

# RANCH RECORD

Official Newsletter for the Steiner Ranch HOA

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 11 NOVEMBER 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.

Monday - Thursday ...... 1:00pm - 5:00pm

#### **REGULAR OFFICE HOURS**

Friday
Saturday and Sunday
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#### Maintenance Technician

Front Office Coordinator

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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
EMERGENCY911
Fire
Ambulance 911
Sheriff – Non-Emergency512-974-0845
Travis County ESD No.6/Lake Travis Fire Rescue
Administration Office
Travis County Animal Control512-974-2000
,,
STEINER RANCH CONTACTS
Steiner Ranch Community Association Office512-266-7553
SCHOOLS
SCHOOLS
Leander ISD
Vandegrift High School
Canyon Ridge Middle School512-570-3500
Laura Welch Bush Elementary512-570-6100
Steiner Ranch Elementary512-570-5700
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City of Austin Electric
Texas Gas Service
Custom Service1-800-700-2443
Emergencies
C
Call Before You Dig1-800-344-8377 AT&T
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Repair
Billing
Customer Service
Repairs
TDS (Trash & Recycle)
Austin/Travis County Hazardous Waste512-974-4343
OTHER NUMBERS
Lake Travis Postal Office
22 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2
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- Davenport Ranch
- Forest Creek
- Highland Park West Balcones Steiner Ranch
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- Hunter's Chase
- Jester Estates
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- Lakewood
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- Long Canyon
- · Lost Creek

- Meadows of Bushy Creek
- Meridian
- Pemberton Heights
- Plum Creek
- · Ranch at Brushy Creek
- · River Place
- · Round Rock Ranch
- Sendera
- · Shady Hollow
- Sonoma
- Stone Canyon
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- · Villages of Westen Oaks · West Lake Hills
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#### **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 <u>steinerranch@peelinc.com</u>. The deadline is the 8th of the month prior to the issue.

#### **COVER PHOTO**

This month's cover photo was taken by Kelly Bauch of Bluebird Photography Studio of Luke, as he brings on FALL the way everyone should! Just look at his enthusiasm. Steiner Ranch has so many wonderful reasons to live here and getting outdoors, whether it's on the trails, or taking a swim in the heated lap pool, let's all welcome Fall the way Luke does!

#### Do you take great photos?

Would you like to see your photo published? We are looking for great cover photos for upcoming November 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 November 2013 issue submittal deadline is November 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.

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### THE RANCH REPORT Find Your Wave

Growing up in central Texas, I often found myself on a small country road in the center seat of old beat up truck with Grandpa driving and Dad on the passenger side. Sometimes it was to go check a fence line and maybe shoo some cattle back through a hole in the fence and maybe tie it back together or prop the rotten fence post back up until there was enough time to come back for a proper repair. I can remember the roll of bailing wire clunking around in the back of the truck for just this situation. Sometimes it was just because Dad and Grandpa just wanted to get out of the house on a Sunday afternoon.

I can also remember how grandpa knew the driver of every car that we passed and without fail would give his signature left handed wave out the window. Air conditioning in old beat up truck was rare back then and even if we had it, I don't think it would get used because grandpa wouldn't be able to extend his hand out high enough for his signature wave. I also noticed that everyone we passed seemed to have their own signature wave. For some it was just two fingers subtly raised off the steering wheel as we passed, or a tilt of the Stetson, or John Deer hat. Whatever the wave, one thing is for sure, everyone we passed had one, whether they were on a tractor, working out in the field or just driving by.

Although times have changed and the number of people we pass every day far exceeds what I would see on an old country road, the importance of a friendly wave remains. So many times we fight the traffic through the city and when we get to our neighborhood, we keep our head down with a focus of just getting to our house so we can unwind and relax, or we have two kids in the car that need to get to six different places in the next fifteen minutes. I would encourage everyone, no matter where you're from (yes, even California) or what you have going on, to start breathing little deeper and calmer as you drive through our community, and to find your wave. Make it a point during a neighborhood walk to not let a single person go by without showing them your wave and see if you can start recognizing other waves. Challenge your children to find their unique wave and share it with their neighbors.

Steiner Ranch is already a wonderful place to live, and by finding your wave and sharing it with your neighbors, the sense of community can only grow stronger, and maybe, just maybe, in this hectic life we all lead, we can find an old country road right out our front door.

# Mark Your Calendars

#### 2013 Steiner Ranch Social Committee Events

#### NOV 2

Camping on the Ranch

#### **NOV 8-10**

Fall Scrap-a-Thon

#### NOV9

Kids Day Out Art Class

#### **NOV 14**

Ladies Night Out Art Class

#### **NOV 16**

Holiday Shopping Event & Santa Photos

#### DEC 7

Parent/Child Painting Class

#### **DEC 10**

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

#### **DEC 12**

Ladies Night Out Art Class

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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# CAMPING ON THE RANCH

All families are invited to go camping right here in Steiner Ranch!





The Steiner Ranch Social Committee is hosting Camping on the Ranch so you can spend the night with your kids for some great "Ranch Style" camping fun.

When: Saturday November 3rd @ 6:00pm Where: Towne Square Community Fields

Mark your calendars for Camping on the Ranch. This has to be one of the most popular and fun events the social committee does. Pull out your tents and come spend a night under the stars with your kids. Camping takes place at TSCC in the fields. The entire family is welcome however this has become hugely popular as a father/kid event.

Haven't tried camping with your kiddos yet? What a great place to try it, just minutes from the house but an adventure away. No activities are scheduled, just a great evening outdoors with your kids. It's too late to sign up for Texas Rib King, but you can bring your own picnic dinner for you and your kids. Register your camp site online at www.steinerranchhoa.org.

The next morning, we will be there selling breakfast tacos and the Social Committee will be giving away doughnuts and coffee!

Bring your own tent, sleeping bags,

games and activities!



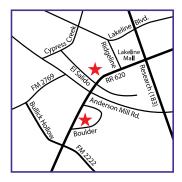


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# LADIES NIGHT OUT

#### Fun for SafePlace

The 3rd annual Ladies Night Out was held at the Towne Square Community Center on Saturday, Sept 28th for a great cause, Safe Place!

SafePlace is the local women's shelter that provides support for women and their children seeking a place away from domestic abuse. The ladies of Steiner raised almost \$2,000. It couldn't have been done without the support of over 40 women owned businesses from the Steiner Ranch and 4-points areas and to the Ladies Night Out Sponsors; Vista Ridge Dental, Mogen Financial & Training, LLC., Grape Creek Vineyards, Steiner Ranch Orthodontics and Hue Salon. A big Thank you goes to event coordinator, Myrta McGugan-Mogen and her team of volunteers!

Mark your calendars for the Holiday Sales Event and Santa Photo's on Saturday, November 16th where many of these vendors will be selling their goods and services just in time for the Holidays. (Guys can come too!)





# Now Enrolling for FALL

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Bee Caves 8100 Bee Caves Road Austin Tx 78746 512-329-6633

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#### **NEW HOMEOWNER**

Welcome and Wine Social

Thursday, November 7th 6:00pm – 8:00pm Towne Square Community Center 12550 Country Trails Lane

Welcome new residents of Steiner Ranch! If you have recently moved into or purchased a home here, you are invited to a Welcome and Wine Social.

Meet Neighbors Learn about Social Groups & Committee Presentation by the HOA Question & Answer session

Wine & Hors d'oeurves will be served, so please RSVP to Donan Grant at donan@steinerranchhoa.org by Wednesday, November 6th.

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# Holiday Shopping Event & Santa Photos

#### VENDOR REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

The Steiner Ranch Social Committee will be hosting its Annual Holiday Sales event on Saturday, November 16th from 10:00am - 2:00pm at the Towne Square Community Center. You can come and get all of your Holiday shopping done without ever leaving Steiner Ranch.

We will have something for everyone, just see who our current vendors are with more to come:

Alix Simmons, Miss B Clothing

Erin Newman, River Hills Family Medicine

Diane Zass, Diane Zass Artisan Jewelry

Thomas Henry, SteinerServingStones

Stephanie Dew, THRIVE Life Texas

Terresa Tate, Tate Fitness

Melissa Miller, Found and Souled

Stephanie Seale, Advocare

Jessica Fruge, Rodan + Fields

Alisa McCutcheon, Juice Plus+

Diana Baldwin, HappyHappy, CuteCute

Nancy Burke, Hampton Jewels

Toni Lesniak, Jewelry by Toni

Laura LeMond, Mosaic blankets

Ronda Bauman, Pollyanna Theatre Company

Tamera Stenson, The Animal Hospital at Steiner Ranch

Elisa Torres, Froggin Learning Center

Robyn Strickland, Eclectic Creations

Kelly Connor, K & C

Melissa Sehlhorst, Eternal Threads

Bryttannee Eaton, Bryttannee Eaton Beauty, Chloe & Isabel Jewelry

Teresa Robertson, The Lash Lounge

Anat Inbar, Pupik Design

Dr. Ross Coccimiglio, Four Points Chiropractic

Melissa Jackson, Plexus Slim

Andrea Svoboda, Funny Honey Frames

Sally Albritton, Crowned Chick Designs

Louise Gunn, Louise Gunn Art

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Tami Weber, Beijo Bags

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Heather Bickel, Silpada Designs Jewelry

Patty Rovano, Mary Kay Cosmetics

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Jennifer Cecil, Arbonne

Erica Carter, Carter Creations

Erin Newman, ABLE, Assisting Better Living Everywhere

Catherine Workman, Thirty One Gifts



# YOUNG@HEART

Young at Heart is an active group of Steiner Ranch residents in the 40+ year age range who are mostly emptynesters and enjoy having a busy social life, educational opportunities, exploring the Austin and Hill Country areas and meeting other people with similar interests. Whether you live here full time, part time or are just here visiting your family, if you'd like to attend any of our activities, please email or call.

The format of the group encourages both regularly scheduled monthly or weekly events as well as those with flexible dates. Many activities are scheduled just a few days before they take place. Those on our contact list receive emails about all of our upcoming events.

Anyone who is interested in learning more about Young at Heart and the opportunities it offers should contact steinerranchyoungatheart@gmail.com or Dottie Thoms at 512-531-9360.

#### **Longhorn Village News**

#### LONGHORN VILLAGE KICK'S OFF WELLNESS CAMPAIGN

It's called the Cre8 Generation (Create Generation which focuses on the 8 dimensions of Wellness – Intellectual, Emotional, Environmental, Health Services, Vocational, Spiritual, Physical and Social.



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# SADDIE UP AND RIDEY

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

#### **SATURDAY RIDES**

We meet Saturday's at Cups & Cones at 8:30am. Our Saturday rides are faster and longer than our Sunday rides. There is no cost to ride with our group.

Our Saturday rides have an advanced group with average speeds in the 18-20 mph and we have an intermediate group which has average speeds between 15-17 mph depending on the difficulty of the route. Both groups roll out together but about  $\frac{1}{2}$  way through the ride it splits into two. The distances range from 40 up to 60+ miles.

We have many routes that we rotate between and you can visit our website at www.steinerranchcycling.com

For our Saturday rides we try to keep the group together however you need to have a certain level of fitness and experience to keep up with both groups as there are no designated sweepers. Our Sunday ride is a NO DROP ride.

#### **SUNDAY RIDES**

We meet Sunday's at Cups & Cones at 8:30am for slower and shorter distance ride. Our Sunday rides average speeds are in the 13 – 15mph and distances between 23 – 30 miles. We either ride around Steiner Ranch or bike over to River Place and bike down to Ski Shores. This is a NO DROP RIDE.

#### **NOVEMBER ORGANIZED RIDES**

TOUR DE GRUENE – Saturday November 2, 2013 This is the 30th anniversary of the ride. The ride cost \$45 now. There are recreational tour rides of 35 to 65 mile routes. There is also an individual 18.5 mile time trial and on November 3, 2013 there is a 27 mile team trial. The history, charm, and ambiance of the unique town of Gruene, between Austin and San Antonio, provide the perfect setting for our bicycle classic events. The longer tours meander along the tree lined banks of the Guadalupe River and the enchanting limestone cliffs of the Balcones Fault. Step back in time as you bask in the warm Texas sunshine all while riding through the heart of Texas – then shop, dance, wine and dine in the town that has gently been resisting change since 1872. You can learn more about this ride at http://www.tourdegruene.com/

THIRSTY PLANET BLAST OFF – Saturday November 9, 2013 Bicycle Sport Shop is proud to partner with the Thirsty Planet Brewery to bring you this metric-century hammerfest, starting and ending at the brewery. Earn your wings on this 62-mile ride that includes portions of your favorite hill-riding challenges, such as the Dam Loop and Lost Creek, combined with some new twists and turns. Of course you'll be motivated to cross the finish line, knowing that ice-cold Thirsty Planet brews and hearty burgers will be waiting for you there. The cost to register

is \$60 and is limited to the first 250 riders. You can register at http://blastoffride.com/

JESTER KING BREWERY – Saturday November 16, 2013 Our Club organizes a ride out at Jester King Brewery. Don't miss this ride! We had about 140 riders last time and the ride is intended for those that can maintain an average speed of at least 14 mph over 55 miles. The ride has SAG support, it is free and there will be free pizza too. You can learn more about this ride at http://steinerranchcycling.com/jester-king-brewery-ride-ii/

**DIRT DERBY** – Every Tuesday between October 1st – December 17th This is a fun weekly ride for those that like to go fast and get a little dirty. They offer rides for kids/Juniors, beginner adults and more competitive MTB and Cyclocross enthusiasts. You can learn more at www.dirtderby.com

#### SAFETY TIPS OF THE MONTH

For Cyclists: Make sure before you go on a bike ride that you bicycle is in good operating condition. Make sure you check your air pressure in your tires and that they are not bald. Low tire pressures and bald tires can be dangerous when descending especially if you get a flat. I would also urge cyclist to bring your bike in for a tune up at least once per year. There is a convenient and affordable service right here in Steiner Ranch. They will come and pick up your bike and fix it and return to you within your budget. You can visit www.dragonsdencycling.com

**For Motorists**: We have not made this suggestion because it is obvious but we ask that motorist DO NOT TEXT & DRIVE. Your brain cannot perform two task simultaneously so when TEXTING you are disengaged from your responsibilities as a driver which is dangerous not only to cyclist but also pedestrians and other motorists.

Please join Steiner Ranch Cycling in thanking the following sponsors for supporting cycling in our community:

#### **PLATINUM**

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#### **GOLD**

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

**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. We will ask that all participants follow traffic laws and wear a helmet while on our rides.

For comments or questions feel free to reach us via our website at www. steinerranchcycling.com or email Dante Fichera at dantefichera@gmail.com



#### ADC Steiner Ranch Opening Soon

The Austin Diagnostic Clinic is pleased to announce that our Steiner Ranch office will open in late fall 2013.

Our newest location will offer the following services and specialities for you and your family:

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The Austin Diagnostic Clinic Steiner Ranch - Opening Soon 5145 N. FM 620, Bldg. I 512-901-1111 • ADClinic.com My Health, My Doctor, My ADC

#### **Around Steiner**

# Steiner Ranch Steiner Ranch Cycling Club FROM SERO TO OME HUMBRED IN A YEAR

I've been a runner all my life. I ran for health and fitness. I have participated in many running events and have completed half marathons, but when the impact began to affect my knee, the prominent cycling community in Austin attracted my attention. I literally and figuratively began shifting gears...

Back in September 2012, I was browsing the Austin Cycling Meetup group and was surprised to learn of a ride that started once a month from the Steiner Ranch Steakhouse. It was an all-levels ride with distances of 15-35 miles. I had ridden 15 miles in Steiner before, but had never ventured outside the 'Ranch', didn't know the ride route, and didn't have a riding partner, still I thought, "I could do that". So I dusted off my Walmart bike, pumped up the tires, found my helmet and was off!

Upon arriving to the Steak House that morning for the everpopular Jack & Adams Ride, the buzz of the other cyclists inspired me. I intended to do the 15 miler, but decided to try 35 miles instead. "Why not?", I thought, this can't be much harder than running and I was reasonably fit. Needless to say, the ride had its challenges, not the least of which was having to stop at Walgreens to buy tools to fix my stuck derailed chain...and the walk of shame up the Crystal Falls Hill climb...and who doesn't enjoy that 620 headwind all the way back to Steiner? - Not! Despite a few learning and physically challenging moments, that first ride did have some good memories too. My happiest one was when my family just happened to drive by the group on Anderson Mill Road, and were hanging out the window cheering me on! Then another rider and acquaintance of mine from the school recognized me and called my name. We rode together for a while that day and over time became friends and riding partners. But best of all, I discovered the Steiner Ranch Cycling Club, the joy and camaraderie of cycling, and the many wonderful group rides in and around Steiner Ranch.

After that, I started riding with the Steiner Ranch Cycling Club regularly on Sunday mornings - the no-drop, beginner-friendly ride. I continued to learn about safety, cycling etiquette, and how to ride my bike efficiently and effectively. I felt myself getting better - I was no longer intimidated to climb Flat Top Ranch Road. I was ready for the next challenge! Through talking to the members and reading group emails, I learned of other organized rides. I had been in Austin for 13 yrs years and had no idea how extensive and connected the cycling community was. It was only a month after my first ride, when I completed my longest distance ride in The Livestrong Challenge. I rode 65 miles on that old Walmart bike of mine (granted I did break down and bought new pedals, shoes and cleats) but was beginning to realize the importance of the right equipment. I persevered on this bike for the next 6 months, attempting the 78 miler in the Armadillo

Hill Country Classic. Then, a mere 6 miles from the finish, my rear tire will blew out, I didn't have the right tools, and found myself being rescued, unable to finish the ride. I was very disappointed. That was it! It was time to get in gear, about my gear!

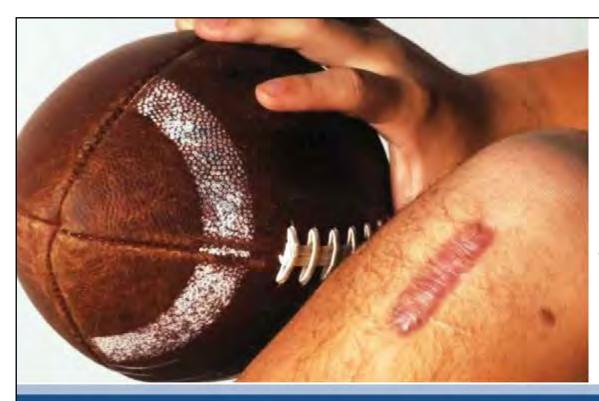
My riding partner, an experienced mountain biker who had recently gone roadie, often mentioned her husband who had been riding his whole life and knew a lot about bikes. He is a Randonneur, a self-supported ultra-endurance rider who had completed the likes of the Paris-Brest-Paris 1200K ride! I figured this guy must know a thing or two about gear! He pointed me in the right direction and before I knew it I had a brand new light-weight Specialized bike. Wow! What a difference! That's when I started to feel like a Flying Indian! With my new bike, I completed the 83 mile ride in the Tour De Cure this year, achieving a personal best record for distance and speed - what a difference The Bike can make!

So what was next? I felt fitter and stronger than ever, and have always considered myself a goal-oriented person. As timing and luck would have it, the Livestrong Challenge was coming up in a month with the longest distance ride being 100 miles. That was it! I will go for my first century ride! With that goal in mind, at the time of printing of this article I hope to have completed it on October 20. To prepare for the event I have been doing weekly longer rides ranging from 30 to 60 miles and am feeling ready.

My cycling journey so far has been full of ups and downs, including UP Jester and DOWN Beuford. I've conquered Courtyard, and changed flat tires...was King of the Mountain on Strava (for a day), and bonked on a humid 60 miler to Cozy Cove. I've learned about hydration, nutrition, standing climbs, sweat bands, and sunblock. I suffered and succeeded! Little did I know that that old bike sitting in my garage would connect me to a vast community of wonderful people like Dante Fischer, THE Originator of the Steiner Ranch Cycling Club, my riding partner and her husband and all the other nice people I have met. This club is welcoming and truly for EVERYONE! Sure, there are some speed demons on carbon fiber bikes who average 20+ mph, but there are also guys and gals who have never ridden a group ride (like me) on their dusted off Walmart bikes wanting to get fit, join the crowd and have fun! So if you ever find yourself wondering if cycling is for you, get out there! Join us! You will be glad you did and will make many new friends along the way. Hope to see you on one of the club rides soon!

Deshraj Singh "The Flying Indian"

Special thanks to my riding partner and editor, Cheryl Campbell and her husband DJ, Randonneur Extraordinaire.





EF



Heart Institute



Women's Services

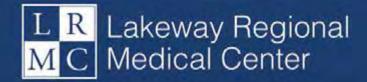


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# ATTENTION CAR ADDICTS

I am a Steiner Ranch resident and I would like to start a neighborhood car club that meets once a month. As we all know, there are some great cars in the neighborhood, both classic and new. It would be nice to have a venue in which owners can get together to share their vehicles and their knowledge. All that is required is an addiction to anything with 4 tires. If you are interested, please send me an email and I will compile a list to schedule our first meeting at stancey@hotmail.com



# Pet Corner

Can I give my dog Thanksgiving scraps?

Submitted by Kristen West

We know it's tempting, but most Thanksgiving scraps are not safest treat for your pets. Cooked turkey bones are a big no-no as they can splinter and result in a trip to pet ER. Additionally, overindulging your pet in other fatty foods can lead to stomach upset, diarrhea or even life-threatening pancreatitis. Other items to avoid are onion, sage, garlic ... and please, don't ever give your pet alcohol.

If you can't turn away from those puppy-dog eyes, a bite or two of pet-safe veggies like plain broccoli, sweet potato or carrots, or a small taste of plain turkey is usually OK. Put the treats in a Kong or other puzzle toy while you sit down to eat with your family so that your furry begger is happily preoccupied!

#### Looking for that dream vacation? I specialize in:

- \* Individual cruise planning
- \* Land resort vacations
- \* Guided vacation tours
- Group cruises (reunions, club trips, church groups, etc)

Whether it's taking a cruise to Alaska, cruising the Caribbean, taking a European riverboat cruise or choosing all inclusive land resort, I can help you plan. You would be keeping your business local.



"I am a **Steiner Ranch** resident. I'd
love to help you
plan your next
dream vacation."

#### Tip of the Month

One of the best times to cruise without crowds is in early December.

If you're looking for a winter break, please give me a call.



512-607-6635 • pkaisner@cruiseone.com www.kaisnercruises.com

# WE CARE

Do you or someone you know need help? We'd love to help you find the resources you need to begin the journey to restoration and recovery.

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  For All of Life's Hurts, Habits & Hang-ups
- ► JOB SEEKERS NETWORK

  Networking, Encouragement & Support
- ► FINANCIAL GUIDANCE
- **▶ DIVORCE CARE ▲**
- ► HOPE & BENEVOLENCE

  Solutions and Assistance for Life's Challenges

For more information about these resources and more visit hcbc.com/findhelp



512.331.5050 // hcbc.com

ONE CHURCH. TWO LOCATIONS.
Steiner Ranch Campus (Laura Welch Bush Elementary)
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

#### FIREWISE NUMBERS FIREWISE CHAT: THE

I have been working on rolling up all our expenses for our annual FireWise Re-Certification. We have to spend a minimum of \$2/ capita on FW expenditures including volunteer hours and in-kind donations – approx. \$24,000 for our population. So here are the numbers for the past year...

222 Volunteers for FW Projects

1242 Hours Contributed by those Volunteers

7 Steiner & Austin Community Events we have participated in 16 Fuel Reduction Projects (7 Individual and 3 large groups)

8 Training Events (113 hrs of training by committee members)

\$13,500 – LTFR has donated in support for our Fuel Reduction Projects (fuels crew, chippers, trucks, etc)

GRAND TOTAL - \$57,919 spent on FireWise

Wow! It has been a busy year! We have made great headway in our goals of raising awareness and homeowner education, establishing our Fuel Reduction Programs, and establishing our Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) Assessment Team. We still have so much to do but the momentum is really building. If you haven't signed up for an assessment or started reducing fuel near your home, NOW is the time to get started!

As always, you are welcome to join us at our monthly meetings held the 3rd Monday of each month, 7pm at Bella Mar. Also, check out the Steiner Ranch Firewise FaceBook page and more info on the HOA website under Homeowner Resources.



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#### The Real Estate Deal (RED) in Steiner Ranch

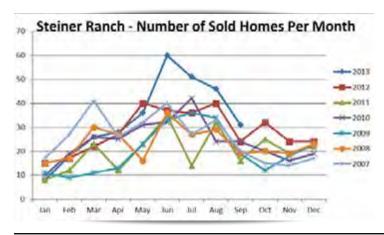
#### Steiner Ranch Real Estate Statistics

	Steiner Ranch Market Data - September 2013										
	Homes Active for Sale			Homes Pending Sale			Homes Sold in the last 90 days				
			Avg Days			Avg Days					Avg Days
	# of	Avg List	on	# of	Avg List	on	# of	A	vg Sold	Avg % of	on
List Price Range	Homes	\$/SqFt	Market	Homes	\$/SqFt	Market	Homes	\$	/SqFt	LP	Market
Up to 300K	3	\$ 137.68	33	4	\$ 134.71	17	21	\$	125.71	99.02%	12
301K-400K	5	\$ 116.23	53	10	\$ 127.98	113	36	\$	125.47	98.81%	27
401K-500K	15	\$ 157.51	67	11	\$ 144.52	66	27	\$	133.84	98.13%	30
501K-600K	7	\$ 147.00	56	1	\$ 151.43	33	16	\$	155.92	98.35%	34
601K-700K	6	\$ 173.71	81	3	\$ 148.34	73	15	\$	159.31	96.71%	72
701K - 999K	6	\$ 184.16	86	2	\$ 211.26	9	12	\$	169.38	97.94%	77
1M and up	3	\$ 328.57	121	0	\$ -	0	2	\$	238.59	97.38%	4
Total	45			31			129				

\*This data was pulled from the Multiple Listing Service provide by the Austin Board of Realtors on Oct7-8, 2013.

Okay well it appears that the summer craziness in the real estate market has slowed some. That said, the statistics for home sales in Steiner are still very strong. Check out the low inventory and days on market! At current sales and listing rates, we only have 1 month of inventory in the neighborhood.

While studying the data, I thought you might be interested in seeing the monthly sales of homes in Steiner over the last 7 years. This data clearly reflects the record high sold numbers we saw this summer. Please note that new home builders typically do NOT list all of their home sales in our local real estate database (the MLS or Multiple Listing Service) — so these numbers will not reflect 100% of the sales. There are also sales that happen privately that will not be included. The interesting thing to note is that in this graph the home sales in 2013 appears to be reflecting a more typical pattern of home sales throughout the course of a year, something we haven't seen since the start of the recession. I can't wait to see how the rest of the year pans out.



Now on to our real estate related topic of the month. One of the most common questions I get asked on a listing appointment, especially with older homes is "Should I update/upgrade my home and if so, will I get my money back?"

My answer (and any good realtor's answer) is always "it depends"! Ha – just what you wanted to hear right. Sales people are all the same! Okay but seriously, here is some information to help you make the right decision for you.

There are several reports that are put out on an annual basis around remodeling project costs and ability to recoup the cost of that project during a sale. One of the best reports I have found is published by © 2013 Hanley Wood, LLC. Complete data from the Remodeling 2013 Cost vs. Value Report can be downloaded at www.costvsvalue.com. In this report, the projects with the highest return for your money were minor kitchen remodel, followed by entry door replacement and deck addition. The projects with the least bang for your buck were converting a room into an office and the addition of a sunroom.

So I dug a little deeper on the kitchen remodel to find out whether or not it is worth putting granite countertops in your home here in Steiner Ranch. Does it really have an effect on the purchase price of your home? I did a very unscientific study on the data in the MLS for homes in Steiner Ranch that were at least 10 years old, under \$400K (because newer homes and homes over \$400K tend to have granite as standard so there isn't a representative basis to pull data from) that have sold within the last year. I compared the sold price of the homes with granite to the homes without granite and guess what I found? I found that homes with granite, on average, sold for ~\$3 a square foot more than homes that did not. So on the average 2,500 square foot home, you could spend up to an average of \$7,500 on granite countertops and likely get your money back for them.

(Continued on Page 21)

#### (Continued from Page 20)

Okay so here is the catch. There are many other factors in play with upgrades and updates that are worth mentioning. I will expand on each of these below: Don't overbuild for your neighborhood, be consistent with your choices, condition for the age of the house and recouping money verses time on market.

#1 You never want to overbuild for your neighborhood – and in Steiner that means that also means subdivision (i.e. Parkside, Summer Vista, Hills of Westridge, etc.) as well. If none of your neighbors have done it, then it might not be the best investment for you either. If none of your other neighbors have replaced their cultured marble countertops in the master bath with level 6 granite, added beautiful decorator sinks, travertine tile surround in the shower and bathtub with copper glass inserts then you probably shouldn't either.

#2 You should be consistent with your upgrades. What this means is don't go spending a ton of money on adding high end upgrades in some places and leaving scratched up linoleum on the floor in others. You can definitely spend more money on upgrading the key rooms in a house, like the family room, kitchen and master bathroom while keeping a baseline standard in the rest of the house. The most common inconsistency that I see is with appliances in the kitchen. What typically happens in Steiner is that one of the original black appliance will die (let's say the dishwasher goes first) and gets replaced with a brand new fancy stainless steel one. But all the other appliances are still working so you end up with a mix

of older black appliances and a newer stainless steel one. In my research, consensus says that buyers will tolerate "mixed" appliances in age, brand and color (I think because they understand the large outlay of cash to replace all of them when they are still working can be seen as wasteful) but prefer to have all matching newer ones. I haven't been able to find any data that correlates new stainless steel appliances with a return on their investment but it will help your home sell over the competition. So the trend is still to go stainless although there are other options (glass white front appliances) that are storming Europe so you never know!

#3 The condition and age of your home will also dictate some upgrades that need to happen. I can say this with 99.99% confidence – if you have brass in your house, you will get more for your home if you replace it with chrome or another choice that is not brass. Seeing brass handles, light and plumbing fixtures around the home sends an unintended message to the buyers that your house has never been updated. They even have paint now that you can use to cover up the old brass lights in your bathroom that looks pretty good so no excuses. Other items that you will encounter regularly on older homes are the roof, water heaters, HVAC, electrical and appliances. There is mixed data on whether or not you will recoup the costs of replacing any of these items especially if they are still in good working order but having newer systems in place will absolutely help you sell over your competition. On the mechanical items, you do have options. For example, if

(Continued on Page 22)



#### Around Steiner

(Continued from Page 21)

you know your HVAC system is on its on its last legs but is still working when you are going to sell then you have several options. You can proactively replace the unit (very expensive) or you can get the unit serviced and purchase a transferrable warranty that will replace the unit in the event it stops working.

#4 Lastly, some of the choices you make may not pay for themselves completely but might get your home sold over the competition. Like for like, the majority of buyers will purchase a home that is move in ready over one that is not for the same price (or even a slightly higher price). The best example I see here in Steiner is with flooring. Hard floors (tile or wood) are almost always preferred by clients in the main entertaining rooms over carpet. There are also several new laminate selections to get the wood look with a little less than the price of wood. Now on to carpet. Carpet is still very popular in the bedrooms. One of the biggest turn offs with buyers is worn or stained carpet. If this applies to your home, you should think about replacing it before listing your home. You can get fantastic, neutral colored frieze carpet installed for around \$2 a square foot. You may not recoup 100% of this investment but you will likely sell faster because of it and your home will appeal to many more buyers.

Paint is the second best example. I can't tell you how many times I hear "wow this family really lived hard in this house" because of regular wear and tear of a family on the walls of a home. This is especially true if the builder used flat paint on the walls which shows everything. Getting the walls and the trim work in your house freshened up will do wonders for how it shows.

Now that I have talked about value, here is the last thought I want to leave you with. If you want to splurge on that master bathroom, media room or crazy paint job because you will reap the benefits of the daily enjoyment from it – then go for it – just be educated on what it will cost and be okay with that when you go to sell. Promise me you won't bite your realtors head off when they tell you that you can't list your house at a price to recoup all the cost of your amazingly beautiful but extravagant upgrades!

If you have any real estate related questions about the current article or an idea that you would like addressed in a future article, please contact Peel Inc. and they will forward them along to me.









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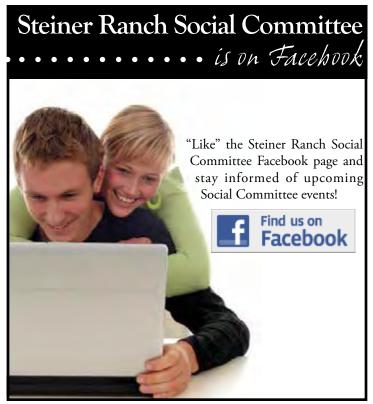
Must be presented at time of service. Not to be combined with other offers. Valid at Lakeway location only. Expires Dec 31, 2013.

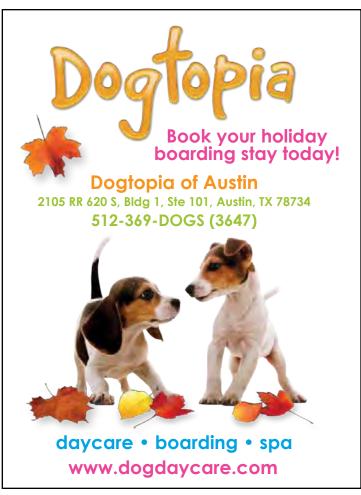


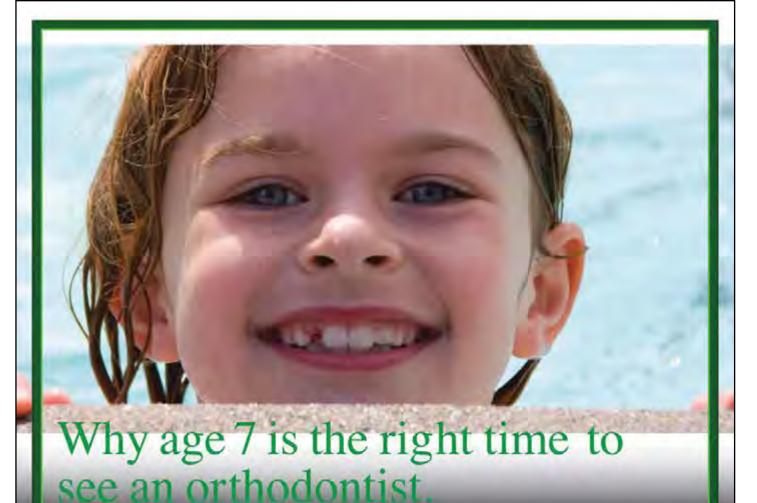
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# NOT AVAILABLE ONLINE







While your child's teeth might appear to be straight, there may actually be a problem that needs to be evaluated by an orthodontist. If you recognize any of the following issues with your child, please schedule a check-up with your local orthodontist. It may be one of the most important actions you can take to ensure your child's healthy and happy smile.

- · Early or late loss of baby teeth
- . Difficulty in chewing or biting
- Mouth breathing
- · Jaws that shift or make sounds
- Speech difficulties
- · Biting the cheek or the roof of the mouth
- Facial imbalance
- · Grinding or clenching of the teeth
- · Thumb or finger sucking

Orthodontists are specialists in straightening teeth and aligning your bite. They have two to three years of education beyond dental school. So they're experts at helping you and your child, get a great smile—that feels great, too.

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### Steiner Ranch Orthodontics

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Ranch Record - November 2013

# NOVEMBER 2013

134			and the second second	And State States			THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN
	Sunday	Monday Tuesday		Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		YAH - Youn SRLG - Steiner Ra	-			<b>I</b> 7:00pm - YAH Wine Social	6:00pm - Campinig on the Ranch (TS Fields)
- The last of the	Daylight Savings Time Ends	<b>4</b> 6:30pm - FREE Yoga (TSCC)	5 6:30pm - Facilities Committee Meeting (TSCC)	<b>6</b> YAH Ladies Social Bridge	<b>7</b> 8:30 am - YAH Walking Group 6:30 pm - New Owner Welcome & Wine Social (TSCC)	8 Bella Mar Pool Closed 6:00pm - Scrap-a-Thon (TSCC)	Bella Mar Pool Closed All Day - Scrap-a-Thon (TSCC) 10:00am - 12:00pm - Kids Day Out - Furry Friends Art Class (BMCC)
	<b>I O</b> Bella Mar Pool Closed Till 4:00pm - Scrap-a-Thon (TSCC)	<b>I I</b> 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC)	6:30pm - Social Event Committee Meeting (TSCC) 1:00pm - YAH Book Club (BMCC) 6:30pm - Solar in Steiner (TSCC)	13	8:30am — YAH Walking Group 1:00pm — YAH Technology (TSCC) 6:30pm — How to Let Go of Your Stuff,(BMCC) 7:00pm — Ladies Night Painting Class (BMCC)	15	16 10:00am - 2:00pm - Holiday Shopping Event & Santa Photos (TSCC) 10:00am - 12:00pm - Kids Day Out - Furry Friends Art (BMCC) 9:30am - 12:30pm - Colin's Hope fundraiser (BM Pool) 2:00pm - BCP Hike
	17	18 6:30pm - FREE Yoga (TSCC)	6:30pm - Care of Young Trees (BMCC) 7:00pm - SRLG Book Club (TSCC)	<b>20</b> YAH Ladies Social Bridge	<b>2 I</b> 8:30am - YAH Walking Group 7:00pm - YAH Bunko (BMCC)	22	23
	24	25 9:00 – 12:00pm – Sportball Thanksgiving Camp (TSCC) 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC)	9:00 – 12:00pm – Sportball Thanksgiving Camp (TSCC) 7:00pm - How all the drugs we have now work to reduce cholesterol (BMCC)	27 9:00 – 12:00pm – Sportball Thanksgiving Camp (TSCC)	28 Happy Thanksgiving! Trash Service Slides a Day	<b>29</b> Trash Service could slide a Day	30



# SHEN YUN

神韻晚會

"Mesmerizing! Reclaiming the divinely inspired cultural heritage of China."

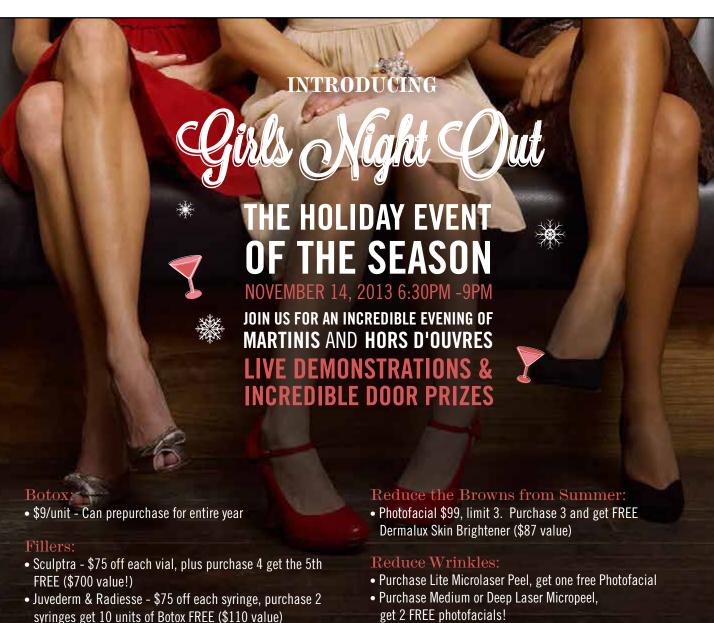
—Donna Karan, creator of DKNY

**DEC 27–29, 2013 | The Long Center** 

# DECEMBER 2013

Sunday		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	i I	<b>2</b> 6:30pm — FREE Yoga (TSCC)	3	4	<b>5</b> 8:30am - YAH Walking Group	6	9:00am – 4:00pm – Babysitting Class (TSCC) 10:00am – 12:00pm – Parent/ Child Painting Class (BMCC)
	8	<b>9</b> 6:30pm - FREE Yoga (TSCC)	1 O 1:00pm – YAH Book Club (BMCC) 6:30pm – Volunteer Appreciation Dinner (TSCC)	1:00pm YAH Ladies Social Bridge (TSCC)	8:30am – YAH Walking Group 1:00pm – YAH Technology (TSCC) 7:00pm – 9:00pm – Ladies Night Out Painting Class (TSCC)	13	1 4 7:00pm - Holiday Social (TSCC)
200	15	l <b>6</b> 6:30pm — FREE Yoga (TSCC)	17 7:00pm - SRLG Book Club (TSCC)	18	8:30am – YAH Walking Group 7:00pm – YAH Bunko (BMCC) HOA Office Hours: 8:00am - 12:00pm Closed for Holiday Party	20	<b>2 I</b> Winter Begins
	22	23 6:30pm - FREE Yoga (TSCC)	24	25  Merry Christmas!  HOA office Closed  Trash Service moved one day.	<b>26</b> 8:30am — YAH Walking Group	27	28
	29	30 9:00 - 12:00pm - Sportball Holiday Camp (TSCC) 6:30pm - FREE Yoga (TSCC)	9:00 - 12:00pm - Sportball Holiday Camp (TSCC)				





#### Skin Tightening:

- Purchase Elite Neck Tightening package, receive one free Neck Photofacial
- Purchase the NEW Elite Chest Tightening package, receive one free Chest Photofacial

#### Slim Down for the Holidays:

- Purchase 1 area of fat reduction, get Elite Exilis Eye package 50% OFF!
- Purchase 2 areas of fat reduction, get Elite Exilis Eye package FREE!
- Purchase 3 areas, get 4th area FREE!

get 2 FREE photofacials!

#### Hair Removal Special:

- \$99 for 3 sessions of either underarm, bikini, or upper lip/chin.
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- Men's Hair Removal Special 25% off Back Hair Removal Package - \$500 value!!

#### Skincare Special:

- 20% off Redness Kit to help with rosacea and flushing
- Purchase \$350 worth of skincare, get FREE Diamond Microdermabrasion!



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CAN CALL DAY OF PARTY TO PURCHASE SPECIALS OVER THE PHONE.

# NEW ART PARTIES BEING OFFERED!

The Steiner Ranch HOA has made arrangements for the art party to come to the community centers this Fall! Offering 2-hour painting classes designed with both beginners and experience painters in mind, with step-by-step instruction to help you paint your artistic masterpiece.

All instructors are led by Steiner Ranch artist!

#### NOVEMBER 9 - KIDS DAY OUT 10:00AM - 12:00PM "FURRY FRIENDS"

Let your child's creativity shine as they paint an adorable picture of two furry friends. Ages 4 and up. \$30 per person. 15 children maximum.

#### NOVEMBER 14 - LADIES NIGHT OUT 7:00PM - 9:00PM "AUTUMN SPLENDOR"

Grab your girlfriends and embrace the Fall weather as we paint a beautiful autumn tree! UnCork your creativity as your brushstrokes fill the canvas. \$35 per person. Bella Mar Community Center. 25 adult maximum.

#### DECEMBER 7 - PARENT/CHILD PAINTING PARTY 10:00AM - 12:00PM "HAPPY DAY"

Bring your child or children out for this one of a kind experience. You and your child will work together painting on a shared canvas to create your "Happy Day" painting. It truly will be a "happy day" creating a painting alongside your child. This is a great experience for the entire family. If there are more than two children attending this event, both parents and a second adult are desired to attend. This is a great holiday gift for grandparents, or to hang on your wall as a keepsake memory. \$60 for first canvas, \$25 additional canvas. 20 family maximum.

#### DECEMBER 12 - LADIES NIGHT OUT 7:00PM - 9:00PM "JUST RELAX"

Frazzled from the hectic holiday pace? Join us for this relaxing painting session that will let you unwind and uncork your creative senses. \$35 per person. Towne Square Community Center.

Register using the 2013 Program registration form at the HOA for all classes. Ladies Night Out events can also register online at the Ladies Group Meet up page at http://www.meetup.com/Steiner-Ranch-Ladies-Group/



# Workshop Series

Join us for one of the many free workshops offered to Steiner Ranch Residents! November classes will be the last ones offered this year!

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.

#### November 12th – Solar in Steiner

Ioin us at Steiner Ranch's TSCC for:

- An overview of how solar made it to Texas
- A sneak peek into the future of Texas solar
- A real case study of a Steiner Ranch home **6:30pm TSCC**

Appetizers and drinks provided\*

Call 866-274-5578 or email info@circularenergy.com to RSVP

\* Please let us know in advance if you have any food allergies

(Continued on Page 30)



#### **Around Steiner**

(Continued from Page 29)

November 14th - How to let go of your stuff, Get organized, Have peace of mind, Feel in control, Be in charge, Not be overwhelmed, Make better decisions - and Enjoy life! - Attend and learn the secrets of getting organized – physically, mentally and financially, and the benefits of letting go and getting more done.

**6:30pm BMCC** - To RSVP, please contact Karin Flagg either by phone (512) 585-8424 or emailKarin@OrganizeWithPurpose.com

**November 19th – Care of Young Trees** - Trees are a wonderful asset that can not only beautify your landscape, but also can improve your property value. Planting and taking care of a young tree is the most essential part of bringing a healthy, vigorous tree to your yard. Come and learn the scientific approach to young tree care from a certified arborist with the The Bartlett Tree Experts. We will be addressing all the topics of young tree care such as site preparation, planting, irrigation, pruning, root collar excavation, fertilization and more in order to give you the tools you need to help improve the urban forest in Steiner Ranch.

**6:30pm BMCC** - RSVP: aanstrom@bartlett.com or 512-748-4991

November 26th - How all the drugs we have now work to reduce cholesterol – Dr. Ben Rosin will also discuss how we develop cholesterol deposits and narrowing of our arteries.

7:00 TSCC - No RSVP required

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



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# Austin Childrens Shelter A Reason To Give

By Susan Arant

The holiday season is upon us and being a lover of all things Christmas, I, for one, am super excited! My children have inherited this passion as well, especially my youngest who has already given me his wish list. As I sat reading his list, I thought how lucky we are and sadly, not everyone feels the same during this time of year. Many children are making their lists but have no one to hand it to and no reason to believe that they will receive presents this year.

Although it is not pleasant to think about, did you know that in the past year, over 64,000 children and teens were confirmed victims of child abuse and neglect in Texas? Travis County had over 3,000 cases of child abuse. Those numbers are staggering to me.

It is easy to forget, especially with the busyness during this time of year, that there are so many children in need of help. For the past 29 years, the Austin Children's Shelter (ACS) has been doing just that, caring for children and teens in need - not just during the holiday season but also throughout the year.

ACS believes that every child deserves to feel safe and nurtured. They work tirelessly to break the cycle of child abuse and neglect by providing emergency shelter and services to children who have been removed from their homes. Today, ACS offers more than shelter; they offer services that include a transitional living program, a teen parent program, respite care, foster family services and child abuse prevention through the Strong Start program.

Please join in supporting the Austin Children's Shelter on Friday, November 29th by dropping off a present for a child or teen in need. From 2:00pm – 5:00pm, at the Real Estate Welcome Center, located at 4304 N. Quinlan Park Road, there will be a holiday event partnering with ACS to raise awareness for abused and neglected children in the Austin area. Santa Claus will be there to personally thank your children for generously giving to others.

#### Some items on their wish list include:

Gift cards to Target, Wal-Mart, Academy, and H-E-B Mp3 players & Ear buds

New socks, underwear, sports bras, and undershirts Hoodies

DVD's rated G - PG-13

Lego sets & Science kits

Makeup kits, hair straighteners, curling irons, and blow dryers

For more information on ACS and items they currently need, please visit: http://www.austinchildrenshelter.org

Childhood is such a precious time. Please help us make this a magical Christmas for children and teens served by the Austin Children's Shelter. It is the season to give back to those who truly deserve happiness. Every child should make a Christmas list and be able to open presents on Christmas morning.

Susan Arant 425 Dawn River Cove Austin, TX 78732 (512)809-0475



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# Neighbor Spotlight

By Kimbely McLaughlin

If you have never tasted a fruit or vegetable that has been freshly plucked from a home grown garden then you are missing out. I will never forget the day one of my son's ventured over to a neighbor's house and came home with a bag full of cherry tomatoes fresh out of their garden. They ate the entire bag within an hour like it was candy. So I became intrigued and thought, hmmm, I should do a piece on my neighbor's vegetable garden. The theme for this month's neighborhood spotlight is Edible Garden.

When I get to my neighbor's house and see their backyard I was blown away. Their small little side veggie garden has turned into an entire edible garden. They now have cherry tomatoes but have added aloe, kumquats, ochre, asparagus, banana trees, figs, lemon grass, taro, sweet and chili peppers, ginger, beets, sweet and Thai basil, chives, mint, green onions, string beans, pomegranates, blackberries and my favorite Kaffir lime. But they didn't stop there - add to that some non-edible items like knock out roses, lamb's ear and clumping bamboo to intermingle functional with beauty.

It wasn't divine luck but lots of research and hard word. They took classes from the Natural Gardner and also did research on the internet. They started by digging out some of the beds. Some were dug down and others were built up. The key was to have a

minimum of 1-2 feet of soil depending on what you are trying to grow. Then for irrigation, they tapped into the existing sprinkler system to feed drip lines that they run along the vegetation in the beds. They added a pressure reducer because the drip lines can't handle the same pressure in the main sprinkler lines. For the vine producing plants, they built frames and ran wire lines along them (similar to what you see in vineyards). This was especially important for the blackberries because the plant itself is very thorny. The wire frames help to guide the plant along them so the blackberries can be harvested less painfully. Lastly, they have a couple of large buckets where they collect biodegradable items to create compost that they then reuse in the garden.

I asked about culprits wondering around and what types of wild crazy animals were sneaking into their yard and eating their produce. I belly laughed when they said the biggest bad guy in their yard were the bunnies! They did have to put some plastic fencing around the tomatoes and string beans to keep those sneaky bunnies out. As for insect pests, they said they really haven't had much of an issue. But when they do, they use another tip they learned from a workshop at the Natural Gardner. You can make a

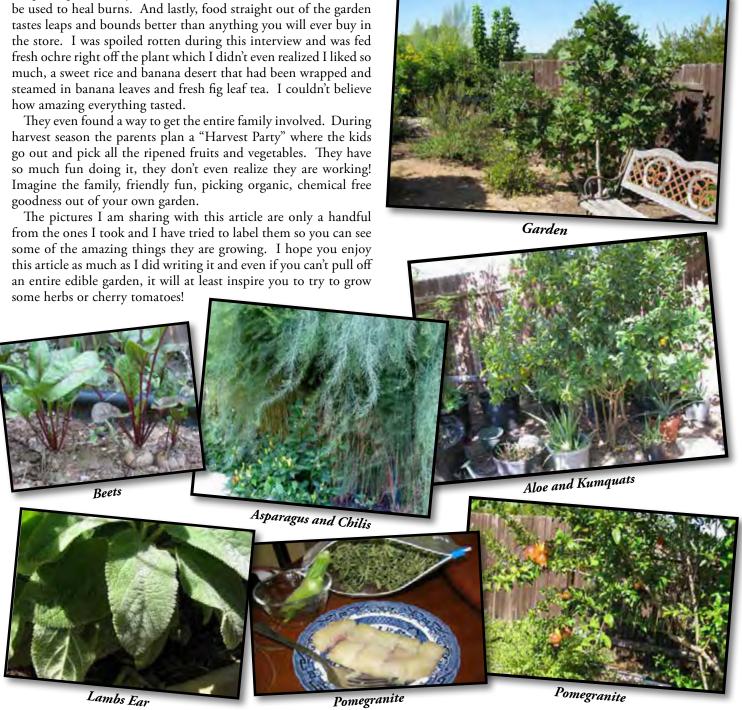
(Continued on Page 33)



(Continued from Page 32)

mixture of garlic water which is totally organic and evidently very effective for warding off vampires as well was bugs.

I learned several other interesting things that I want to share with you. In Steiner Ranch you can only grow clumping bamboo. Evidently other types of bamboo can get out of control and take over a much larger space than intended. Fig leaf tea can help reduce high cholesterol and diabetes. Banana leaves, while not edible, can be a great replacement in many cases for plastic wraps. Peppers can be ground up and made into paste that you can freeze and use to spice up food all year round. Fresh aloe out of the leave can be used to heal burns. And lastly, food straight out of the garden tastes leaps and bounds better than anything you will ever buy in the store. I was spoiled rotten during this interview and was fed fresh ochre right off the plant which I didn't even realized I liked so much, a sweet rice and banana desert that had been wrapped and steamed in banana leaves and fresh fig leaf tea. I couldn't believe how amazing everything tasted.



Drip Lines

#### 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:**

- Wednesdays and Fridays at 5:30 a.m. until 6:45 a.m.
- Sundays at 6:30 a.m. until 7:45 a.m.
- \$45 per month for Residents

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

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

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

# **CLOSURE**

......

The Bella Mar pool will be closed for repair work on November 8 - 10th.

Sorry for the inconvenience, but please do not use the pool at this time.

#### **FALL POOL HOURS**

The following hours will apply: **BELLA MAR** 

Closed Monday until 2:00pm Open Tue- Sun 7:00am – 10:00pm

#### The following programs will be using the Bella Mar lap pool:

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

> Vandegrift High School Swim Team Monday - Thursday 7:15am - 9:15am

> Lost Creek Aquatics Mon – Fri 3:45pm – 7:00pm (6 lanes)

#### **TOWNE SQUARE**

Closed Monday until 12:00pm Open Tuesday – Sunday 8:00am – 10:00pm

#### **IOHN SIMPSON**

Closed Monday until 2:00pm Open Tuesday – Sunday 8:00am – 10:00pm

Please note\*\*Lifeguard are no longer on duty after Labor Day. Swim at your own risk.



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#### **Business Hours**

Monday	7:30 - 6:00
Tuesday	7:00 - 6:00
Wednesday	7:00 - 11:00
Thursday	7:00 - 6:00
Friday	7:30 - 5:00
Saturday*	7:00 - 11:00
Sunday	Closed

\*Closed last Saturday of each month



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#### **USARS SPEED NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Steiner Ranch Resident Kylie Bryan attended the USARS Speed National Championships in July and earned a gold medal for her 4-Girl Relay event. This was Kylie's third trip to Nationals, and she earned a bronze medal in each of the previous years. The annual week-long competition for inline and quad speed skating was hosted in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and featured teams from across the United States.

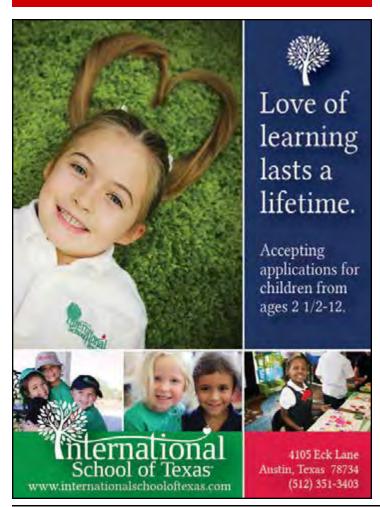
Kylie, age 10, joined the Texas Speed Club during the summer of 2010. Texas Speed Club is based at Playland Skate Center in Austin, and coached by the legendary Sonny Felter. The Texas Speed Club competes at numerous local and regional speed skating meets in the Fall and Spring to prepare for the Nationals competition in July.

Kylie's 4-girl relay team consisted of herself, Alyndra Fleuret, Emie Salome, and Alexis Dodson. Kylie said earning the medal with her friends made the win even more special.

Texas Speed Club is a non-profit organization formed to promote the sport of inline and quad speed skating in Austin, Texas. For more information, see texasspeedclub.com.



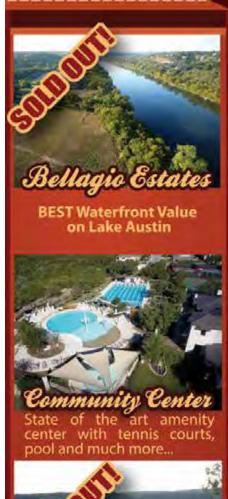
Kylie Bryan in the USARS Speed National Championships





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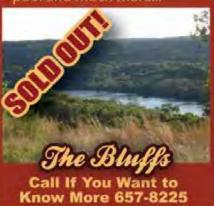






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### From the Association Office

### **Holiday Decoration Rules**

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

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

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



# Travis County sets up reverse 911 for cell phones

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

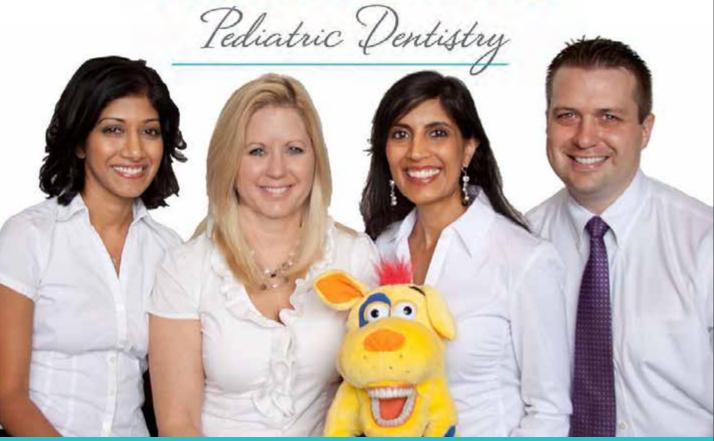
People can register their cell phones for up to five geographical locations and if there is an emergency in one of those areas, they will get a call. To find out more info about the program, you can go to http://www.capcog.org/divisions/homeland-security/ens/

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









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### From the Association Office

# Thanksgiving

#### **Trash Pick-Up Schedule**

Trash and recycling pick-up during the Holiday Season is as follows:

• If you're normal Pick-up day is Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Friday, then your service will remain unchanged. If your normal Pick-up day is Thursday, your Thanksgiving pick up day will be on *either Friday, November 29th or Saturday, November 30th*. (You may need to leave your cans out for two days.)



# What the Architectural Committee Does for You

Are you getting ready to make an addition to your house or build a new shed or fence in your back yard? Before you break out the miter saw, make sure to get your plans approved by our association's architectural committee.

While it may seem subjective from an individual homeowner's standpoint, the architectural committee looks out for the entire community. Aside from stopping residents from painting pink polka dots on their houses, the committee's job is to make sure that the size and style of the project, the type of building materials being used and the overall look of the new structure adhere to the association's design requirements. Of course, it's also important to note that unapproved structures might legally have to be removed at the owner's expense, so save yourself money and headaches by getting approval before building.

So when you're ready to start your new project, or if the design of your project changes midway through building it, send your plans to the architectural committee first so that we can make sure they're in compliance with the association's design standards. If we do find any issues, we'll let you know what they are and try to help you come up with other options. We appreciate all the hard work residents have done to make their homes and this community beautiful—help us keep Steiner Ranch looking great by keeping us in the loop of all your building projects.

Typically application received by Friday are reviewed the following Wednesday, but the committee has 30 days to review. All applications are found on the Steiner Ranch HOA website under the Documents section at www.steinerranchhoa.org.

### Where Am I?

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

#### **BELLA MAR COMMUNITY CENTER**

(Pools, park, tennis courts, multi-purpose fields, etc.) 12401 Bella Mar Trail

#### **TOWNE SOUARE COMMUNITY CENTER**

(Pools, park, tennis courts, soccer fields, etc.) 12550 Country Trails Lane

#### **JOHN SIMPSON COMMUNITY CENTER**

(Pools, park, tennis courts, etc.) 3506 John Simpson Trail

#### THE LAKE CLUB

12300 River Bend Road

#### FLAT TOP PARK AND ATHLETIC FIELDS

13200 Flat Top Ranch Road

#### SAVANNAH/LAS BRISAS PARK

12317 Capella Trail

#### **CANYON GLEN PARK**

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#### **MAJESTIC OAKS PARK**

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# FOUR POINTS HOMEWORK HELP IS BACK

VHS PALS (Peer Assistance and Leadership) directed by Amy Gallagher and NHS (National Honor Society Students) directed by Ashley Koble, volunteer their time each week to help Leander ISD students in our Four Points Area with their homework. This is for elementary students - high school.

It was a great success last year with students: increasing their grade point averages, forming friendships and creating a closer community bond. Four Points Homework Help is based on Peer Assisted Learning which follows LISD's 10 Ethical Principals and Learning Model. This is 100% volunteer with the gratuity being the satisfaction of making a difference and working together as a community. Many high school volunteers more than doubled their required hours because they really enjoyed helping others.

This is a privately organized volunteer program that was started last school year by Vandegrift High School Senior -NHS and PALS member - Addison Stahl. He created this volunteer organization with the support of his family based on a program in NY organized by the public library. Addison and his friends were looking for ways to volunteer and really make a difference and Homework Help became a reality.

Mrs. Gallagher and Ms. Koble believed in the idea and offered the opportunity to earn volunteer hours through this program to their students.

Cathy Richardson - CathyBDesign - donated professional graphics and posters to give Homework Help an identity.

Kristi and Rick Nordin, owners of Cups and Cones supported the cause and donated meeting space at Cups and Cones. They also offer weekly specials during Homework Help hours.

Four Points Homework Help will be held at Cups and Cones again this year starting October 22, 2014. The days will be Tuesday and Thursday from 5:30pm -7:30pm. Sessions will have an LISD approved adult volunteer supervising them. Appointments must be set up to participate.

New addition to the group is Lucas Martis. Homework Help will have a website and online scheduler to make scheduling easier. Lucas Martis - VHS Junior - is webmaster for this volunteer program and is getting the site ready to go.

For more information please email 4ptshmwkhelp@gmail. com Please look for flyers and posters at Cups and Cones soon for the website and further information.





River Ridge Elementary had its International Day on September 27th and 19 countries were represented by parents and teachers. The students had an educational and fun day at school, learning about different cultures around the world. Special thanks to Olga Del Valle for being the International Day Chair and for organizing a fabulous event. Also, special thanks to all the parents who shared so much information with the students! Their time and effort were very appreciated. Thanks to River Ridge PTA for sponsoring the event

### Steiner Lights for the Holidays



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# River Ridge Elementary School To Host Fall Scholastic Book Fair Event, November 11-15, 2013

**WHAT:** River Ridge Elementary School will host a Fall Scholastic Book Fair on November 11-15, 2013. Funds raised will help support a variety of school PTA events and programs, as well as purchase books for the River Ridge Elementary library. The entire Steiner Ranch community is invited to attend this fun reading event, A COOL PLACE TO FIND A HOT BOOK!

**WHEN**: The Book Fair will be open November 11, from 5:00-7:00pm, November 12-14, from 7:30am-3:30pm, and November 15, from 7:30am-1:00pm.

**WHERE**: River Ridge Elementary School, located at 12900 Tierra Grande Trail.

The Book Fair offers specially priced books and educational products, including children's classics, award-winning titles, new releases, interactive software, adult bestsellers, and other great reads from more than 50 publishers. Book Fair customers may help the school build classroom libraries and improve children's reading skills by purchasing books through the Classroom Wish List and All for Books programs.

Contact: Gretchen Raftelis at graftelis@yahoo.com or 512-368-5992.





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# HCEF Launches Fall Fundraising Campaign Why give to local schools?

By John Pasquarette Member, HCEF Board of Directors

The Hill Country Education Foundation (HCEF) is launching its first annual Fall Fundraising Campaign to support local schools with tools, technology, and programs to enhance the educational experience for our children. Campaign kickoff starts October 1 and runs for six weeks with a goal of raising \$30,000.

I'm sure many of you chose the Four Points area to live for the same reasons I did – the beautiful hill country, gleaming new and successful schools, and a vibrant community. Many people, however, don't understand why we need private funding to supplement education. Leander ISD is under the same pressures as all public schools districts, even more as its population booms (one of the fastest growing school district in Texas) while budgets shrink. LISD serves over 35,000 students and adds between 1,000 and 2,000 students per year. Meanwhile, the state cut more than \$1.7B in education funding, which reduced LISD's budget by more than \$16M, or more than \$400 per pupil. Our district must make the best with the funding they do receive and balance the benefits and programs across the district.

Bottomline, our teachers are the real issue here. If you recall the fondest memories from your education, the true source of inspiration and discovery doesn't come from the glistening new facilities or textbooks, but rather from great teachers. True inspiration and "a-ha moments" come from experiences. Exceptional teachers create these experiences. They are teachers who run the after-school clubs, who bring in outside professionals, who introduce new technology to enliven the curriculum. It's these teachers, and the programs they use, who need our help. HCEF has donated more than \$150,000 to support teacher grants for equipment and programs over the past three years. We're looking to extend that tradition.

Vandegrift Principal Charlie Little once shared that he had the rare opportunity to hire every one of his teachers with the opening of VHS. Judging by the set of teachers I met at Open House, he's an exceptional recruiter. HCEF is committed to supporting these great teachers at VHS, Canyon Ridge and Four Points Middle Schools and the five elementary schools. It's similar to the support we provide our athletic teams. That's why HCEF is adopting a new tagline "Your Four Points Academic Booster Club." We want to ensure these principals and teachers have the additional tools, technology and programs to raise their level of instruction.

Now its time to show our support. Get involved with the fundraiser this week and "join our academic booster club." The amount you give is not important. We're looking for broad-based support from the community. Four Points has more than 6,000 homes. If just 10% of us contributed \$100, we easily blow away our goal of \$30,000 this Fall. Visit www.HillCountryEdFoundation.org for more information.

John Pasquarette is vice president of e-Business at National Instruments. He received his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering at Texas A&M. He and his wife Kathleen have two children. Ellie is a freshman at Vandegrift High School and Will is a 7th grader at Canyon Ridge Middle School. The Pasquarette's have lived in the Four Points community since 2009.



John Pasquarette Vice President of e-Business at National Instruments.





### **Business Section**

# **Travis County Balcones Canyonlands Preserve**

### November Hikes

Join Travis County Staff for a series of interpretive hikes at a number of different properties within the Travis County Balcones Canyonlands Preserve system. Each hike is of moderate difficulty (no hike participants under 6 years of age), so be sure to come with appropriate footwear (hiking boots or tennis shoes suggested; no flip-flops), sunscreen/hat, clothing (jeans or cargo pants), insect repellant, and drinking water.

Specific hike instructions will be given to those participants who sign up for individual hikes and confirm via e-mail (put the name(s) of the hike(s) you wish to sign up for in the subject line of the email).

A limited number of spaces are available – therefore, hike participants must email william.burch@co.travis.tx.us to register for each hike.



We have the following hike scheduled for the month of November:

#### **JOLLYVILLE HIKE**

(near the intersection of Boulder Lane and 620 North) Saturday, November 2, 2013 8:30 am – 10:30 am

#### **VISTA POINT HIKE**

(off of Wilson Park Road corridor) Saturday, November 9, 2013 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

#### **STEINER RANCH HIKE**

(off of Quinlan Park Road) Saturday, November 16, 2013 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

### 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 <u>steinerranch@peelinc.com</u>. 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.



# Why Office at Home

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#### **SUDOKU** 6 8 9 7 3 6 View answers online at www.peelinc.com 2 3 1 5 2006. Feature Exchange 8 1 5 4 9 3 5 9 4

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.





- · Pet care and Fitness program
- In-Home Day or Overnight care



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### Classified Ads

**Business classifieds** (offering a service or product line for profit) are \$65, limit 40 words, please contact Peel, Inc. Sales Office at 512-263-9181 or advertising@PEELinc.com.

# Third Annual Birdies for Bikes Junior Charity Golf Tournament

River Place Country Club will be the site on Saturday, November 9 of the third annual "Birdies for Bikes", a tournament for young golfers ranging in age from seven through seventeen years.

The first annual Birdies for Bikes tournament was the vision of then 10 year old junior golfer Hailey Derrickson who wanted to help less fortunate children receive bicycles for Christmas. She wanted to give other junior golfers an opportunity to do what they love (golf) while at the same time helping under-privileged kids... kids helping kids. The first tournament raised more than \$6,400 (after corporate matching) for bikes, helmets and bike locks for the Bikes for Kids charity. The second annual

Kaylee Vesely, tournament founder Hailey Derrickson and Cole tournament raised \$8,042.

Sherwood presenting a check for \$8042 to JB and Sandy of radio 94.7 for the Bikes for Kids charity.

The junior golfers participating in the tournament collect donations or solicit pledges for each birdie and par that they may score in the tournament. Local businesses donate prizes for the junior golfers that collect the most money, for a raffle and for



(Continued on Page 51)



At Austin Pain Associates, we provide comprehensive, state-of-the-art treatments to ensure you receive the most complete care possible.

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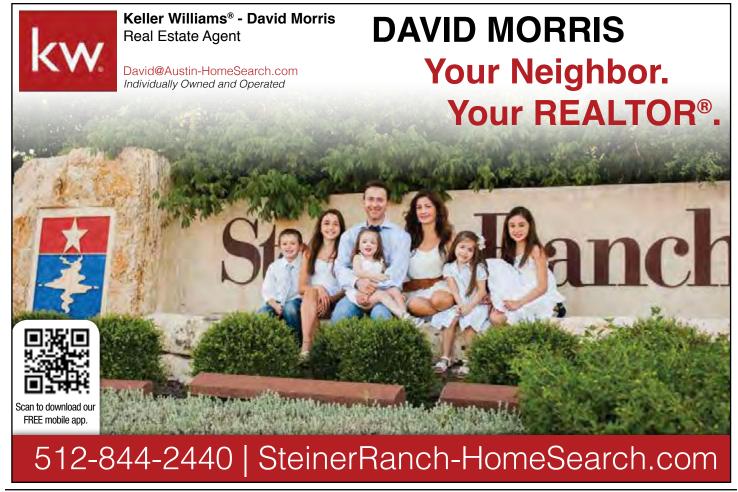


#### (Continued from Page 50)

closest-to-the-pin competitions. This year's prize for the golfer that collects the most money for the charity will be a guitar donated by Strait Music and autographed by The Plain White T's band. The Plain White T's have had several Platinum recordings, a couple of Grammy nominations and the number one Billboard chart hit, Hey There Delilah. Other prizes include passes for ziplining donated by Lake Travis Zipline Adventures, tickets for Volente Waterpark (summer 2014), movie and sporting event tickets, game gift cards, Brighton jewelry, gift certificate for Big Frog Custom T-Shirts, a purse and incidentals bags from Beijo Bags, Austin Park passes, iTunes gift cards, and restaurant gift cards from Zack's, Cups and Cones, Oasis, The League, Lakeside Pizza and Grill, Chili's, Menchie's and Subway, and much more.

Details about the tournament as well as pledge sheets are available at www.birdiesforbikes.com. To make a donation or pledge to a golfer or to donate prizes to be used in the tournament, please email info@birdiesforbikes.com.





# Save some "GREEN" with frozen, canned veggies

Don't overlook frozen or canned fruits and vegetables as healthy and less expensive alternatives to the fresh versions.

You might be surprised to know that frozen or canned options are just as nutritious as or sometimes even more nutritious than fresh fruits and vegetables.

Companies that make frozen or canned fruits and vegetables must pack the items at their peak, said Gee. While some vitamins and minerals are lost in the fresh foods due to the time it takes to get them from the field to the plate, these vitamins and minerals are present in the canned or frozen versions.

However, she warns that it 1s still important to read the labels on canned or frozen items to be sure that they are preserved in their own natural juices and that no sugar is added.

Frozen meals can also be a good option for saving some money and maintaining a healthy weight, said Gee, but make sure only 30 percent of the calories are from fat and consider low-sodium options.

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# THE GENE ARANT TEAM WANTS TO GIVE BACK

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