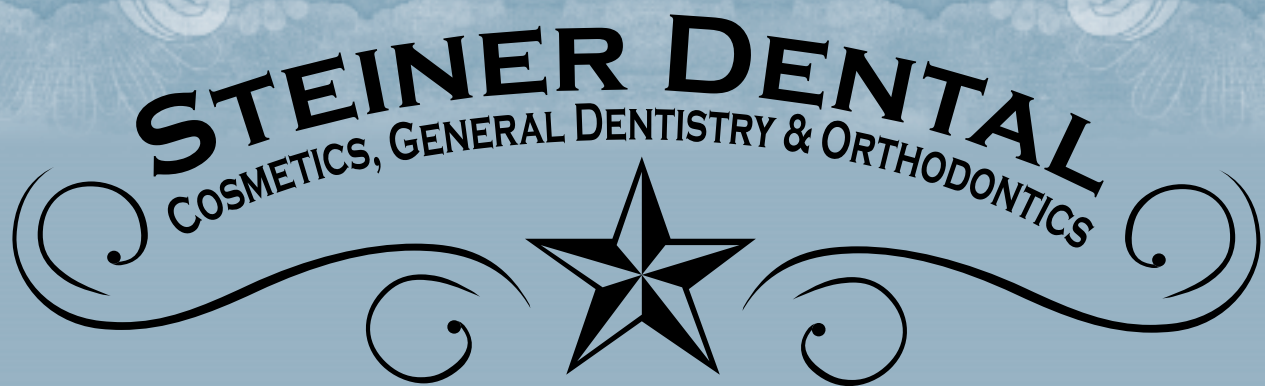
Official Newsletter for the Steiner Ranch HOA

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 4

APRIL 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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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
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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

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TORNADOS

Home Athletics Schedule April 2013

DATE	SPORT	OPPONENT	TIME
4/9	BB	Trinity	7:00 p.m.
4/12	SB	Hardin-Simmons (DH)	4:00 p.m.
4/13	SB	Hardin-Simmons (DH)	2:00 p.m.
4/15	BB	Southwestern	7:00 p.m.

BB (Baseball)

SB (Softball)

**CTX Athletics is Now
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Applications!!!**

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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 another difficult one to choose as we had so many great photos! This one was taken by Steven Puhlovich of his kids, Sam and Paige on the Bright Sky Overlook Trail. We hope you and your family can get out on the wonderful Steiner Ranch trail system this Spring!

Do you take great photos?

***Would you like to see your photo published?
We are looking for great cover photos for upcoming May
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 May 2013 issue submittal deadline is April 8th 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.

Table of Contents

AROUND STEINER

- 6 Happy Birthday!
- 6 It's Snake Season!
- 6 2013 Steiner Ranch Social Events
- 8 Steiner Ranch Social Committee Chili Cook-Off
- 10 Spring Neighborhood Garage Sale
- 10 Bake Sale
- 12 Young at Heart Events
- 13 It's Vegas Baby!
- 14 Steiner Ranch Tennis
- 14 Firewise Around Austin
- 15 Steiner Moms and Tots
- 16 Saddle Up and Ride!
- 18 Scrap-a-Thon!
- 18 The Steiner Ranch Art Show
- 20 Pets in the Park
- 20 Steiner Ranch Summer Camps
- 21 American Red Cross Babysitter Training Course
- 22 Young at Heart Cruise
- 23 Girl Scouts

POOL & SWIMMING NEWS

- 24 Spring Pool Hours
- 25 Steiner Stars Summer League Swimming
- 25 Year Round Swimming Program for Adults
- 26 Water Aerobic Begins in May
- 28 Stars Pool Usage

SPORTS NEWS

- 32 12-14 Girls Steiner Steelers Take 3rd

FROM THE ASSOCIATION OFFICE

- 34 Annual Meetings Notice
- 34 Come Serve on the SRROA Board of Directors
- 36 Compliance Corner - Overnight Street Parking
- 36 Yard Waste Pick Up
- 37 Communication Overload
- 37 Responsible Pet Owners
- 38 Sidestepping Solicitors

SCHOOL NEWS

- 40 Thanks for Making Giddy Up Gala a Success!
- 41 Giddy Up Gala Highlights
- 42 LWBE 2013 Spring Carnival

BUSINESS SECTION

- 44 Seven Business Networking Groups in the Area

NEWS YOU CAN USE

- 46 Are You ABLE To Help?
- 48 Financial Focus - How to Budget
- 52 Worried About Crime In Your Neighborhood?
- 54 Workshop Series

KIDS STUFF

- 58 Playgrounds

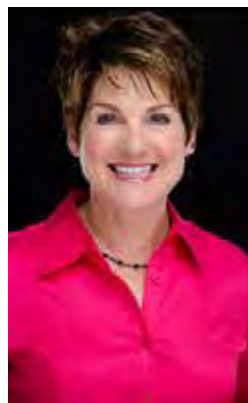
IN EVERY ISSUE

- 30 Calendar
- 45 Teenage Job Seekers
- 45 Classifieds

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Around Steiner



April 30th
Madelynn Long

April 30th
Scarlett Long

IT'S SNAKE SEASON

In the spring time, snakes are hungry after a winter of being mostly dormant and will go wherever food is most easily found. Also, spring is breeding season, so males are actively seeking out females. Once summer comes around, snake activity during the daytime drops off because of the heat. Snakes generally find a cool spot to hide during the day. These cooler areas can be any number of places, such as under concrete slabs, in wood piles, or even in buildings. In the evenings they become active as they come out to look for food. What do you do if you find a snake? Bring the kids and come find out!!!

FREE Snake and Reptile Education Seminar

Sunday, April 14th at 2:30pm

Towne Square Community Center

Non-Venomous & Venomous Snakes will be present.
This is a popular seminar and will be standing room only!



Mark Your Calendars

2013 Steiner Ranch Social Events

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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Steiner Ranch Residents Make Great Chili At The **Steiner Ranch Social Committee Chili Cook-Off**



Steiner Ranch residents enjoyed delicious chili entries from neighbors and friends along with some great music at the annual Chili Cook-Off on Saturday, February 16th, at the Towne Square Community Center.

Residents enjoyed a huge variety of chili with everything from chicken, venison meat, traditional beef, burn the roof of your mouth hot and ethnic varieties. Every chili was delicious and unique. Steiner Ranch has proven to be full of talented cooks!

This year's winners are:

- Champion – Jeff Sabuda
- 2nd - Charlie Wemyss
- 3rd Place - Matt Welch
- People's Choice – Ingrid Dettan

Congratulations to this year's Chili cook-off winners!

Gift baskets for the winners were provided by our sponsors.

A big THANK YOU goes out to sponsors Gene Arant of Gene Arant - Keller Williams Realty for the 1st place basket, and Brandy Finnessey of RE/MAX for the People's Choice basket, as well as an event sponsor along with Randolph Brooks Federal Credit Union.

LIVE entertainment was provided by Chris Austin Martinez who plays events all over Austin as well as private events. Please take the time to look up more information about our sponsors who do so much to support our community and events.

As always, we owe a big thank you to the Steiner Ranch Social Committee Volunteers, Jannine Farnum, Chili Cook-off Chair and our resident volunteers.

If you have not yet participated in one of our community events, watch the Ranch Record for event information and join us! These events are great fun, and a great opportunity to meet new friends and neighbors, and be a part of your community!



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Around Steiner

Spring Neighborhood Garage Sale

Spring has sprung and it is time to clean out the closets and make that garage a 2-car garage again! The semiannual Steiner Ranch neighborhood garage sale is just around the corner, Saturday, April 13th from 8:00am to 12:00pm.

As over the past few years, the Gene Arant Team of Keller Williams Realty will be setting up their After Garage Sale Drop-Off, to receive your clothing and household items of donation and deliver accordingly. The recipients of this year's donated items will be SafePlace, Mobile Loaves & Fishes, and neighboring in need families.

The drop off site is the former Welcome Center, now the Real Estate Welcome Center and home to the Gene Arant Team, located at 4304 N. Quinlan Park Rd. Donation times will be accepted immediately following the garage sale, 12:00pm to 2:00pm. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help with the loading and/or delivery, please call us at 512.261.1000.

HAPPY PURGING!

Bake Sale!

The Heart to Heart 5th grade girls Club, will be hosting a bake sale throughout Steiner Ranch. Proceeds will benefit families in the Steiner area, The Andrade's and The Crawford's, and the Dell Cancer and Blood Project.



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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. Residents 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:

TOUR OF GOVERNOR'S MANSION

Date and Time to be determined: The Governor's Mansion is again open for tours! Built in 1856 and beautifully restored after a devastating fire in 2008, the Mansion contains a valuable collection of art and antiques. Because we had so many people respond for the March tour, we have scheduled a second tour which will take place after April 23 when the Mansion officially opens for tours.

BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, April 9th: 12:30 pm - Big Rock Candy Mountain by Wallace Stegner

BRIDGE - LADIES SOCIAL

Wednesdays, April 10 & 24: An afternoon of Bridge and conversation. If you would like to play regularly or substitute, contact Young at Heart with your information. Additional groups are being formed.

BRIDGE - EVENING

Experienced Bridge players get together monthly for dessert and Bridge.

BUNKO

Thursday, April 18: 7pm - Enjoy a light-hearted game of Bunko and light refreshments.

CANASTA

A friendly casual game of Canasta takes place in the homes of members. Dates and times are chosen by the group. If you enjoy playing or would like to learn, please contact Young at Heart.

CONCERTS AND PLAYS

Attendance at various musical and theatrical events are planned for small and large groups of Young at Hearts.

DINNER GROUPS

Groups of eight people (both couples and singles) get together to enjoy dinner and lively conversation four times over a six month period. Groups are organized to dine either in restaurants or in each other's homes. The next groups will be set up in June.

EPICUREANS

Date and Time to be determined: Al Fresco Dinner Party - Space limits the number of people who can participate in this adventurous group of cooks. Theme dinners, cooking classes, visits to wineries are among the activities. Put your name on the waiting list if you love to cook, entertain and eat!

EXPLORING AUSTIN

Occasional trips in and around Austin to visit places of interest. In April we are having another tour of the Governor's Mansion.

GAME NIGHT

Friday, April 5: 7pm - Couples get together to play various Board

Games, Charades, Pictionary, etc.

GARDEN CLUB

Friday, April 19: 1:30 pm - "Preparing the Soil and Selecting the Right Plants." This will be a hands-on meeting. Bring your garden gloves!

HAPPY HOUR

Tuesday, April 23: 5pm - University of Texas Golf Club

HIKING

This group of avid hikers gets together to hike trails in Steiner and around Austin. Dates and places are decided by the group.

LADIES GOLF

Tuesdays, April 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30: Falconhead Golf Club - If you'd like to play golf with the Steiner Ranch ladies, please contact Young at Heart.

LADIES LUNCHING OUT

Tuesday, April 16: 12 Noon - Restaurant to be determined. The ladies get together every month to enjoy good food and friendship at various area restaurants.

MEXICAN TRAIN (DOMINOES)

Wednesday, April 3: 1pm - Mexican Train is easy to learn and fun to play. Join the ladies for an afternoon of fun and conversation. Another Mexican Train group is also being organized.

MOVIE LOVERS

This group of avid movie fans selects a film to view and discuss. Those in the group are notified of the movie, date and time. If some cannot attend with the group, they may see it on their own and get together with the group to discuss it. If you want to participate, please contact Young at Heart.

ROMEO (RETIRED OLD MEN EATING OUT)

Monday, April 8: You don't have to be old or retired to enjoy having lunch with the Guys at various restaurants in the Austin area.

TECHNOLOGY USERS GROUP

Thursday, April 11: 1pm - Topic: Microsoft Word. Laurie Scott, our local Steiner Ranch "geek" will be teaching us that Word isn't just for writing letters and documents. She will demonstrate Word Art, Images, Macros, etc.

WALKING GROUP

Thursdays, April 4, 11, 18 & 25: 8:30 am - This 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

Casual get-togethers in members' homes. Everyone brings their beverage of choice and an appetizer to share. Alternates monthly with Happy Hours. The next Wine Social will be in May.



IT'S VEGAS BABY!

Casino Night

Saturday, May 11th 7:00pm – 11:00pm
Towne Square Community Center

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

HOW MUCH?

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

Raffle item donations: Interested in donating raffle items? Please contact Sharon Adams at sharon@steinerranchhoa.org. Registration information is available online at www.steinerranchhoa.org. If you are a local business and would like to donate a prize for the raffle, you will receive valuable recognition at the event and be published in an upcoming issue. Contact Sharon Adams at sharon@steinerranchhoa.org for more information. This event is limited to the first 60 registrations received.

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Steiner Ranch Tennis

By Nathasha Collmann

Any walk, ride, hike or jog through the neighborhood will quickly illustrate that Steiner Ranch is a very active community. If you have ever tried to reserve a SR tennis court, you know that tennis ranks very high on the neighborhood's list of popular activities.

The SR tennis courts are home to a robust calendar of league play. SR tennis leagues are close to capacity with twelve WTTA weekday women's teams, four USTA weekday women's teams, and an ATL Saturday mixed team. In addition to league play, many residents take lessons on the courts. This includes private, semi-private, and group lessons. With all of these activities, it is no surprise that it can be a challenge to reserve courts during peak times such as weekday mornings, after school, and in the evenings.

The opening of the UT Tennis Club should help to alleviate some of the overcrowding on SR courts. Of course, SR residents who are UT Tennis Club members are still able to utilize the SR courts and play on SR teams. However, the SRTA (Steiner Ranch Tennis Association) expects to see some relief in the fall and a gradual improvement in court availability as the club grows its membership and league teams.

The mission of the SRTA is to "ensure opportunities for participation in tennis at all skill levels for residents of Steiner Ranch...encouraging fellowship and good sportsmanship." This can be challenging given the current demands on our courts and the popularity of league play. I would like to thank those who have volunteered their time and energy on the SRTA Board to ensure that the rules for court usage are fair and impartial for both league and recreational players and to represent the needs and desires of the tennis community to the homeowners' association boards and committees. If you would like a voice in such decisions, we encourage you to attend meetings or fill any open SRTA Board positions. Positions on the SRTA Board are held for no longer than two years and are posted on www.srcourts.com when openings occur. (Regular terms begin/end in May and are posted in February).

SRTA NEWS/REMINDERS

The John Simpson Courts are now reservable Monday – Friday at www.srcourts.com. These courts are for individual use ONLY. They are NOT to be used for league play or organized team practices - with the exception of the pre-approved court usage for USTA teams for 2.5 hours on Thursdays and pre-approved group lessons. The courts will remain walk-up courts on the weekends. ALL instructors MUST register and be approved through the HOA to give Group Lessons (more than three students on the court). Contact srcourts@gmail.com for more information. As a courtesy to other players, please cancel your reservation if you will not be using it. Often the courts are completely booked online, yet empty when you drive by. Excessive no-shows may result in suspension of reservation privileges. Reservations are forfeited after 15 minutes. Report tennis court related maintenance issues directly to the HOA office at 266-7553. Send your suggestions/comments to srcourts@gmail.com. Tennis is a great way to enjoy the outdoors, get some exercise, enjoy friendly competition, and spend time with friends. Thanks and Go Play!



FIREWISE AROUND AUSTIN

Recently, I was invited to attend a workshop hosted by the Firewise Committee in Sun City, and I wanted to share what they are doing in their community. I realize that their community is different from ours, but they are actively making some changes to be better prepared in the event of a wildfire situation. As a community, I think it is time for Steiner Ranch to ask some pertinent questions like: How do we involve the entire community in our Firewise efforts? Are we doing enough? Do you feel safe?

One of the first things I noticed is how active the Sun City residents are in their Fuel Reduction Program. This is a retirement community, so many of the residents have the time to volunteer. They have a weekly workday every Thursday and work alongside the maintenance crews to remove debris in areas. Their Firewise Committee works with the Maintenance crew to identify and prioritize areas most in need of fuel reduction. The maintenance crew then works with the volunteers to treat these areas and aid in chipping the debris. They also use Google Earth maps to identify the areas where fuel breaks are needed.

Financially, the residents of Sun City agreed to a \$40/home permanent increase in their HOA dues. With this money they were able to hire additional maintenance personnel, purchase a bobcat with forestry mulcher attachment (\$70k plus maintenance of \$5k/yr.), and purchase chippers and chainsaws (exclusively used by maintenance crews NOT volunteers). In addition, the Firewise Committee meets regularly with the maintenance lead to identify priority areas for either volunteers or for maintenance manned workdays. A simple increase of \$40/home (the price of a good bottle of wine) each year in Steiner Ranch would amount to approximately \$160k/yr for a Firewise budget.

Firewise also has taken hold in other neighboring communities. Lakeway has large Fuel Reduction Workdays in public parks. River Place has annual Fuel Reduction Workdays in common areas in conjunction with City of Austin and has an established Firewise Committee with an HIZ (Hazardous Ignition Zone) Assessment team. Jester Estates has formed a substantial committee and scheduled a community-wide workday in April with the City of Austin.

The City of Austin has a new Wildfire Mitigation Program and is working to reduce fuels around town especially in the hills in West Austin where high end homes are tucked into dense groves of woodlands. Sound familiar? We are not in the city, so we are not on the receiving end of this program. We have to be proactive in taking care of ourselves and working to reduce our wildfire exposure. The question is how. Do we keep going on a voluntary basis and take baby steps towards this end? Or do we need to raise our dues and begin an aggressive campaign to reduce our fuel load? Join in the discussion on our FB page - Steiner Ranch Firewise and tell us what you think.

Steiner Moms and Tots

LOOKING FOR LEADERS!

The organizers of Steiner Moms and Tots are both working moms and former professionals. Because of this, we understand our members' desires to maintain connections and work skills while raising children. As a group we aim to provide opportunities for members that want to keep both their social calendars active and their professional talents polished.

Over the past two years, Steiner Moms & Tots has been highly visible in the community. We have organized and hosted community-wide events including the 4th of July Parade and Halloween Trunk-or-Treat and have raised money for local charities. Events like these would not be possible without the motivation and drive of our leadership team. Steiner Moms & Tots is currently looking for moms who would love the opportunity to take on a leadership role and continue the success and vision of this group. We are always open to new ideas and ways to give back to the community.

If you have a skill you'd like to exercise or interest you'd like to explore, please contact us and we'll find a place for you! Leadership roles are being filled now.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We are excited to welcome all of our new members! We started a wonderful year celebrating at "Stylin' Island", our annual Member Meeting in March. New and existing members enjoyed shopping from our local vendors, food and beverages from our very own Steiner restaurants and an evening of getting to know your fellow Steiner moms. If you missed out on the meeting, we offer additional new members throughout the year, so please join today.

Moms & Tots is a organized and managed through Meetup.com—to join our group, please register and complete a profile at: <http://www.meetup.com/Steiner-Moms-Meetup>. An annual \$15 membership fee is required for each member. If you are interested in leadership opportunities or for additional information on Steiner Moms & Tots, please contact Morgan Briscoe at: 512-413-6112 or morgan.briscoe@gmail.com.

DATES FOR APRIL CALENDAR:

- 4/3: SMAT Park & Picnic
- 4/8: SMAT All Abilities Park
- 4/9: SMAT Mom's Night Out
- 4/15: SMAT Book Club
- 4/19: SMAT Meet the Fireman

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SADDLE UP AND RIDE!

The Steiner Ranch Cycling Club is a group of fun loving cyclist that enjoy getting outside, burning calories, and meeting new people. Cycling is easy on your body, good for your health and a great way to build community.

Apr. 5 - FIRST FRIDAY RIDE-This is a monthly responsible social ride that will have around 50 cyclists. We will start from the Capitol Building at 6:30pm and this month will end at East Side Pedal Pushers where refreshments will be waiting for us. The ride is about 8 miles and people can head out downtown afterwards and meet family or friends. To learn more about this event please visit www.austincycling.org

Sat. Apr. 6 - You have your choice of two rides: Meet at Cups & Cones at 8:30am for a 45-65 mile bike ride. This ride is designated for intermediate to advanced riders. We average a minimum of 19 mph and we rotate between the Triple B's, Cozy Cove, the Dam Loop, or the Avery Ranch Loop. While we try to keep the group together but there is no designated sweeper for this ride. **OR** The Spokes 'n Spurs charity ride is a great Hill Country ride benefiting Spirit Reins! Spokes 'n Spurs directly supports Spirit Reins' mission in transforming the lives of children and families through trauma-informed therapy services, training and research. Spirit Reins offers a variety of innovative professional counseling services, but specializes in Trauma-Focused Equine Assisted Psychotherapy (TF-EAP) in serving children who have experienced abuse, neglect, or other traumatic events. www.spiritreins.org

Sun. Apr. 7 - Meet at Cups & Cones at 8:30am for the Tour de Steiner Ranch. This ride is about 25 miles and is a NO DROP ride and all are welcomed. You should be able to average at least 14 mph for this ride.

Sat. Apr. 13 - Meet at Cups & Cones at 8:30am for a 45-65 mile bike ride. This ride is designated for intermediate to advanced riders. We average a minimum of 19 mph and we rotate between the Triple B's, Cozy Cove, the Dam Loop, or the Avery Ranch Loop. While we try to keep the group together but there is no designated sweeper for this ride.

Sun. Apr. 14 - Meet at Cups & Cones at 8:30am for the Tour de Steiner Ranch. This ride is about 25 miles and is a NO DROP ride and all are welcomed. You should be able to average at least 14 mph for this ride.

Sat. Apr. 20 - Meet at Cups & Cones at 8:30am for a 45-65 mile bike ride. This ride is designated for intermediate to advanced riders. We average a minimum of 19 mph and we rotate between the Triple B's, Cozy Cove, the Dam Loop, or the Avery Ranch Loop. While we try to keep the group together but there is no designated sweeper for this ride.

The MS150 is going on this weekend and if you are interested in doing this ride you can learn more at www.ms150.org

Sun. Apr. 21 - Meet at Cups & Cones at 8:30am for the Tour de Steiner Ranch. This ride is about 25 miles and is a NO DROP ride and all are welcomed. You should be able to average at least 14 mph for this ride.

Sat. Apr. 27 - Meet at Cups & Cones at 8:30am for a 45-65 mile bike ride. This ride is designated for intermediate to advanced riders. We average a minimum of 19 mph and we rotate between the Triple B's, Cozy Cove, the Dam Loop, or the Avery Ranch Loop. While we try to keep the group together but there is no designated sweeper for this ride.

Sun. Apr. 28 - Meet at Steiner Ranch Steakhouse at 8am for the monthly Jack & Adams bike ride. After the ride the Steakhouse sponsors a ½ price brunch and live music. The ride is about 34 miles and there is a beginner, intermediate and advanced ride.

If you are interested in riding with the Steiner Ranch Cycling Club then come join us for a ride. You can also receive more details about our rides and get up to date information at www.steinerranchcycling.com or you can LIKE our Facebook page "Steiner Ranch Cycling".

TOUR DE CURE STEINER RANCH TEAM: Please get an early start and join our 2013 Tour de Cure team. If you want to get an early start please join as soon as you get a chance at <http://main.diabetes.org/goto/BEEF> The route this year is going to be very nice and scenic. The ride is on September 8th. The team is sponsored by Texas Beef Council, Steiner Ranch Cycling Club and Steiner Ranch Old Pros.

Please join Steiner Ranch Cycling in thanking the following sponsors for supporting cycling in our community. Next time you see a group of cyclist decked out in red, white and blue then you will know it is the Steiner Ranch Cycling Club and the following sponsors made it happen.

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RIDE DISCLAIMER: Each rider is responsible for his or her own safety on our rides. Please join us at your own risk. Our weekly rides are open to public participation but ride leaders do NOT assume any liability for your participation.

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Around Steiner

STEINER SCRAPPERS

Scrap-A-Thon

Steiner Scrappers will be dedicating hours of hard work and exceptional creativity at the Steiner Scrappers Scrapbooking Marathon!

When: Fri., April 5th at 6:30pm to Sun., April 7th at 4:30pm

Cost: \$25 for the entire weekend!

(You will be responsible for your own meals)

Where: Towne Square Community Center

WHAT CAN I EXPECT?:

- No distraction from kids, spouse, or home
- One six foot long table of your very own for scrappin' (leave it set up the entire weekend)
- Fabulous gifts
- Meet old & new friends
- A Creative Memories Consultant with inventory for sale & supplies

Hurry! Space is limited to the first 25 reservations! First Come, First Served! Registration is available on-line at www.steinerranchhoa.org

The Steiner Ranch Art Show

Come out and meet the artists of Steiner Ranch!

Enjoying the beauty of Spring and the surrounding beauty of Steiner Ranch, we are pleased to announce the inaugural Steiner Ranch Art Show. The art show will showcase work from Steiner Ranch residents and the surrounding Four Points area. Our area's best artists will display and sell their paintings, drawings, jewelry, stationary, hair accessories and metal art.

The art show takes place on Saturday, May 4th, from 11a.m. - 4p.m. in Steiner Ranch at the Steiner Ranch Town Square Community Center at 12550 Country Trails Lane.

Come and see this display of art that is typically shown and sold in cities and states across the country. We extend a warm invitation for you to join us for this special and beautiful event in Steiner Ranch.



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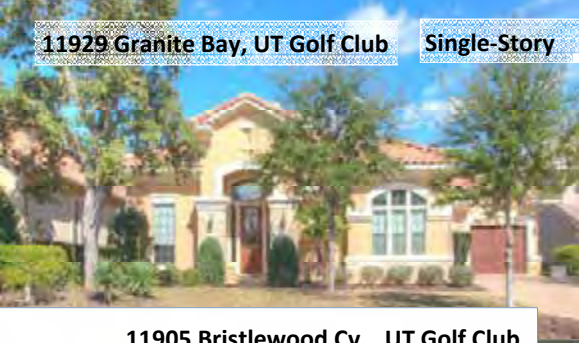
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Around Steiner

PETS IN THE PARK

Sunday, June 2, 2013 | Noon til 5 PM

Towne Square Community Park in Steiner Ranch

Attention Animal Lovers!! Do you love pets? Do you have a pet? Do you just LOVE ANIMALS?!?

Come spend an afternoon in the park (BRING YOUR PET!) with live music and food to our event benefitting the Austin Animal Center. There will be a variety of local community businesses and pet vendors including: veterinarians, pet-sitters, pet trainers, pet suppliers, and, of course, the Austin Animal Center.

This event is being hosted by Lake Austin Service Unit Girl Scout Junior Troop 2375 to raise awareness about pet ownership, fostering and care in hopes of alleviating the significant overcrowded conditions at the shelter.

Please come join us to recognize the hard work of one of our community Girl Scout troops and to support the Austin Animal Center. This is a free, non-profit event. Pet Supply Donations for the Austin Animal Center are welcome.



Registration for Summer Camps is now in full swing! Look for registration forms and current information on-line at www.steinerranchhoa.org. Here are of 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
- Abrakadoodle Art Camp
- Kidventure Camp
- Mad Science Camp
- Lego Camp
- Culinary Cooking Camp
- Abrakadoodle
- KidzArt

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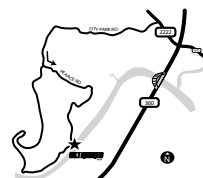
CRAWFISH BOILS \$8 per pound
at SKI SHORES with corn and potatoes
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Weekly Events

- Steak Night Every Thursday
- Breakfast Sat & Sun, 8a - 11a
- NEW Menu Coming Soon!
- Friday Family Night - FREE movie & S'mores @ dusk

skishoresaustin.com



Call to book birthday parties, happy hours and corporate functions.

Call (512) 394-7511 or email info@skishoresaustin.com

American Red Cross Babysitter Training Course

9:00am – 4:00pm | \$50 per person

Towne Square Community Center, 12550 Country Trails Lane

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

Apr. 20 | July 27 | Oct. 19 | Dec. 7

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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Young At Heart Cruise

During the week of Valentine's Day, a group of 47 members of Steiner Ranch Young at Heart and their friends took a seven day cruise on Royal Caribbean's Mariner of the Seas. Sailing from Galveston, the cruise included stops in Honduras, Belize and Cozumel and included a private on-board party. The cruise was so popular that the Second Annual Young at Heart Cruise is planned for January 2014 on Celebrity's newest ship, Reflection. To get more information about the upcoming cruise, please contact Paula Kaisner (pkaisner@cruiseone.com).



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GIRL SCOUTS

On February 23rd the cafeteria of Four Points Middle School was transformed into an international exhibit featuring songs, dances, games and food from all over the world at the annual Girl Scouts 'World Thinking Day. Each year World Thinking Day signifies one day that girls honor their sister Girl Guides and Girl Scouts by taking time to give thanks for their international friendships and remember that Girl Scouts of the USA is part of a global community—one of nearly 150 countries that are members of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS).

This community event was organized by Deb Lovett and had over 350 attend. Each troop that exhibited represented a different country, and provided an educational display about that country in addition to a sampling of traditional food. Scouts shared handmade "SWAPS" (Special Whatchamacallits Affectionately Pinned Somewhere) with each other and enjoyed the variety of entertainment, and traditional costumes.

Girl Scouts builds girls of courage, confidence and character that make the world a better place.



JOIN US FOR GOLF AND A GREAT CAUSE!

DATE: Tuesday, April 30th

11:00 am Registration - 1:00 pm Start

LOCATION: River Place Country Club

FORMAT: 4-person scramble

COST: \$165 per golfer*

*Includes lunch, dinner and lots of swag

Dinner provided by:

Craig O's



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Register online at:

www.colinshope.org

Questions about the event?

Contact Jancy Darling

jancy.darling@colinshope.org

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Pool & Swimming News

SPRING POOL HOURS

It's getting warmer outside, and that means more people at the pools. Remember that the Bella Mar Lap pool is for Lap Swimming and children that are not potty trained are not allowed in this pool:

BELLA MAR – (LAP POOL HEATED)

Monday 2:00pm – 10:00pm

Tue-Sun 7:00am 10:00pm

The following programs will be using the lap pool:

Master's Swim Program – Wednesday & Friday 5:30am – 6:45am;

Sunday 6:30am – 7:45am

VHS Swimming - Mon., Wed., Fri. 7:45am – 9:15am

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

Austin Elite Swimming – Monday – Friday 4:30pm – 6:30pm.

TOWNE SQUARE – (UNHEATED)

Closed Monday until 12:00pm

Tuesday – Sunday 8:00am – 10:00pm

JOHN SIMPSON – (UNHEATED)

Closes Monday at 2:00pm

Tuesday – Sunday 8:00am – 10:00pm

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

Swim at your own risk.

See Stars Pool Usage Information on Page 28



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STEINER STARS SUMMER LEAGUE SWIMMING

The Steiner Stars will be starting their season at the end of April. Currently, Steiner Stars Red lead by Coach Kay Gerken is in Division I and Steiner Stars Blue lead by Coach Robert Brewer is in Division II of the Northwest Swim Circuit. In all, Steiner Stars Swim team has over 500 Steiner Ranch resident swimmers.

REGISTRATION FOR NEW FAMILIES

Registration for new families will be on April 6th, location will be released on the Steiner Stars website (www.steinerstars.org) at 6am the morning of April 6. Residents must be in good standing with the HOA in order to register with the team and there are volunteer requirements for participation in the league. Space in each group is limited and in order to participate the child must be 5 or older by May 1, 2013.

NEW PARENT ORIENTATION

New swim families are encouraged to attend the new parent orientation meeting on Sunday, April 21 at the Towne Square Community Center. It will begin promptly at 6pm. After the general meeting, the coaches will address their team families separately.

SEASON KICK OFF PARTY

Steiner Stars will hold their annual kick off party on May 10 at the Towne Square fields from 5-8pm. All parents and swimmers of Steiner Stars are invited.

SWIM TEAM PRACTICE TIMES AT BELLA MAR

Stars Red

April 30 through June 6: Tues. & Thurs. 3:30pm to 7:30pm

June 11 through July 5 : Tues. - Fri. 7:30am to 12:30pm

Stars Blue

April 29 through June 5: Mon. & Wed. 3:30pm to 7:30pm

June 10 through July 3: Mon. - Thurs. 1:30pm to 6:30pm

There will be no practices held on July 4th

(Thursday), due to the holiday.

STARS HOME MEETS AT BELLA MAR

June 1 (Saturday) Stars Blue vs. Brushy Creek Marlins*

June 8 (Saturday) Stars Red vs. Round Rock Dolphins*

June 19 (Wednesday) Stars Red vs. Stars Blue

June 22 (Saturday) Stars Red vs. Anderson Mill Barracudas*

June 29 (Saturday) Stars Blue vs. Georgetown Aquadillos

**These meets will have a shuttle in use to help*

alleviate the parking congestion around the

Bella Mar Community Center.

-- Steiner Stars trophies are on display at the HOA office.

See Stars Pool Usage Information on Page 28.

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!

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WATER AEROBIC BEGINS IN MAY

If you want to get into an exercise program, but cannot get motivated, or the pavement plays havoc on your knees, legs or hips, or you just don't want to exercise in the workout room by yourself, try WATER AEROBICS. Water aerobic classes will again be offered this Spring/Summer @ Towne Square Pool in Steiner Ranch. Classes will begin May 1st. The schedule will be as follows:

Mon/Wed @ 6:45 pm

Tues/Thurs @ 9:00 am

16 classes/month @ \$75

8 classes/month @ \$45

4 classes/month @ \$25

(plus \$5.00 for non-residents of Steiner Ranch)

Classes are 50 minutes long & will incorporate a full body workout in the water. Classes are lead by a certified water aerobics instructor.

Some of the benefits of water aerobics fitness program are:

- strengthen & improve muscle tone
- enhances muscular flexibility
- increases range of motion
- improves posture & physical appearance
- relieves tension & stress
- increases energy levels & stamina
- burns up calories
- strengthens the cardiorespiratory system (heart, muscles, & brain)

These classes are a great way to start the morning or end a "trying" day at the office or work. Come join us for lots of fun & great workouts to music. It's an opportunity to meet your neighbors & make new friends. These classes are for both adult men & women.

For more information, call Ann @ 266-4780 or email askennedy@austin.rr.com. Sign up will take place prior to the first class of every month @ Towne Square Pool.



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SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30 AM

12600 Country Trails Lane, Austin TX 78732

Lakeline Campus

SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 8:30, 10 AND 11:30 AM

12124 Ranch Road 620 North, Austin TX 78750

Stars Pool Usage

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 AM	5-May	6-May	7-May	8-May	9-May	10-May	11-May
2 PM			Bella Mar: 3:30-7:30 PM				
3 AM	12-May	13-May	14-May	15-May	16-May	17-May	18-May
4 PM			Bella Mar: 3:30-7:30 PM				
5 AM	19-May	20-May	21-May	22-May	23-May	24-May	25-May
6 PM			Bella Mar: 3:30-7:30 PM				
7 AM	26-May	27-May	28-May	29-May	30-May	31-May	1-Jun
8 PM		MEMORIAL DAY		Bella Mar: 3:30-7:30 PM			Home Meet Bella Mar
9 AM	2-Jun	3-Jun	4-Jun	5-Jun	6-Jun	7-Jun	8-Jun
10 PM							Home Meet Bella Mar
11 AM	9-Jun	10-Jun	11-Jun	12-Jun	13-Jun	14-Jun	15-Jun
12 PM			Bella Mar: 7:30am-12:30pm				
13 AM	16-Jun	17-Jun	18-Jun	19-Jun	20-Jun	21-Jun	22-Jun
14 PM			CC: 7:30a-12:30p	Red v Blue 3:30 - 10p	7:30am - 12:30pm		Home Meet Bella Mar
15 AM	23-Jun	24-Jun	25-Jun	26-Jun	27-Jun	28-Jun	29-Jun
16 PM			Bella Mar: 7:30am-12:30pm				Home Meet Bella Mar
17 AM	30-Jun	1-Jul	2-Jul	3-Jul	4-Jul	5-Jul	6-Jul
18 PM			BMCC: 7:30a-12:30p		July 4th		
19 AM	7-Jul	8-Jul	9-Jul	10-Jul	11-Jul	12-Jul	13-Jul
20 PM		Party/BMCC 4-8 PM	John Simpson: 7:30 AM - 12:30 PM				
21 AM	14-Jul	15-Jul	16-Jul	17-Jul	18-Jul	19-Jul	20-Jul
22 PM			John Simpson: 7:30 AM - 12:30 PM				
23 AM	21-Jul	22-Jul	23-Jul	24-Jul	25-Jul	26-Jul	27-Jul
24 PM			John Simpson: 7:30 AM - 12:30 PM				
25 AM	28-Jul	29-Jul	30-Jul	31-Jul	1-Aug	2-Aug	3-Aug
26 PM			John Simpson: 7:30 AM - 12:30 PM				
27 AM	4-Aug	5-Aug	6-Aug	7-Aug	8-Aug	9-Aug	10-Aug
28 PM			Bella Mar AES 4:30pm - 6:30pm (3 lanes)				
29 AM	11-Aug	12-Aug	13-Aug	14-Aug	15-Aug	16-Aug	17-Aug
30 PM			Bella Mar AES 4:30pm - 6:30pm (3 lanes)				

After school practice schedule
Bella Mar facility
3:30 PM - 7:30 PM
Alternate red/blue teams
NO open lap swim lanes

RED team - morning practice
Bella Mar facility
7:30 am - 12:30 pm
NO open lap swim lanes

BLUE team - afternoon practice
Bella Mar facility
1:30 pm - 6:30 pm
ONE open lap swim lane
(5:30 - 6:30 upon request)

Shooting Stars
John Simpson facility
7:30 am - 12:30 pm

No Stars Practice - holiday

Home Meets at Bella Mar

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4:30pm - 6:30pm



NOTE:
*Practice begins
April 29th*

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April 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6:30pm - FREE Yoga (TSCC) 8:30pm - FREE Aikido (BMCC)	2 6:30pm - Facilities Committee Meeting (TSCC)	3 1:00pm - YAH Mexican Train SMAT Park & Picnic	4 8:30 am - YAH Walking Group 7:00pm - Importance of Managing Coronary Risk Factors (TSCC)	5 6:00pm - Scrap-A-Thon (TSCC) 7:00pm - YAH Game Night	6 All Day - Scrap-A-Thon (TSCC)
 7 All-Day - Scrap-A-Thon (TSCC)	8 YAH ROMEO 6:30pm - FREE Yoga (TSCC) Newsletter Articles/Photos Due 7pm SRNA Board Meeting (BMCC) 8:30pm - FREE Aikido (BMCC)	9 9:30am - Social Committee Meeting (Cups & Cones) 12:30pm - YAH Book Club SMAT Mom's Night Out	10 YAH Bridge Club	11 8:30 am - YAH Walking Group 1:00pm - YAH Technology Users Group (TSCC)	12	13 8:00am - 12:00pm - Spring Neighborhood Garage Sale
Spring Yard Waste Pick-Up Week						
14 2:30pm - Snake Seminar (TSCC)	15 YAH ROMEO 6:30pm - FREE Yoga (TSCC) 8:30pm - FREE Aikido (BMCC) SMAT Book Club	16 12:00pm - YAH Ladies Lunching Out 6:30pm - Is Your Master Closet a Master Disaster? (TSCC)	17	18 8:30am - YAH Walking Group YAH Garden Club 7:00pm - YAH Bunco (BMCC)	19 1:30pm - YAH Garden Club SMAT Meet the Fireman	20 9:00am - 5:00pm - American Red Cross Babysitting Class (TSCC)
 21 Swim Team Parent Meetings	22 6:30pm - FREE Yoga (TSCC) President's Day 6:30 pm - Firewise Committee Meeting (BMCC) 8:30pm - FREE Aikido (BMCC)	23 5:00pm - YAH Happy Hour - UT Golf Club 6:30pm - SRMA Annual Meeting (TSCC)	24 YAH Bridge Club 3:30pm - SRMA Board of Directors Meeting (TSCC)	25 8:30 am - YAH Walking Group 6:00pm - SRROA Board of Directors Meeting (TSCC)	26	27
28	29 6:30pm - FREE Yoga (TSCC) 8:30pm - FREE Aikido (BMCC) Steiner Stars Swim Practice Begins	30 6:30pm - SRROA Annual Meeting (TSCC)		YAH - Young At Heart SMAT - Steiner Moms and Tots		

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May 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 1:00pm - YAH Mexican Train	2 8:30 am - YAH Walking Group 6:30pm - New Owner Orientation (TSCC)	3 7:00pm - YAH Game Night	4 11:00am - 4:00pm - Steiner Ranch Art Show (TSCC)
5 	6 6:30pm - FREE Yoga (TSCC) 8:30pm - FREE Aikido (BMCC)	7 6:30 pm - Facilities Committee Meeting (TSCC)	8 Newsletter Articles/Photos Due	9 8:30 am - YAH Walking Group 1:00pm - YAH Technology Users Group (TSCC) 7:00pm - YAH Bunco (BMCC) 7:00pm - Solar Workshop (TSCC)	10 Stars Summer Swim Team Kick-Off Party (TSCC/Fields)	11 7:00pm - Casino Night (TSCC)
12	13 6:30pm - FREE Yoga (TSCC) 8:30pm - FREE Aikido (BMCC)	14 9:30am - Social Committee Meeting (Cups & Cones)	15	16 8:30am - YAH Walking Group 7:00pm - Property Tax Protest Workshop (TSCC)	17 SMAT - Working Moms' Lunch	18
19 	20 6:30pm - FREE Yoga (TSCC) 8:30pm - FREE Aikido (BMCC)	21	22	23 8:30am - YAH Walking Group	24	25
26	27 6:30pm - FREE Yoga (TSCC) 8:30pm - FREE Aikido (BMCC) HOA Office Closed HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY!	28	29 3:30 pm - SRMA Board of Directors Meeting (TSCC)	30 6:00 pm - SRROA Board of Directors Meeting (TSCC)	31	

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The NFL hosted two championships in New Orleans - Super Bowl XLVII and the NFL Flag National Championships.

Only Eight Regional Champion teams from across the country - the elite eight of 12-14 Girls Flag Football - earned the right to battle for the title during Super Bowl week.

The Neighborhood Sports "Steiner Steelers" took New Orleans by storm, defeating the defending National Champions en route to a 3rd place finish overall.

The Steiner Steelers, known for their "Power Pink" game day shorts and accessories, want to thank all the residents of Steiner Ranch for their support. With Spring Flag Football just underway, the girls are hard at work preparing for another run at the title in 2013.



The 12-14 Girls Steiner Steelers take a beignet break at Cafe Du Monde, French Quarter, New Orleans. Pictured left to right: Avery Ross (Center); Alyson Tekippe (Running Back/Safety); Camille Halfmann (Wide Receiver/Safety); Madie Royer (Wide Receiver/Cornerback); Reese Bryars (Cornerback); Sydney Harvey (Running Back/Linebacker); Emily Manske (Quarterback)

Pink Power Prevails! - Reese Bryars grabs a flag as the Steiner Steelers defeat the defending National Champions.



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From the Association Office

Annual Meetings Notice

See What's Happening at Your HOA

The Steiner Ranch Residential Owners Association (SRROA) will hold its Annual Meeting on Tuesday, April 30, 2013 at 6:30pm in the Towne Square Community Center located at 12550 Country Trails Lane. The SRROA will be electing Three (3) new members to the Board of Directors at this meeting. Residents of the SRROA live in The Valley at Eastridge, The Summit at Eastridge, Plateau, Rocky Ridge, Hancock Hill, Mesa North and Chapparral.

The Steiner Ranch Master Association (SRMA) will hold its Annual Meeting on Tuesday, April 23, 2013 at 6:30 pm in the Towne Square Community Center located at 12550 Country Trails Lane. Residents of the SRMA live in all other developments in Steiner Ranch.


The annual meetings are held to review the past year's financials, activities and reports of the Association. All homeowners are encouraged to attend and to raise any issues of concern. We look forward to seeing you there.

Come Serve on the SRROA Board of Directors

The Steiner Ranch Residential Owners Associations (SRROA) is currently seeking nominations for three (3) open seats on the Board of Directors. Nominees must live in one of the SRROA neighborhoods (The Valley at Eastridge, The Summit at Eastridge, Mesa North, Chapparral, Rocky Ridge, Hancock Hill, and Plateau). The term length is two (2) years. Elections will be held at the SRROA Annual Meeting on Tuesday, April 30, 2013 at 6:30pm.

The SRROA is a resident-controlled homeowners association. Board members represent all members of the SRROA and are responsible for governance of the SRROA. Time commitment is variable. Board meetings are held one evening per month at the Towne Square Community Center. Regular attendance is expected. In addition, Board members may occasionally be called upon during the workweek to provide opinions and feedback via telephone or email to the Property Manager. Board members serve as liaisons to Steiner Ranch Committees (Social, Facilities, etc.) and should plan on attending the committee's monthly meeting.


If you are interested in serving on the SRROA Board of Directors, please email your name, address, telephone number, and a brief autobiography to Scott Selman, Steiner Ranch Community Executive Director at scott@steinerranchhoa.org.




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Sensational Exploration

June 3 - 7

Color My World

June 10 - 14

Cooking Up a Story

June 17 - 21

Passport to the World

June 24 - 28

Sweet Summertime

July 1 - 3

Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes

July 8 - 12

Letter Detectives: The Alphabet Chronicles

July 15 - 19

Three, Two, One, Blast Off!

July 22 - 26

Bubble, Bubble, Pop! Do the Science Bop!

July 29 - August 2

Ready, Set, Recycle!

August 5 - 9

Digging Down Deep

August 12 - 16

Wonderful Water Works

August 19 - 23

Genre Camps

6 - 11 Years,

M - F, 9a - 4p

Genre Camps allow school-age children to fully explore a subject that intrigues them over the course of a week. Camp guides are experts in their field, allowing for in depth discussions of the area and a focus on developing proficient skills that children will be able to utilize both during and after camp.

Flip, Flap and Clap!: Gymnastics

*June 3 - 7 (*Ages 3 - 5, 9a - 2p)*

Fizzle, Bubble, Pop and Wow!: Science

June 10 - 14

The Third City: Improv and Beyond for Youth

June 17 - 21

Cooking Around the World

June 24 - 28

The Music and Me: Piano and Voice

July 1 - 3

Ni Hao, China!: Mandarin Language and Culture

July 8 - 12

Sun Salutations and Brush Strokes: Yoga and Art

July 15 - 19

Reach for the Stars!: Girls' Leadership

July 22 - 26

The Indomitable Spirit: Tae Kwon Do

July 29 - August 2

Mis Sueños: Spanish Language and Culture

August 5 - 9

Drawing From the Heart: Art

August 12 - 16

Oh, Snap!: Photography Camp

August 19 - 23



**For more information and enrollment,
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From the Association Office

COMPLIANCE CORNER: *Overnight Street Parking*

In an effort to improve the overall appearance of our community, the management office will occasionally send out reminder notices to the neighborhood. We understand that there may be new homeowners, new people leasing homes, or even sometimes there are community members that forget the importance of the community standards.



This letter is a reminder to everyone in the neighborhood to please adhere to the parking rules established in Steiner Ranch.

Steiner Ranch Rules & Regulations #6 Parking: No automobile or other vehicle, except as described in Rule #5, may be parked overnight on any roadway within the Property. (Rule #5 specifically addresses the parking of Recreational Vehicles)

We appreciate each and every resident's compliance with this rule as we all work together to maintain our wonderful Steiner Ranch community.

Yard Waste Pick up

It's time to get your yard work done, so the Steiner Ranch HOA has made arrangements for extra service! Texas Disposal Systems will provide Steiner Ranch residents with another seasonal curbside collection pick-up (bags and/or bundles). These next seasonal pick-up is scheduled for the week of:

April 8th – 12th (Monday thru Friday)

Each resident is allowed to place a maximum of twenty (20) leaf bags or brush bundles each week at their curbside on their designated trash pick-up day by 7am. Each bag or bundle shall be placed by the resident at the public curbside for collection. The total weight of the leaf bag and its contents or bundle shall not exceed 30 pounds.

***Please note – if there is a chance of rain,
please do not use paper bags.*



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Communication Overload

Technology has changed the way we communicate at the Homeowners Association, but with so many ways to get information it can be confusing to know if what you are reading is from a reliable source. The best way to get information regarding Steiner Ranch is from the HOA website at www.steinerranchhoa.org. This site has so many great features that just began last year, like the Message Boards, Classifieds, Young at Heart and Mom's and Tot's information. It is also the place to get community documents, such as Pool Hours, Architectural Modification Forms and the approved plant list, just to name a few. Once on the site, we recommend going into your "Profile" and signing up for important email notifications under "subscriptions". You can receive weekly Activity alerts, Lost & Found pet notification and important Safety alerts.

The other most reliable source of information is on the Steiner Ranch Social Committee Facebook Page. This page is great for all the activities and programs in Steiner, but it also becomes the main source of information in case of an emergency, like the Labor Day fires of 2011. But, what about all the other Facebook Pages that say "Steiner Ranch"? There are some great resources that are not "official" Steiner Ranch HOA pages. Here is a list of a few that we recommend and why:

Steiner Ranch Lost & Found Pets – This site was created by a homeowner who lost her pet and is now helping other find their pets. Anyone who has found or lost a pet can post on this page.

Steiner Ranch Firewise – This page is run by the Steiner Ranch Firewise Committee and is a great resource for residents who are concerned about Wildfire and how to mitigate the risk of loss of life and property from wildfire.

Steiner Ranch Neighborhood Association – This page is run by the Steiner Ranch Neighborhood Association, which is a homeowner run Association. They are focused on addressing issues relevant to the community including safety, security, and smart growth.

Steiner Ranch Post – This page is also run by a resident of Steiner and shares community information and opinion, as well as business development information.

Steiner Ranch Moms and Tots Group – This is a closed group just for Moms and Tots of Steiner Ranch. This page is a great resource for all things "kids".

Steiner Serves – We love this page because it is dedicated to help different non-profit organizations in the area which changes monthly.

Steiner At Work – This page is perfect for those businesses in Steiner looking for work. They can post and if you "like" the page, you will be able to view what job opportunities are available.

Steiner Sells – This page is for anyone in the Four Points area to buy and sell goods.

We know there are more out there, so just send an email to Sharon Adams about being added to the list for future issues of the Ranch Record at Sharon@steinerranchhoa.org.

Responsible Pet Owners

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

- **Scoop the Poop** – Pet stations are located all through out Steiner Ranch common areas.
- **Latch the leash** – not only is it safer for your dog, but others around you (and it's a law in Travis County)
- **No excessive barking** – be courteous of your neighbors and keep your barking dog quiet.

Report Violations – go to our website at www.steinerranchhoa.org and click on the link "Report a Problem" if you know someone violating the rules.



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From the Association Office

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.



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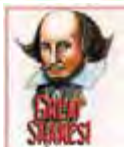
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The funds earned at the Gala will directly benefit our students at the five area elementary schools, two middle schools and Vandegrift High School.

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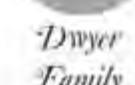
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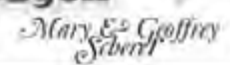
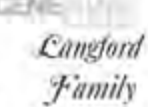
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Giddy Up Gala Highlights

The Hill Country Education Foundation's annual fundraiser, the Giddy Up Gala has quickly become the social event of the year for Four Points' parents!

This sold out fundraising event, hosted 350 guests to a sit-down dinner and open bar at the top of the Oasis on February 23, 2013. Attendees enjoyed participating in a raffle, Heads or Tails Game emceed by VHS Football Coach Drew Sanders and bidding on silent auction items ranging from summer camps to artwork and jewelry to golf packages. During the live auction guests won vacations to Mexico, Aspen, Port Aransas and New Mexico as well as exclusive hunting trips, a Viper Experience package and more!

A highlight of the evening was a presentation by Charlie Little, VHS Principal, Mike Heath, VHS Biomed Teacher and Christa Thompson-Martin, VHS Dean of Instruction. They discussed the latest Project Lead The Way program at VHS - Biomedical Sciences. This amazing program is a sequence of courses that follows a proven hands-on, real-world, problem-solving approach to learning. Through activities, like dissecting a heart, students examine the processes, structures and interactions of the human body, often playing the role of biomedical professionals. This program was the recipient of the evening's Fund-A-Need, where guests donated over \$18,000 to provide needed technology for the Biomed program.

After dinner and the auction were over the popular band Luv Handle took the stage and the dance floor remained packed for the rest of the evening.

This third annual event raised \$74,079. These funds will go directly to benefit students at Laura Welch Bush, Steiner Ranch, Grandview Hills, River Ridge and River Place elementary schools and Four Points and Canyon Ridge middle schools as well as Vandegrift High School. To learn more about Hill Country Education Foundation visit www.HillCountryEdFoundation.org.

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WHAT: the LWBE 2013 Spring Carnival

WHEN: Friday, April 12th from 5:00—8:00 pm

WHERE: Laura Welch Bush Elementary

WHO: EVERYONE!!

The PTA of Laura Welch Bush Elementary will be hosting the 2013 Spring Carnival on April 12th from 5:00 to 8:00 pm on the grounds of LWBE. Students and their families, along with members of the Steiner Ranch community, are invited to attend!

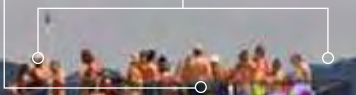
The Carnival will feature activities for all ages including a Rock Wall, Bumper Balls, an Obstacle Course, Inflatables, a Petting Zoo and much more! In addition to all the fun and games, the Carnival will feature a food court (cash only) with delicious treats and eats from local vendors such as Lakeside Pizza, P. Terry's Burger Stand, Cups-N-Cones and many more. A portion of all food sales will be donated back to the LWBE PTA!

Wristbands will be available for early purchase for LWBE families; and, additional wristbands and punch cards will be available at the Carnival gates beginning at 4:30 pm on the 12th. For more information, please visit our website at <http://lwbe.my-pta.org>, like us on Facebook, or follow us on Twitter @LauraWBushPTA.

The LWBE PTA is honored to recognize the Carnival's Diamond Sponsor, **Quinlan Park Dental** for their support!

A big thank you also goes to the Platinum Sponsors, Menchies and Vista Ridge Dental/Dr. Randy Watson for their support. The Carnival wouldn't be possible without the additional support of sponsors like Dirty Dog—Lakeway, Craig Smyser/ReMax Capital City, Dr. John's Sports Center and Shannon Kramer/Keller-Williams Realty.

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Business Section

Seven Business Networking Groups in the Area

ARE YOU LOOKING TO GROW YOUR BUSINESS IN 2013?

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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Source: National Interagency Coordination Center

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Source: Insurance Information Institute

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ACCOUNTING & TAX SERVICES: Local CPA & Quickbooks ProAdvisor offering all inclusive small business accounting and tax services for businesses & individuals. Affordable rates & quality work. 10% off if you mention this ad! Kelley Arnold (512) 466-9319. Email: kelly@steinerranchcpa.com. Web: www.steinerranchcpa.com.

THE HANDYMAN CAN: Six year Steiner resident available for honey-dos, inspection punch lists, plumbing repairs, hang pictures, fans and lights. Assemble most anything: furniture, holiday presents etc. You name it I can probably do it. No job too small, no minimum. Many 100% satisfied Steiner clients. Richard 970-9616

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WHEN:

Date of sale - April 13, 2013

HOW:

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WHY:

Senior Alicia is living in a rapidly deteriorating trailer with no water access. She is soon to be homeless. ABLE is hoping to finish the home behind the trailer that has a roof and siding but just framework on the inside AND of course get water to the home.

WHERE:

To shop at our garage sale please go to Plateau section of Steiner Ranch and follow the signs to the sale on McNelly Trail on April 13th from 7am – 1pm.

For Questions please contact Anja at anjaseth@austin.rr.com or Emily at emcelmurry@austin.rr.com.

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FINANCIAL FOCUS

HOW TO BUDGET

How to plan and create a budget and sometimes stick to it dominates family discussions, business discussions and government discussions every month and year, however it never seems things get accomplished. There are many thoughts around the budgeting process from what to include to how much to allocate for certain expenditures and for future planning. As I have been watching the State of Texas deal with their budget issues and other states plan out their budgets, and going through my own budgeting process I started to think what is in a budget and what really should be done.

First of all, what is a budget? Some people would say it is a financial certainty that details inflows and outflows. Others might say a budget is more of a guideline or forecast and changes rapidly. Looking at past results of some companies and even governments I think most feel it is the latter. However, a budget is a plan and it is dynamic. It will move on you as changes occur, although one needs to be flexible with a budget it is not a fluid instrument either. A budget is simply a plan that details inflow and identifies projected and actual expenses as the year progresses. However when you start the budgeting process it is completely a forecast. Moreover, you try to be accurate with your forecasts but things can change as there usually multiple variables. One of those variables is income.

As a family, when you are planning a budget your income is usually fixed. You know you are going to get \$40,000 a year so you make your budget based on that. However, what if you were to lose your job, or get hurt where you couldn't work, where would your income be then? Non-existent right? Correct, it is the same with government and businesses. Although the last budget cycle was positive and there is a forecast of a surplus, does not mean you spend the surplus as planned expenses. In fact you set that money aside or pay off debt to make your situation better in the long run, just like you would do if you had extra money in your household. Yet when we think about corporations and government entities, when they say they have a surplus we demand they spend more or reduce our taxes or pay their workers more. Not understanding a few simple principles. First the surplus is usually not in real time, it is usually a forecast or prediction of what they expect to bring in. This is like you spending your Christmas bonus in July in anticipation you will have the money in December, you wouldn't do that and neither should the government.

So what are some rules around budgeting?

Be Flexible – Flexible does not mean fluid. There will be months where you will have large expenses (home insurance, property taxes, auto registration, etc...) and other months where your expenses will be lower than expected. You can't be too rigid but yet you can't be too loose. Keep checking it and your progress but don't freak out if one month is too high or excited if one month's income is higher than normal.

Be realistic – Don't set pie in the sky goals. Don't budget cable

for \$30 if you can only get it for \$100 a month. If you can't cook or are just too tired to and you eat out all the time, don't say my dining out bill will be \$100 a month when you really spend \$500. So be realistic

Plan Ahead – Look in the future for future expenses that may come up. Maybe you know our buddy is getting married in 18 months. Set aside the money you'll need for that trip so you cannot have it hurt your monthly cash flow. This also would be the same for education, retirement, and other future goals

Think Ahead – Always think four steps ahead. When you're making your budget for the year, look at what might happen in the next twelve months, twenty-four and beyond. How will this event affect your budget? Can you cut now and save money or do you need to devise a plan of attack in the future?

Don't be optimistic, be pessimistic – Assume worst case scenario.

Be truthful about your priorities – I have a friend that likes to travel 5 times a year, yet he never budgets for him as his wife likes to save for retirement. So you may have to compromise, but you need to plan for those trips and identify what is really important to you.

When devising a budget you have four expense categories that should always be addressed.

Fixed expenses – These are expenses that won't go away like rent, groceries, cable, utilities, etc... You know you are getting a bill for them every month. There are some expenses that fit in this category that you may once a year, once a quarter but not monthly. You need to factor these into your budget by dividing by twelve but also creating an expense chart showing that they will hit in this month versus another. Also included in this category should be taxes and deductions from your paychecks. I so often see people create a budget and forget these expenses

Luxury Expenses – Dining out, entertainment, travel, etc... These are luxuries and are privileges not rights. So budget carefully but budget for them and stick to it. You generally have the most control over this area so be realistic.

Debts – Hopefully you're lucky and you have none, but if you do 10% of your net income (your income minus taxes and deductions, or take home pay) should go to paying off debt.

Savings – even if it is \$5 a week, always put money aside. Whether it is to your 401(k) and a savings account always put money aside in at least two places, one where you can't easily obtain it and the other where you can get at it today if needed or a cash reserve.

This leads us to what is going on in governments all across the country and the world for that matter. The biggest issue right now we are hearing about is sequestration. What is sequestration? First let's talk about Sequestration. Sequestration is the automatic budget cut of approximately 2.4% of the federal budget. So using information

(Continued on page 50)



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News You Can Use

How To Budget (Continued from page 48)

from past posts that is 2.4% of 3.8 trillion or \$76 Billion through the end of the current fiscal year and a total of \$1.2 trillion over ten years. Simplifying those numbers we are simply looking at a decrease of \$760 in simplified dollars between now and the end of the fiscal year and an additional \$1,000 a year form the annual budget deficit:

\$2.4 Trillion = \$24,000 (income)

\$3.8 Trillion = \$38,000(Expenses)

(\$1.4 Trillion) = (\$14,000) Debt

With sequester: (\$13,240) – annual deficit.

Now some governmental departments will face larger cuts as some programs are protected. Social Security Benefits won't be cut nor Military Pensions already funded or the USPS. However, other programs will be slashed drastically to make up for the difference. Sequestration could hurt the economy, by slowing down transportation, rail, air, or land, or it could hurt protection of the country through decreased spending on security. While there might be furloughed (unpaid workers for once a week or several weeks at a time) there won't be large job losses immediately. What it will affect is the large contract spending with companies on all sides of the government. This will create a drying up of funds that will affect everything long term.

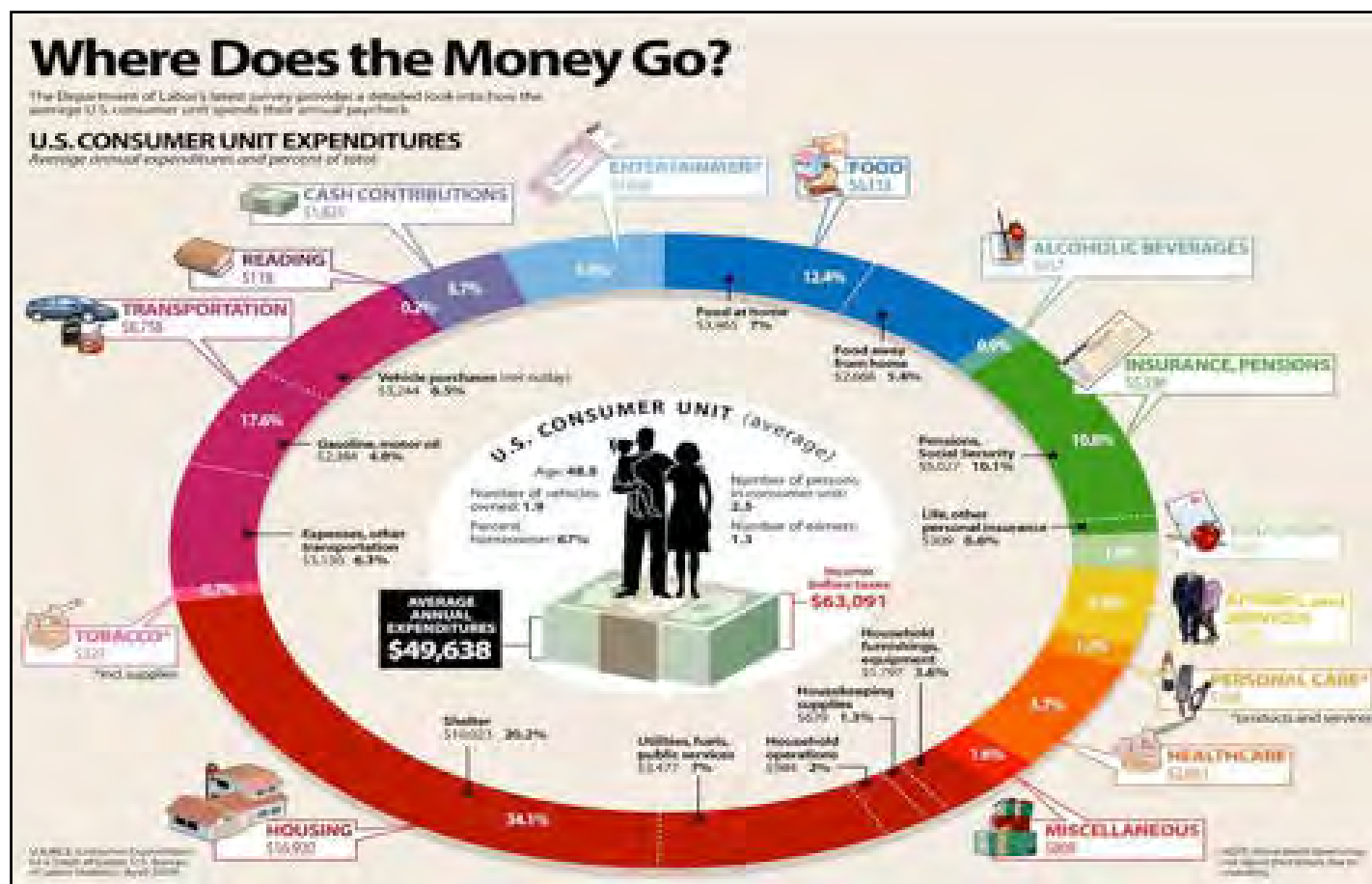
However, not having budget cuts is not an option either. Going too long in a deficit hole only adding to our credit card each year

will cause our economy to shrink as well. We truly our almost near another fiscal cliff. If you remember the Fiscal Cliff was when we had Sequestration (It got passed off till March 1st of this year) and tax increases. You have one set of leaders stating more revenue needs to be increased and another set stating we need budget cuts. The revenue increase already occurred adding \$60 Billion a year in revenue or \$600 in the above example. Not enough to really make a dent. Thus some serious steps have to be taken. Sequestration was something that never was supposed to happen. It was a concoction of government to put off making tough decisions till the next congress. They succeeded and now we are looking to see what "Deal" will be made. If anything happens it will simply be to further pass off dealing with the issue. We can no longer successfully do this.

Brining this back to your budget. Where does your money go everyday or every month. The chart below is a depiction of the average budget most people have. This is similar to the national or state budget as well. There are core expenses and there are luxury expenses. The one thing that is so commonly underfunded is future savings.

Take a look at all the items where dollars are spent. Would 2% make a real dent in your budget? If you wanted to reduce debt what would you cut, 10%, 20%, 30%? How would you do it? So what's your budget? What struggles do you have with a budget?

Budgets are meant to be a guideline not the rule but the more you follow one the better off you are.



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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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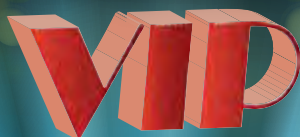
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Join us for one of the many free workshops offered to Steiner Ranch Residents! We are always looking for more unique and different workshops to offer residents so if you or someone you know can provide education opportunities that are not already being offered for Steiner Ranch residents, please contact Sharon Adams at sharon@steinerranchhoa.org or 512-266-7553.

APRIL 4, 7:00PM BMCC

*Importance of Managing Coronary Risk Factors to Prevent the
Development of Cardiac Disease*

This is the leading cause of death in this country greater than the next 3 causes of death combined. We will discuss hypertension, hyperlipidemia, DM, obesity, smoking and Cardiovascular fitness. Presented by Doctor Benjamin Rosin, Steiner Ranch Resident, was the Director of Cardiology Torrance Memorial Med Center near Los Angeles and Clinical Professor of Medicine at University of Southern Calif. Dr. Rosin is an expert in the medical treatment of all above risk factors, congestive heart failure, coronary interventions including stents and pacemakers, cardiac rehabilitation, obesity, and physical fitness.

No RSVP required

APRIL 16, 6:30PM TSCC

*Is Your Master Closet a Master Disaster? - Learn the secrets on how
to organize Your Master Closet.*

Do your friends all think you're uber-organized but you'd never let them peek into the closets? I call these areas 'Hidden Spaces' and clutter here just doesn't feel good. It's your own deep, dark secret - and it haunts you and affects everything you do. This vital area is where you begin and end every day and affects how you face the day. Does yours put you in a frustrated, frantic mood - or is it set-up to make your life easier and stress free?

An organized closet saves you time and money. Imagine walking into your closet and being able to shop in it, just like a store. You'll know where everything is and be able to pull complete outfits together in just minutes. You'll learn how to turn your Master Disaster into a tranquil oasis and start every day stress-free.

**To RSVP, please contact Karin Flagg either by phone (512)
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*For additional information go to www.steinerranchhoa.org or contact
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The goal is to fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. Each digit may appear only once in each row, each column, and each 3x3 box.

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PEOPLE TALK

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Ms. Sims wanted to move up and better accommodate her family's needs and wants. Brandy helped her and this is what she stated about her experience working with Brandy, "Brandy truly cares about achieving your family's goals during the process of selling and purchasing a home. She has supported me though 2 home purchases and one home sale and her expertise and negotiating skills are superb!"
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- Kids Stuff -

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



What's a Sprayground?

More and more cities are opening spraygrounds, which are water playgrounds. At a sprayground, kids can shoot each other with water cannons and get sprayed by dozens of water jets that squirt from different colored nozzles and hoses.



Do you have a favorite playground? Maybe it's a new wooden one that has lots of tall towers and passageways. Or maybe your favorite is an old-fashioned playground with swings and a seesaw. Playgrounds are fun places for kids because there's so much to do and other kids to have fun with. But sometimes kids get hurt at playgrounds. That's no fun, so here are 10 ways to keep safe:

1. Take a grown-up. As kids get bigger, they like doing things on their own. Going to the playground shouldn't be one of them, though. Grown-ups come in handy because they might spot problems at the playground, they can help you down if you get in a tight spot, and they can help if you happen to get hurt.

2. Take a good look around. If the playground has lots of trash, such as broken glass, or the equipment looks broken, don't play there.

3. Keep your size in mind. Many playgrounds have some equipment that's for little kids (like 2- to 5-year-olds) and other equipment that's meant for older kids. Use the equipment that's right for your age. If you squeeze yourself onto a swing for toddlers, you might get stuck. Likewise, if your little brother or sister starts climbing something meant for older kids, guide him or her to the little kid stuff.

4. Don't go too high. Many playgrounds have tall stuff to play on, such as towers or open passageways between equipment. Don't climb higher than you feel comfortable, and feel free to ask your grown-up if you need help getting down. Never climb up the outside of equipment, or hoist yourself up on the roof. The view might be cool, but it's a long way down.

5. Look out below. The best playgrounds put down special surfacing material, such as mulch, wood chips, sand, gravel, or rubber matting. These surfaces can help soften a fall, but that doesn't mean you won't get hurt, especially if you tumble from a high spot.

6. Swing safely. Kids often get hurt at the playground because they get hit by someone on a swing. If you're swinging, watch out for people who

might be getting too close. And if you're walking around the playground, don't get too close to the swingers.

7. Use your head. Sometimes you'll see kids going headfirst down the slide or maybe two or three kids will get on a piece of equipment that's only meant for one. Or some kids might start goofing around and trying to push each other off a swing or off of a high spot. If your grown-up sees you doing this, he or she will probably say, "Knock it off. Someone's going to get hurt." It's true, so try to use the playground equipment properly. And if you get stuck, or don't know how to get down from something, call your grown-up over so he or she can help you down.

8. Report problems. If you see graffiti (when people write or paint on stuff), a broken swing, or find any other problems while you're playing, tell your grown-up. He or she can report the problem so it can be fixed.

9. Clean up. If you bring a drink or snack to the playground, clean up your trash before you leave. When you do, the park will look nice when the next kid comes along to play and you will have shown that you're a good playground citizen.

10. Have a great time! How can you make a good time at the playground even better? Bring a friend and only complain a little when it's time to leave.

Reviewed by: Steven Dowshen, MD

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

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