

RANCH RECORD

Official Newsletter for the Steiner Ranch HOA

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 12 DECEMBER 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	
Saturday and Sunday	
, ,	

Saturday and Sunday
STAFF
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Patricia Campbell patricia@steinerranchhoa.org
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Maintenance Technician
Angel Alvarado
Macedonio Salazar
Roy Carrillo

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."

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.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS	
EMERGENCY	91
Fire	
Ambulance	
Sheriff – Non-Emergency	
Travis County ESD No.6/Lake Travis Fire	
Administration Office	
Travis County Animal Control	512-974-200
STEINER RANCH CONTACTS	
Steiner Ranch Community Association Of	ffice512-266-755
SCHOOLS	
Leander ISD	512-570-000
Vandegrift High School	512-570-230
Canyon Ridge Middle School	
Laura Welch Bush Elementary	
Steiner Ranch Elementary	
River Ridge Elementary	
UTILITIES	
Travis County WCID # 17	512-266-111
City of Austin Electric	
Texas Gas Service	
Custom Service	1-800-700-244
Emergencies	
Call Before You Dig	
AT&T	
New Service	1-800-464-792
Repair	
Billing	
Time Warner Cable	
Customer Service	512-485-555
Repairs	
TDS (Trash & Recycle)	
Austin/Travis County Hazardous Waste	
·	
OTHER NUMBERS	
Lake Travis Postal Office	
Coyote Sightings	31
NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER	
Peel, Inc.	
Advertisingadv	ertising@peelinc.co

GO GREEN! GO PAPERLESS!

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

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REACHING **NEIGHBORS** and many or

- Avery Ranch
- Barton Creek
- Bee Cave
- Bella Vista
- Belterra
- Canyon Creek
- Circle C Ranch
- Courtyard
- · Davenport Ranch
- · Forest Creek
- Highland Park West Balcones Steiner Ranch
- Hometown Kyle
- Hunter's Chase
- Jester Estates
- Lakeway
- Lakewood
- Legend Oaks II
- Long Canyon
- · Lost Creek
- · Meadows of Bushy Creek

- Meridian
- Pemberton Heights
- Plum Creek
- · Prairie on the Creek
- · Ranch at Brushy Creek
- · River Place
- · Round Rock Ranch
- Sendera
- · Shady Hollow
- Sonoma
- Stone Canyon
- Tarrytown
- Teravista
- · Travis Country West
- Twin Creeks
- · Villages of Westen Oaks
- · West Lake Hills
- · Westside at Buttercup Creek
- · Wood Glen

FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION Call Today 512-263-9181

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ARTICLE INFO

The Ranch Record is mailed monthly to all Steiner Ranch residents. Residents, community groups, churches, etc. are welcome to submit information about their organizations in the newsletter. Personal news for the Stork Report, Teenage Job Seekers, recipes, special celebrations, and birthday announcements are also welcome.

To submit an article for consideration please email it to steinerranch@peelinc.com. The deadline is the 8th of the month prior to the issue.

COVER PHOTO

This month's cover photo was taken down at the Lake Club last December of the Brillante's growing family.

John owns a Steiner Ranch-based landscaping company called Mowing 4 Missions LLC

Joy is a real estate agent with Avalar Austin Real Estate (also based in Steiner Ranch/office located above Cho Sushi)

Allye & Avery attend Vandegrift High School; Ashton is a junior at Abilene Christian University (his girlfriend, Sarah, is pictured next to him)

Priscilla, Maci, Bee Bee and Lilly are sisters (all attend Steiner Ranch Elementary) and were adopted by the family in May, 2013.

Top Row: Allye Brillante, Avery Brillante, John Brillante, Joy Brillante, Sarah Ginn, Ashton Brillante

Bottom Row: Priscilla Brillante, Maci Brillante, Bee Bee Brillante, Lilly Brillante

The Brillante's attend Austin Christian Fellowship. Recently thier church promoted Orphan Care Weekend to bring awareness to the many foster children and needs in Texas. For more information on how to get involved, visit

http://www.acfellowship.org/orphan

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.

REOUIREMENTS 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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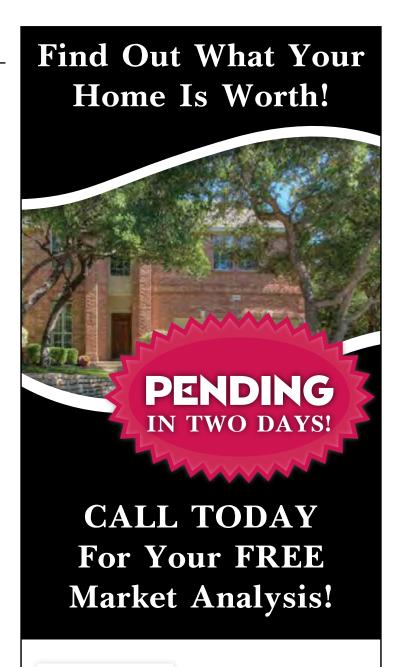
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Angie Noeth

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THE RANCH REPORT HAPPY HOLIDAYS

All of the staff in the HOA office would like to wish the Homeowners of Steiner Ranch happy holidays and hope that everyone has a safe and fulfilling end to their year.

As we come to the end of this year, I would once again like to take the opportunity to thank all of the wonderful and dedicated volunteers in the community that help keep Steiner Ranch such a wonderful place to live.

First I must say thank you to Janine Farnum and Dottie Thoms for their service on the Board of Directors for the Steiner Ranch Master Association. Their positive attitude and commitment towards the homeowner's of Steiner Ranch has been unmistakable during their time on the Board. Not only do they volunteer their time to the Board, but both are actively involved in the Social Committee in planning and organizing many of the extra activities that make Steiner Ranch so special.

I would also like to thank the Board of Directors for the Steiner Ranch Residential Owners Association. Rob Carruthers, Derrick Jones, David Marks, Karl McArthur, and Martha Moring. Their dedication to a quality Steiner Ranch is also evident in their volunteer efforts and involvement throughout the community.

In addition, I would like say a special thank you to Nathasha Collmann for her efforts in our Firewise Committee. Her continuous drive to make Steiner Ranch a safer place will leave an everlasting mark on this community. And to Rodney Mogen who volunteers as the Facilities Committee Chairperson and serves on the Finance Committee and helps, with his wife Myrta, on the Social Committee as one of our most involved and dedicated volunteers.

If you have an opportunity to run in to any of these dedicated volunteers, please tell them thank you. Like any community, Steiner Ranch faces challenges and concerns on a daily basis, and these are some of the standout volunteers that are making every effort to address them in a positive and productive way.

Once again, Happy Holidays and we wish you all a Happy New Year to come.

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@ChampionsTX 1502 RR 620 (Behind LTUMC)

Mark Your Calendars

2013 Steiner Ranch Social Committee Events

DEC₇

Parent/Child Painting Class

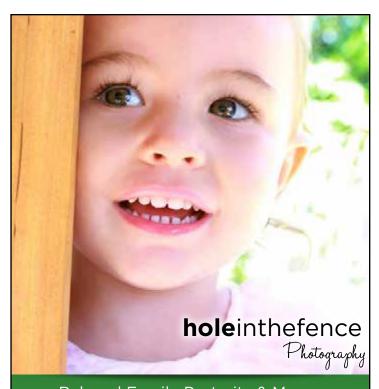
DEC 10

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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2013 Steiner Ranch Pumpkin Patch

With just 2 weeks to plan the event, several Steiner Ranch small business owners got together to keep the Steiner Ranch Pumpkin Patch going at John Simpson Park. This event was made possible by paying sponsors- Brandy Finnessey of RE/MAX 1, School in the Hills, Wag a Bag, Eye Level Learning Center, Rising Stars Pediatric Dentistry and contributing sponsors Zack's American Bistro and Chicken Express. These amazing businesses were all excited to do their part to raise funds for the Children's Medical Center Foundation of Central Texas. "When Stewart and I were presented with the question whether to pick up and put the event together, we jumped on it because this is such a great cause and we didn't want to see it go away" said Brandy Finnessey. We could not have accomplished what we did without the help of all the volunteers from Vandergrift Viper National Honors Society. A total of 32 kids showed up and worked a 3 hour shift each to make the event a success. They helped carry pumpkins to cars, sell concessions and be there for both the set up & take down.

The Pumpkin Patch event held on October 19th at John Simpson Park raised \$3,650.00 from pumpkin and concession sales. Every dollar raised that afternoon will go to the foundation. Everyone attending the event got a chance to guess the weight of the Great Pumpkin for a chance to win a \$100.00 Zack's American Bistro gift card. Congratulations to the Vatcher family for guessing the winning weight of 78 pounds 4 ounces.

"We are so appreciative of the Steiner Ranch Community and in particular to the Finnessey's for organizing this year's Pumpkin Patch. All of the money raised will go to the Texas Child Study Center Endowment and will be matched by a generous donor, bringing the Steiner Ranch Pumpkin Patch donation to \$7300.00. The Study Center provides the very latest in diagnosis and treatment to help children with many different mental health issues. The staff can also be found embedded within the departments at Dell Children's working with patients and their families experiencing difficult health challenges."-Barbie Sproull, Children's Medical Center Foundation

"I look forward to being a part of this event again next year" said Alicia Marker owner of School in the Hills.

"With one pumpkin patch under our belts, we look forward to expanding the event next year to include more free family activities in hopes of raising awareness & additional funds" said Stewart Finnessey. "With this help the foundation will be able to extend their research & help more families in need" said Brandy Finnessey

Pictured left to right are Tracy Shinsel of Zack's Bistrow, Brandy Finnessey of RE/MAX 1, and Alicia Marker with School in the Hills with the real big check.

For more information about the 2014 Steiner Ranch Pumpkin Patch contact Brandy Finnessey at 512-698-3366











Bluebonnet School

A Private Preparatory Preschool

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- Pre-kindergarten
- Private Kindergarten
- After-School
- Summer Camp

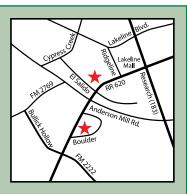
Santa Claus Is Coming to Bluebonnet School - YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD!

He wants your children to visit and tell him their whispered Christmas wishes.



Saturday morning, December 7, 9:30 – 11:30 at Bluebonnet School of Canyon Creek

Saturday morning, December 14, 9:30 – 11:30 at Bluebonnet School of Cedar Park



- This is a great photo opportunity!
- Avoid the crowds and lines in the mall!
- And it's FREE!

Bluebonnet School of Canyon Creek 512-219-5100

10321 Boulder Lane (at 620), Austin, TX 78726

Bluebonnet School of Cedar Park 512-331-9009

3420 El Salido Pkwy (at 620), Cedar Park, TX 78613





Texas Pre-K Center of Excellence

www.bluebonnetschool.com

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Girl Scouts Troop 411





On Wednesday before Halloween, several local Girl Scouts troops did a Halloween parade in the Longhorn Retirement Village Community. The residents were delighted to see all the girls in costumes and to hand out candy to them.

Thanks,

Simone Riedl



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Holiday House Decorating Contest

YOUR VOTE COUNTS!!!

Get ready for our Annual Holiday House Decorating Contest.

We will be awarding a Grand Prize winner of \$200 and, best of the following categories of \$100 each:

Best Themed Best Holiday Spirit Most Beautiful

Honorable Mention will be given to the street or sub-division with the most participation.

Here's how it works:

First -

Nominate your home (or someone else's home) by emailing the physical address to Sharon Adams, Community Coordinator at sharon@steinerranchhoa.org no later than Sunday, December 15th. Be sure to indicate which category you are nominating them for!

Next -

Go to the website (www.steinerranchhoa.org) and download the list of participating homes. (Should be posted on Monday, December 16th)

Finally -

Vote for YOUR favorite home between Dec 16th – December 23rd from the list on the website (only one vote per household, per category) no later than Monday, December 23rd.

Winners will be announced on the website and Facebook Page!

Good Luck!!!



CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Come one, come all for a family fun, carol singing, hot chocolate and giving celebration.

Bring a flameless candle for your child to hold while they sing along.

We hope you join in the holiday spirit and bring a gift for a child and/or a canned good(s).

Sunday, December 15th

Cups & Cones
4:00pm – 6:00pm
*Mr. Rudy*Children Giving*Community*Hot
Chocolate*Cookies*



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Steiner Ranch Annual Chili Cook-Off

JANUARY 18, 2014 6:30PM - 9:30PM \$15 PER PERSON AT THE DOOR OR \$10 PLUS 2 CANNED GOODS

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

Think your Chili is the best in Steiner? Chili entry forms and rules can be found online at www.steinerranchhoa.org. Entry fee is \$10 per chili entry with entrance fee waived.

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

LIVE MUSIC!

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

Hope to see you there!

(This is not a sanctioned event, so have fun and be creative!)



YOUNG WEART

Young at Heart activities are designed to appeal to people in the 50+ age group. To be a part of the group you simply send your contact information including name(s), address and contact information including phone numbers and email address to Karen Steans at kjsteans@gmail.com. You'll be placed on the Young at Heart group email list and will receive monthly and weekly schedules of upcoming activities and events. Below is a list of some of our activities.

Because many young at Hearts travel or live in Steiner Ranch as a second home, the group is loosely organized. Members are welcome to participate as often as they can.

There are no dues but many individual activities have some cost. When a group has a regular meeting date, it is listed. However, these dates should always be confirmed since they may be changed. Because many activities take place in people's homes, some are limited in size but have substitute or waiting lists. Activities are held both during the day and evenings.

Several groups won't be meeting in December because of the busy holiday schedules and travel plans of most of our members.

Young at Heart Annual Cruise to the Caribbean January 25th to February 1st

Our regular activities are: Book Club (Second Tuesday)

Bridge - Ladies Social (Second and Fourth Wednesdays)

Bunko (Third Thursday)

Canasta (Second Monday)

Concerts and Plays

Dinner Groups

Epicureans

Exploring Austin

Game Night

Happy Hours

Hiking

Ladies Lunching Out (third Tuesday)

Mexican Train - Daytime (first Monday)

Mexican Train - Couples (second Monday)

Movie Lovers

ROMEO - Retired Old Men Eating Out (Second Monday)

Scrabble

Technology Group (second Thursday)

Walking Group (every Thursday)

Wine Socials

For more information, please contact Dottie Thoms at 512-531-9360 or steinerranchyoungatheart@gmail.com.



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Around Steiner

FIREWISE CHAT: DECEMBER 2013

So we got a lot of rain but the lake still hasn't risen much, don't let the cool temps and damp earth cause you to become complacent. Now is the time to prep your home and surroundings for the next wildfire season! Most of our Red Flag Warning days come in the late winter/early spring months when the air is dry, much of the vegetation is dormant (and dry), and the cold/warm fronts vie for dominancy in our area – in other words our next transitional season!

Wildfire experts always say it is not a miracle that spares one home on a block when all others are completely destroyed. It is the fact that the embers could not find an ignition source on that home. Most of the homes lost in the Steiner fire did not start from a giant wall of flames in the greenbelt behind them. Instead they were started by the embers from the fire landing in the gutters and finding a dry pile of leaves that then ignited the attic OR the embers entering through the unscreened attic vents and igniting the attic from the inside. Yes, most of the homes destroyed in that fire burned from the top down indicating that the fire started on/near the roof/attic NOT from the flames in the greenbelt.

So what can you do? Here is a list compiled by the Texas A&M Forest Service of 50 Things You Can Do to Protect Your Home from Wildfire organized by amount of cost and effort (with notes from the SRFW Committee with info specific to Steiner). Much of this is basic home maintenance that you can do yourself but perhaps didn't realize could save your home from a wildfire.

No Cost, Just A Little Time

- Move your firewood pile out of your home's defensible space. (best to just get rid of this because most SR yards aren't big enough to have a woodpile that isn't in either your defensible space or your neighbor's)
- Perform a FIREWISE assessment of your home. (contact the FW Committee for a free assessment)
- Clean your roof and gutters of leaves and pine needles. (do this in the Fall and again in the Spring when the Live Oaks drop their leaves)
- Clear the view of your house number so it can be easily seen from the street. (so many are blocked by cars in the driveway or overhanging branches make sure to get your curb painted/repainted too)
 - Put a hose on a rack and attach it to an outside faucet.
- Trim all tree branches if they overhang your house. (will save a lot of \$ on roof repair later and helps keep rodents out of the attic and building nests on the roof)
 - Trim all tree branches from within 20' of all chimneys.
 - Remove trees along the driveway to make it 12' wide.
- Prune branches overhanging the driveway to have 14' overhead clearance.
- Maintain a green lawn for 30' around your home. (hard to do in the summer with our watering restrictions consider adding a 12-18" buffer of gravel or river rock around the base of your house)
 - If new homes are still being built in your area, talk to the

developer and local zoning officials about building standards.

- Plan and discuss an escape plan with your family, have practice drills, and include your pets.
 - Get involved with your community's disaster mitigation plans.
- Check your fire extinguishers. Are they still charged? Are they easy to get to in an emergency? Does everyone in the family know where they are and how to use them?
- Clear deadwood and dense flammable vegetation from your home's defensible space.
- Remove conifer shrubs from your home's defensible space especially if your home is in a high-risk area. (evergreen shrubs are highly flammable especially Rosemary, hollies, and palm trees)
- Review your homeowner's insurance policy for adequate coverage.
- Talk to your children about not starting fires or playing with matches. (we have had several greenbelt fires started by neighborhood kids)
 - If you have a burn barrel that you use for burning trash, STOP!
 - Compost leaves in the fall, don't burn them.
- If you burn your brush piles or grass in the spring, get a burning permit. (get a permit even when we are not under a burn ban)
- Always have a shovel on hand and hook up the garden hose BEFORE you start a fire.
- Never burn if the smoke and flames are blowing towards your home (or your neighbor's home).
- Be a Firewise advocate. (join us at our monthly meetings the 3rd Monday of every month 7pm at Bella Mar to learn more)

Minimal cost actions (\$10-\$25 and a little time)

- Install highly visible house numbers (at least 3" tall) on your home.
- Install big, highly visible house numbers (at least 3' tall) at the entrance of the driveway. Use non-flammable materials and posts.
- Install metal screens on all attic, foundation, and other openings on your home to prevent accumulation of leaves and needles. (less than \$10/roll at Home Depot. Also keeps bugs and rodents out!)
- Hold a neighborhood meeting to talk about fire safety. Invite your local fire chief.

See the Steiner Ranch Firewise Facebook Page OR the Firewise page on the HOA website for the full list.





Great News! Convenient Health Care Now In Your Neighborhood

The Austin Diagnostic Clinic is pleased to announce that our Steiner Ranch office will open December 2013. This location will offer the following services and specialities for you and your family:

Doctors and Specialties

Allergy - Scott Oberhoff, MD

Dermatology - Melody Vander Straten, MD

ENT - Richard Bryarly, MD

Family Practice - Vimal George, MD

Pediatrics - Linda Lopez, MD &

Theresa Willis, MD

Podiatry - Ana Urukalo, DPM

Rheumatology - Kevin Osgood, MD

Services

Allergy shots

EasyCare

Infusion services

Lab and X-ray

We look forward to being a part of the community and caring for our neighbors. Follow our progress or learn more about us at *ADClinic.com*.



The Austin Diagnostic Clinic Steiner Ranch - Opening Soon 5145 N. FM 620, Bldg. I 512-681-5900 • ADClinic.com My Health, My Doctor, My ADC

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Around Steiner



Join Us!

Visit the website: www.SteinerServes.org
Join the Steiner Serves Facebook Group:
www.Facebook.com/groups/SteinerServes

STEINER STRONG:

Steiner Serves is a group of Steiner area residents that have committed to do one SMALL thing each month to benefit one featured charitable cause.

It's EASY, SIMPLE and FUN!

Here's how to participate:

- Visit www.SteinerServes.org
- Join the Steiner Serves Facebook group by using the link on the website or going to https://www.facebook.com/groups/SteinerServes
- ☑ View the featured charity for the month and select one small commitment
- Deliver on your commitment.
- ☑ Check back at the end of the month to see the results of our collective efforts and select your next SMALL commitment.

Want to learn more? Join us at our next monthly Meet & Greets! Details are featured on our Facebook Group page and website: www.steinerServes.org

STEINER STRONG:

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Heart Institute



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Visit us at www.LakewayRegional.com or call 512-571-5000 100 Medical Parkway · Lakeway, TX 78738

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Brown Santa Toy/Food Donation Drive

Donations will be accepted at the HOA office until December 13th.

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

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

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

Suggested donations for the older kids could be:

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

Suggested donations for infants to toddlers could be:

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

All donations need to be new and unwrapped.

Donations can be brought to the HOA Office at 12550 Country Trails Lane, until Friday, December 13th. Hours of operation will be Mon-Thurs 1p-5pm, Fri/10a – 5p.

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

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

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



Steiner Ranch - Neighbor Spotlight

You aren't going to believe what I am spotlighting for this month's article. Wallpaper baby!!! Yes, I said wallpaper. Guess what? It's back in style! Now I don't mean the boring old stripy or flowery, Grandma stuff (sorry Grandma) but the new cool style, patterns and texture. If you haven't looked at wallpaper lately you are totally missing out.

This month, I had the pleasure of doing a spotlight article on one of the most elegantly decorated homes I have seen in Steiner Ranch. Each room you walk into takes your breath away. The owner claims she just does design as a hobby (which I know is true because she has another full time job) but she could totally do this for a living - everything she touches becomes beautiful. I have picked out 3 rooms from her home where she has used wallpaper to set the mood of the room.

The first of 3 rooms that I am going to share with you is the dining room. I had our talented photographer take a shot of the room and then a close up of the wallpaper so you can see the detail. Originally, the owner wanted to put stone on the wall but the pieces were too heavy for the stucco. She found this wallpaper instead. The texture of it is amazing. From a distance, it's very subtle but close up its totally rockin'! And yes, this really is wallpaper.

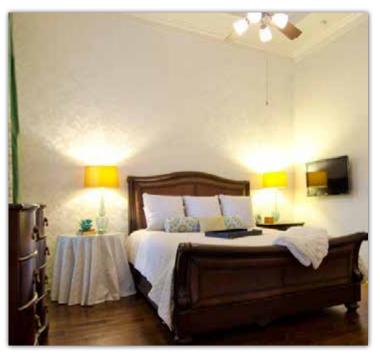




The second room I am going to share is a powder room. The pattern on this wallpaper is actually made up of tiny balls of sparkly glass.



The 3rd and final room I am going to share with you is the master bedroom. The wallpaper in this room didn't have texture but what was so super cool about this was that the pattern only really showed up with ambient lighting.

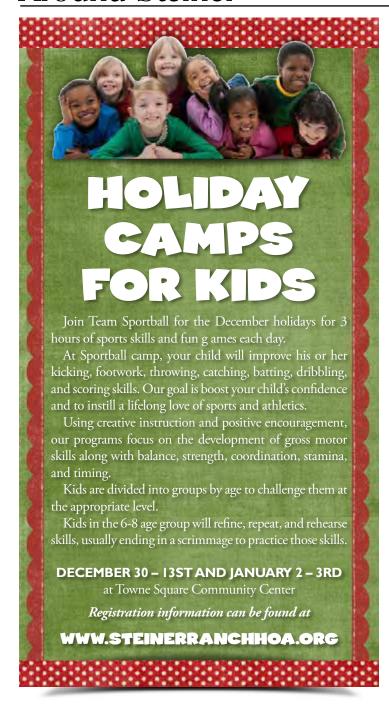


So if you didn't believe me before, I bet you do now. Wallpaper is back in style and winning back market share from specialty paint which is no longer your only option for a high end look and feel. The good news is that this home owner says she likes to change up things and redesign some of the rooms every year and a half. You know I will be calling her back to see the next round of really cool design trends she implements next time!

Thank you to my photographer this month, Brendan Maloney, http://www.bpmaloney.com

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Around Steiner





2014 Winter/Spring Programs

Registration Is Open

2014 Winter/Spring Programs in Steiner Ranch will begin in January! Registration has opened December 1st for Residents, so go online and look for all program information in the 2014 Program Guide at www.steinerranchhoa.org. Here is a summary at what you will find:

PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

- Sportball
- Tap & Ballet Combo
- Gymnastics
- Tennis
- Music
- Touchdown Tots

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

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

ELEMENTARY - TEEN PROGRAMS

- o Sportball
- o Tab & Ballet combo
- o Hip Hop
- o Gymnastics
- o Karate
- o Tennis
- o Abacus
- o Zumbatronics
- o Sylvan

ADULT PROGRAMS

- o Yoga
- o Adult Swimming
- o Karate
- o Tai Chi
- o Tennis
- o Line Dancing
- o Zumba
- o Carriefit
- o Walk-Live

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

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

COYOTES IN STEINER RANCH

Portions of Article provided by the City of Austin

Although Spring is the time when the Association receives many reports about Coyote sightings near greenbelt areas, they can be roaming about year round.

Coyotes can live just about anywhere, and as humans expand their living areas and coyotes expand their range as well, contact is inevitable. Most of the time, coyotes go out of their way to avoid humans, but they are discovering that the urban environment provides a variety of sources of food. Resourceful and adaptable as coyotes are, they will take advantage of this when they can.

One of the keys to the coyote's success is its diet. A true scavenger, the coyote will eat just about anything. Identified as a killer of sheep, poultry and deer, the coyote will also eat snakes and foxes, doughnuts and sandwiches, rodents and rabbits, fruits and vegetables, birds, frogs, grass and grasshoppers, pet cats and cat food, pet dogs and dog food, carrion and just plain garbage.

WHAT CAN RESIDENTS DO TO HELP THE SITUATION

- 1. Do not feed coyotes or other wildlife!
- 2. Eliminate sources of water.

- 3. Bird feeders should be positioned so that coyotes can't get the feed. Coyotes are attracted by bread, table scraps, and even seed. They may also be attracted by birds and rodents that come to the feeders. They are also attracted to deer feed.
 - 4. Do not discard edible garbage where coyotes can get to it.
 - 5. Secure garbage containers and eliminate garbage odors.
- 6. Feed pets indoors whenever possible. Pick up any leftovers if feeding outdoors. Store pet food where it is inaccessible to wildlife.
- 7. Trim and clean, near ground level, any shrubbery that provides hiding cover for coyotes or prey.
 - 8. As in all cases, small children should never be left unattended.
- 9. Don't allow pets to run free. Keep them safely confined and provide secure nighttime housing for them. Walk your dog on a leash and accompany your pet outside, especially at night.
- 10. Discourage coyotes from frequenting your area. If you start seeing coyotes around your home or property, chase them away by shouting, making loud noises or throwing rocks.

(Continued on Page 22)



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www.elevenplates.com

328-0110 DVD (Continued from Page 21)

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I SEE A COYOTE?

To report coyote sightings, call 3-1-1 (chose option 2). You will be asked to describe in detail the nature of your complaint, time, location, etc. The city's Animal Control Program will gather data related to coyotes and provide that information to Texas Wildlife Services for response/follow-up once the agreement between that agency and Travis County is in place.

Call 9-1-1 to report a coyote attack on a human (to date there have been no reports in Travis County of coyotes attacking humans)

For more information, call 3-1-1 and ask for Animal Services or scan one of these QR Codes:







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DECEMBER 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
₹ \$ 1	2 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC)	3	4 3:30pm – SRMA Board of Directors Meeting	5 8:30am — YAH Walking Group	6	9:00am – 4:00pm – Babysitting Class (TSCC) 10:00am – 12:00pm – Parent/ Child Painting Class (BMCC)
8	9 YAH Couples Mexican Train YAH - ROMEO 6:30pm — FREE Yoga (TSCC)	I O 1:00pm - YAH Book Club (BMCC) 6:30pm - Volunteer Appreciation Dinner (TSCC) YAH Canesta	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	14
4:00pm - 6:00pm Christmas Carols (Cups & Cones)	l 6 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC)	7:00pm - SRLG Book Club (TSCC)	18	8:30am – YAH Walking Group YAH Ladies Lunch 7:00pm – YAH Bunko (BMCC) HOA Office Hours: 8:00am - 12:00pm Closed for Holiday Party	20	2 I Winter Begins
22	23 6:30pm - FREE Yoga (TSCC)	24	Merry Christmas! HOA office Closed Trash Service moved one day.	26 8:30am – YAH Walking Group Trash Service Slide One Day	27 Trash Service Slide One Day	28
29	9:00 - 12:00pm - Sportball Holiday Camp (TSCC) 6:30pm - FREE Yoga (TSCC)	9:00 - 12:00pm - Sportball Holiday Camp (TSCC)				



JANUARY 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			HOA Office Closed Happy New Year Trash Service Slides One Day	2 8:30am – YAH Walking Group 9:00am-12:00pm Sportball Camp TSCC Trash Service Slides One Day	9:00am-12:00pm Sportball Camp TSCC Trash Service Slides One Day	4 Super Bowl Sunday
5 Please Remove Common Area Decoration by Today	LISD Classes resume Winter Programs begin YAH Daytime Mexican Train 6:30pm — FREE Yoga (TSCC)	7 1:00pm – YAH Book Club (BMCC) 6:30pm – Facilities Committee Meeting (TSCC)	8 1:00pm YAH Ladies Social Bridge (TSCC)	9 8:30am - YAH Walking Group 1:00pm - YAH Technology (TSCC)	10	H
12	I 3 YAH - Couples Mexican Train YAH - ROMEO YAH Canesta 6:30pm - FREE Yoga	9:30am – Social Committee Meeting (Cups & Cones) 7:00pm - SRLG Book Club (TSCC)	15	I 6 8:30am - YAH Walking Group 7:00pm - YAH Bunko (BMCC)	17	I 8 6:00pm - Chili Cook-Off
19	20 No LISD School 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC) Martin Luther King Jr. Day	2 I YAH Ladies Lunch	22 1:00pm YAH Ladies Social Bridge (TSCC)	23 8:30am — YAH Walking Group	24	25 YAH - Cruise to the Caribbean
26	27 6:30pm — FREE Yoga (TSCC)	28	29 3:30pm - SRMA Board of Directors Meeting	30 8:30am - YAH Walking Group 6:00pm SRROA Board of Directors	3 I Chinese New Year	

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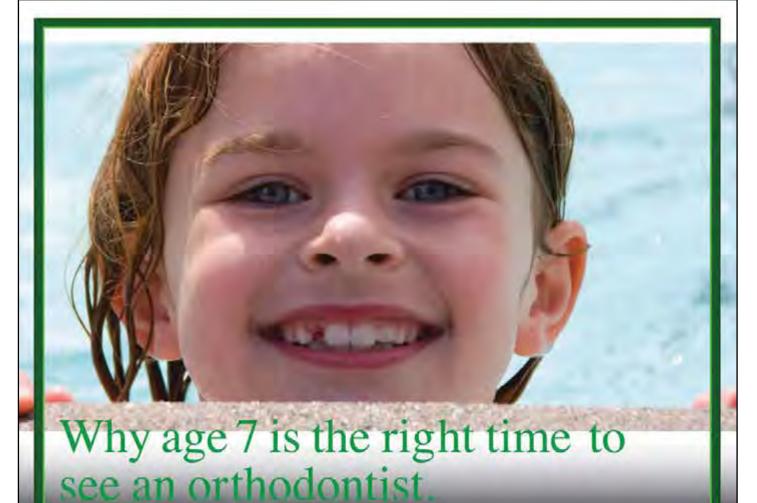
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- · Early or late loss of baby teeth
- · Difficulty in chewing or biting
- · Mouth breathing
- Jaws that shift or make sounds
- Speech difficulties
- . Biting the cheek or the roof of the mouth
- Facial imbalance
- · Grinding or clenching of the teeth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

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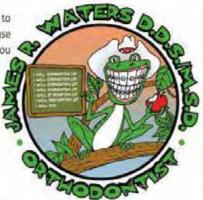


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Pool & Swimming News

Year Round Swimming Program for Adults

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

OUR SWIM SCHEDULE IS AS FOLLOWS:

- 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!

POOL CLOSURE

Since the Towne Square pool is strictly a recreational pool and is not heated, the Facilities Committee has recommended its closure from November through February of each year. The SRMA Board of Directors has approved this recommendation on a trial basis. Since this pool doesn't get used during this time, the Committee feels closure is a good option to reduce chemical, water and maintenance cost at this facility.

So for now until February, the Towne Square Pool will be closed. Community input is important and if for some reason, there is an issue with this decision, please contact Sharon Adams, Community Coordinator at sharon@steinerranchhoa.org and let her know your concerns.

WINTER 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

(Exceptions: No practice 12/23 - 12/20. Modified practice 12/31 8am-10am)

Lost Creek Aquatics

Mon – Fri 3:45pm – 7:00pm (6 lanes)

(Exceptions: LCA will practice in the mornings from 7am - 9:30am on 12/23, 12/24, 12/27, 12/30. No practice 12/25, 12/26 or 12/31)

TOWNE SQUARE

Closed

JOHN 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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TENNIS TIPS

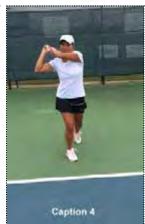
By USPTA/PTR Master Professional Fernando Velasco













How to execute The Two Handed Backhand Lob

In previous newsletters, I offered tips on how to hit the forehand groundstroke, the two-handed backhand, the one-handed backhand, the forehand volley, the two handed backhand volley, the serve, the forehand half-volley, the one-handed backhand volley, the overhead "smash", the forehand service return, the backhand service return, the forehand high volley approach shot, the two handed high volley approach shot, and the forehand lob.

In this issue, I will offer instructions on how to execute the Two Handed Backhand Lob. This shot is used when a player is forced to retrieve a ball that is hit deep to the backhand side of the player, and the opponent is either charging to the net or staying far back. The player hitting the lob is looking for "air time" to regain balance and court space. This ball should be hit high enough so the players at the net cannot reach and "slam" the ball down, or force the opponent at the base line to retrieve back. In the illustrations, Marimel Ansdell, a Member of the Grey Rock Tennis Club, shows the proper technique to execute this stroke.

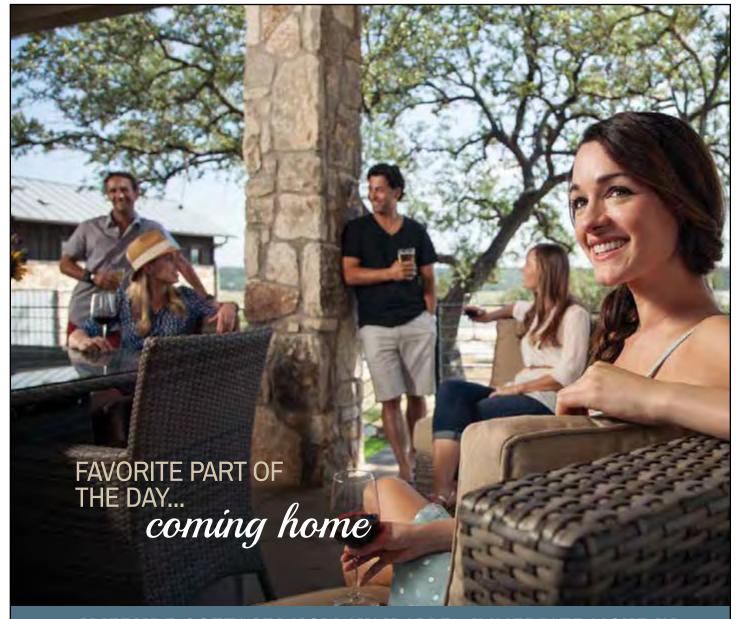
Step 1: The Back Swing: When Marimel is forced deep into the backhand side and realizes that she has to hit a defensive lob, she pivots to the left and gets her racket back early. Notice that the head of the racket is low and her left hand is on the handle of the racket. Her eyes are focused on the path of the ball and her weight is on her left foot. Step 2: The Point of Contact: Marimel is now ready to hit the ball. Her eyes are now focused on the point of contact and the face of the racket is tilted at a 45 degree angle in order to create height and depth on her lob. Her goal is to keep her head still and not start looking up to her opponent or to the other side of the court.

Step 3: The Follow Through: The success of a deep lob is the follow through. Marimel's left wrist is still "laid back" and her shoulder is lifting the racket above her head. Her right hand is holding the racket slightly, but still in control of the racket.

Step 4: The Finish: In order to create a natural top spin on the lob, Marimel is now finishing her stroke with the racket behind her right ear. This will make the ball bounce higher and/or force the opponent to hit a tennis ball that is still rotating on the air.

Step 5: The Shuffle Back: Once Marimel finishes the stroke, her goal is to either move forward toward the net top to hit an overhead, or to shuffle back to the middle of the court in order to drive the next ball back to the opponent. In this caption, she moved back to the center of the court waiting for the opponent's shot to come back.

Look in the next Newsletter for: How to execute "The One-Handed Backhand Lob"



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HAL JONES

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Ranch Record - December 2013 31

From the Association Office

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!

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/



Decorated Holiday Trees

There seems to be a new tradition that has started here in Steiner Ranch, which continues to grow each passing year.....picking out and decorating a tree in the common areas. Mostly along Quinlan Park Road, but many more are popping up along streets leading into neighborhoods, like Bella Mar Trail or Flat Top Ranch Road.

Where did this tradition get its start? The story goes that it started about 10 years ago along Hwy 360 by a family honoring their son who had recently passed away. Quickly the tradition grew with many more "trees of memory", then came along the fun quirky trees and the trees with local business logos on them. Now, you'll see hundreds of trees decorated on Hwy 360 in hopes of "keeping Austin weird".

If you plan on decorating a tree this year in Steiner Ranch, there are a few things we'd like you to consider:

- Do not use expensive or cherished ornaments
- Keep the tree maintained and looking nice throughout the season
- Be aware of your surroundings while decorating
- If you plan on being out of town, ask a friend or neighbor to maintain the tree while you are away and have the items removed by the deadline.
 - Remove all decorations no later than Sunday, January 5, 2014.
- If you do not remove your decorations, they will be removed by HOA staff and held for a few days. However, we do ask you to remove your own, so that this tradition may continue and does not become too costly to have removed.

Photo courtesy of Karen Trujillo of her kids decorating their common area tree last year



Holiday Decoration Rules

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

Holiday decorations (excluding Christmas) may be put out up to fourteen (14) days in advance of the holiday in question. 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!





Christmas Tree Recycling

The Steiner Ranch HOA encourages residents to recycle their Christmas trees from Thursday, December 26, 2013 – Jan 6, 2014 at the entrance of the WCID Water Treatment driveway off of Quinlan Park Road and Logan's Way.

Before recycling your tree, please remove all decorations, nails, wires, ornaments, tree stands, lights, and tinsel.

Place your tree to the right side of the driveway.

Thank you to WCID #17 for the use of their entrance and to Landscape Resources for removing and shredding the trees.

www.mathnasium.com/northaustin

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The Math Learning Center

FIREWORKS PROHIBITED

STEINER RANCH FIREWORKS POLICY

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

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

THERE ARE A NUMBER OF REASONS FOR THIS PROHIBITION.

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

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

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

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





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Association Assessment Payments Due

Semi-annual assessments for January – July 2014 are due on January 1, 2014. Statements will be mailed to each homeowner at the mailing address on file in mid-December. If you do not receive a statement, please contact the Community Associations Office at 512-266-7553. You are not exempt from paying assessments or late fees even if you do not receive a statement. Payments received after January 31, 2014 for any reason are subject to an initial \$25.00 late fee per association and a \$25.00 late fee for each additional month that the assessment remains unpaid. Please note that the assessment must be received by January 31st, not simply postmarked by January 31st. Your escrow account does not pay your assessments.

Online Assessment payments can be made at www.steinerranchhoa. org, by clicking on the "Online Assessment Payments" link. You can also sign up to receive your statements online.

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

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

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.

- 1. Scoop the Poop Pet stations are located all through out Steiner Ranch common areas.
- 2. Latch the leash not only is it safer for your dog, but others around you (and it's a law in Travis County)
- 3. No excessive barking be courteous of your neighbors and keep your barking dog quiet.
- 4. Report Violations go to our website at www.steinerranchhoa. org and clink on the link "Report a Problem" if you know someone violating the rules.

BULLETIN BOARD **POSTING POLICY**

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

- 1. Bulletin boards are for resident postings only. Association notices have first priority.
- 2. Notices are posted every Saturday and will remain on the board for two (2) weeks. Notices must be submitted by 12:00pm on Friday.
 - 3. Notices may not be larger than 5"x 7".
 - 4. Association notices are exempt from time and space
- 5. Notices must include either a Steiner Ranch subdivision restrictions. name OR a Steiner Ranch telephone number.
- 6. Commercial (for-profit) postings by adults are not permitted. (These include, but are not limited to, offers for in-home childcare, nannies, cleaning service, scrapbooking service, piano lessons, pet care, etc.)
- 7. Commercial (for-profit) postings for youth (under 18 years) are permitted. Youth postings may be place on the boards for no more than one (1) month per calendar year.
 - 8. Non-profit posting are allowed at the discretion of the
- 9. All postings are approved at the Association Staffs discretion.

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

Daily Specials Four Points 8300 N FM 620, Austin Happy Hour 3-7 (Mon-Fri) (next to The Moviehouse & Eatery) Sunday Brunch 512-291-6967 Sun 10a-10p, Mon-Thurs 11a-10p, Fri-Sat 11a-2a \$8.99 Lunch Specials Outside Patio Dining 500 Cypress Creek Rd., Cedar Park Family Friendly w/ Playscape (near Hwy 183) 512-243-6639 **NFL Sunday Ticket** Valid at Four Points & Cedar Park locations. Sun 10a-10p, Mon-Thurs 11a-10p, Fri-Sat 11a-12a One per table. Not valid with any other offers. Longhorn Network EXPIRES: December 31, 2013 Code: PSR13 NCAA Gameday Package A TANGET READER

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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.



ROBOTICS TEAMS COMPETE AT FIRST LEGO LEAGUE AND FIRST TECH CHALLENGE SCRIMMAGE SPONSORED BY VANDEGRIFT HIGH SCHOOL, CENTRAL TEXAS FIRST AND HILL COUNTRY EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Dozens of teams from around Austin will compete at the 2nd Annual Four Points Community FIRST® LEGO® League and FIRST Tech Challenge Scrimmage, sponsored by the Vandegrift HS ViperBots, Central Texas FIRST, and Hill Country Education Foundation. Leander ISD's Vandegrift High School will host the event on Saturday, November 16, 2013, from 9am until noon, in various areas of Building 2 of their campus in northwest Austin.



The FIRST Tech Challenge's 2013-14 competition is called "BLOCK PARTY!sm." Between 22 and 24 middle school and high school teams will compete, using this scrimmage as a forerunner to the Central Texas Qualifying Tournament held at Vandegrift on Saturday, December 7, 2013. You can learn more about this season's FTC game here: http://www.usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/ftc/game.

The FIRST LEGO League's 2013 competition is called "NATURE'S FURY Challenge." Competing elementary and middle school-based FLL teams will use this scrimmage as a forerunner to the Central Texas Qualifying Tournament held later this season. To learn more about this challenge, go to: http://www.firstlegoleague.org/challenge/2013naturesfury.



"We strongly support science, technology, engineering and math programs, and are thrilled to see this level of participation," said Kai A. Lamb, President of the Hill Country Education Foundation. "These robotics clubs are a remarkable vehicles to ignite the interest of our students in these fields of study. Clubs have recently launched in other area schools, and we are positioning the program at Vandegrift and the surrounding feeder schools as the pinnacle of robotics in Central Texas."

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

Students and families interested in robotics or in starting robotic clubs at their schools are encouraged to attend.



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Four Points Chamber of Commerce

Hosts Authorized Constant Contact Local Expert Jeff Stec at the December 2013 Chamber Luncheon

Four Points Chamber of Commerce are proud to be hosting Jeff Stec on Thursday, December 19th, 2013 at River Place Country Club from 11:30am-1:00pm for the December luncheon. Jeff

Stec, authorized constant contact local expert, will present "Making the Case for Mobile." Learn why you should be mobile friendly and how to get there.

We will have four spotlight members: RJ Jackson of RJ Orthodontics, Clay Barnett of Steiner Eye Care, Travis Beck of Randolph Brooks Federal Credit Union, and Ryan Helms of Wild Basin Fitness. They will be sharing with you information about them and their business.

Some additional events for meeting people in the community this month are :

December 2nd 12:00-1:00pm – Ambassador/ Membership Committee Meeting at Four Points Chamber Visitor Center.

December 5th 5:30-8:00pm - 2013 Holiday Party Sponsored

by Randolph Brooks Federal Credit Union at Steiner Ranch Steakhouse. Please visit www.fourpointschamber.com for more details and to reserve your spot today!

December 9th 9:00-10:00am – Events Committee Meeting at Four Points Chamber Visitor Center.

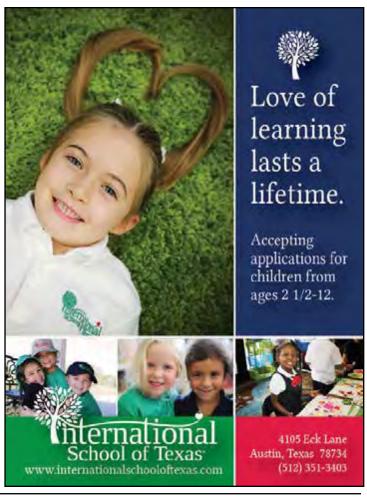
December 16th 7:00pm-9:00pm – Sixth Class in Building and Administering Your WordPress Site for Beginners Series, meeting at Austin Baptist Church, 2nd Floor.

You can find all the details and register on the Four Points Chamber of Commerce Web site www.fourpointschamber.com. While you are at the Chamber's Web site be sure to check out the other networking activities offered by the chamber, including the bi-monthly Connectors networking meetings, happy hours and luncheons.

The Four Points Chamber of Commerce provides networking

(Continued on Page 39)





(Continued from Page 38)

opportunities through social gatherings, luncheons and business network meetings. Now well over 100 members strong and growing, the Four Points Chamber of Commerce brings businesses together along Highway 620 from Hudson Bend and Mansfield Dam to Anderson Mill, and along Ranch Road 2222 from Jester to Volente, to support business growth in the community. For more information about upcoming events contact us at FourPointsChamber@gmail.com, visit www.fourpointschamber. com or call (512) 551-0390. Membership inquiries may also be sent directly to membership@FourPointsChamber.com.





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LEGAL FOCUS GROUP - We are holding several focus groups in Northwest Austin to collect opinions related to legal matters. The pay is \$15.00/hr. All backgrounds are encouraged to apply. If interested, contact us at focusgroup 2013@gmail.com

GIVETHE GIFT OFYOGA - Practice yoga at your HOME individually or with family and friends. Increase flexibility and strength while reducing stress. Certified yoga instructor (ERYT-500) with 14 years experience. Local references available. Contact Paula at paulasyoga@gmail.com or (512) 947-9530.

SPANISH TUTOR - Native Spanish speaker and Steiner resident. 18 years of Teaching and Tutoring experience. Never too late to increase those grades! Flexible schedule in the evenings and weekends. Outstanding references from schools and Steiner clients. Children 10 and up. Contact: 512-284-7667.

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.



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News You Can Use

Steiner Ranch Resident & Business Woman Helps Mary Kay Inc. Celebrate 50Th Anniversary With Largest Pink Cadillac Rally In Company History

Local Mary Kay Independent Senior Sales Director, Patty Rovano and her Mary Kay pink Cadillac participated in the largest ever Mary Kay pink Cadillac rally and caravan on Friday, Sept. 13, 2013 in Dallas—50 years to the day after the iconic beauty company was founded.

More than 100 pink Cadillacs blanketed the Dallas Arts District in front of the AT&T Performing Arts Center before caravanning up the Dallas North Tollway to the Mary Kay's global headquarters. Once there, the pink Cadillacs spelled out a commemorative message in tribute to the company's golden anniversary.

"It was such an honor to be invited to this once in a lifetime historical event," said Rovano. "I drive a pink Cadillac and even I was impressed with the large display of what I called "trophies on wheels". It was a unique visual, to have so many of them in front of you and behind you as a true testimony that you can earn a great income and have a life too! It's so gratifying to be part of an American, family owned company that keeps breaking records and it makes it easier for me to continue to help share the Mary Kay Opportunity to enrich women's lives".

Patty Rovano started her Mary Kay business in 2005 and due to her professionalism, hard work and determination she became a Mary Kay Independent Senior Sales Director in 2006. Rovano has earned the use of five Mary Kay career cars, with the last one of those being the Mary Kay pink Cadillac. Rovano currently drives a Mary Kay pink Cadillac SRX.

"Our 50th anniversary has been a record-setting year for our company," said David Holl, President and Chief Executive Officer for Mary Kay Inc. "Women of all backgrounds and ages continue to turn to Mary Kay for the products they love and trust as well as the unparalleled opportunity."









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The Real Estate Deal (RED) in Steiner Ranch

Steiner Ranch Real Estate Statistics

	Steiner Ranch Market Data - October 2013										
	Home	es Active fo	r 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	Α	vg Sold	Avg % of	on
List Price Range	Homes	\$/SqFt	Market	Homes	\$/SqFt	Market	Homes	\$/SqFt		LP	Market
Up to 300K	1	\$ 132.13	91	2	\$ 137.82	42	19	\$	126.33	98.54%	14
301K-400K	8	\$ 187.25	44	6	\$ 120.96	35	34	\$	125.47	98.48%	43
401K-500K	20	\$ 164.64	76	5	\$ 142.24	51	17	\$	130.98	97.84%	43
501K-600K	8	\$ 146.99	75	1	\$ 151.43	33	16	\$	157.89	97.18%	38
601K-700K	5	\$ 172.67	99	1	\$ 143.92	209	7	\$	156.61	97.30%	60
701K - 999K	3	\$ 185.66	99	2	\$ 199.12	35	9	\$	169.06	98.42%	82
1M and up	4	\$ 239.57	109	0	\$ -	0	1	Not Enough Data			
Total	49			. 4%			103				

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

Inventory (the number of homes for sale) remains low in Steiner Ranch hovering between the high 40's to high 50's since June while the average days on market continues to creep up across the board (with the exception of \$600-\$700K range. The most interesting fact this month though shows that there are very few homes available for sale in Steiner Ranch in the up to \$300K range. If you are thinking of selling and would meet this price point it is still a VERY good time to sell.

Now on to our real estate related topic of the month. Working in real estate on a daily basis, it gets easy to use jargon or talk about things that makes total sense to me but means nothing to people who don't work in real estate. Things like CMA, MLS, Appraisals, Inspections, etc. This month, I want to talk about Home Inspections, what they are, when you should have one, why you should have one and some important questions to ask when talking to an inspector.

A home inspection is an examination of a home and its systems to get a clearer understanding of the current condition of home. The inspector should have taken the necessary training and passed the certifications to be licensed by the Texas Real Estate Commission (the same governing body that issues real estate licenses). The inspector will perform an evaluation of the home and document their findings in a written report. This information will be used differently depending on if you are the seller or a buyer for the home.

Some sellers prefer to know what condition their home is in before they ever go on the market. You might have seen a sign or read some marketing blurb about a home being "pre-inspected". This can be a very positive, pro-active way to identify any issues before the home goes on the market so that the seller can make any necessary repairs. As a seller, you are required by the state of Texas to disclosure the condition of your property to the best of your knowledge. So if you do order a pre-inspection, you will need to make sure you accurately disclose any known defects in your home that have not been repaired.

This is the purpose of the seller's disclosure. There is also a section of this document that mentions prior inspections. So save those repair receipts to include along with any pre-inspection report you get to share with any potential buyers.

Is there any time when it doesn't make sense to do a home inspection? If the home you are selling is a dog and you and the buyer both know that it will likely be torn down, then there may not be a reason to have the home inspection. If you are buying a new construction home, I would still highly recommend you have a third party inspection completed on the home – at a minimum just to give you a little peace of mind. Have the inspection done pre-dry wall and just prior to closing to help create your final punch list with the builder. Yes there are city and county codes that the new home builders have to pass but no builder or city inspector is perfect. The inspector can provide an impartial set of eyes and possibly find something overlooked that will save you and the builder time and money. Keep in mind that most builders required a home inspector to be bonded and insured up to \$1M to walk onsite. Most home inspectors do not have this much coverage – so ask when you are interviewing!

As a buyer, you will likely hire an inspector during the "option" period of a contract. The information in the report can be used to negotiate any repairs that are deemed as required by the buyer to continue with the sale of the home. Just know that every inspection is going to turn up something. Some reports will be more extensive, especially if the home being inspected is older and city codes have changed. The length of the report is NOT the most important thing. The inspector is required to either Pass or Fail the item they are inspecting. There is no middle ground. So there may be several items that do not pass the inspection but this does not necessarily mean the

(Continued on Page 43)

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home is not in good shape. A good inspector will write up everything but also help you understand which defects are either important from a cost (expensive to repair), life expectancy (how much useful life that item has – i.e. a 10 year old water heater might be on its last legs – so while it may be working perfectly at the time of inspection, it might not last more than 2-3 years – allowing you to save up for that expense, negotiate a credit with the seller or get a good replacement home warranty in place) or safety perspective.

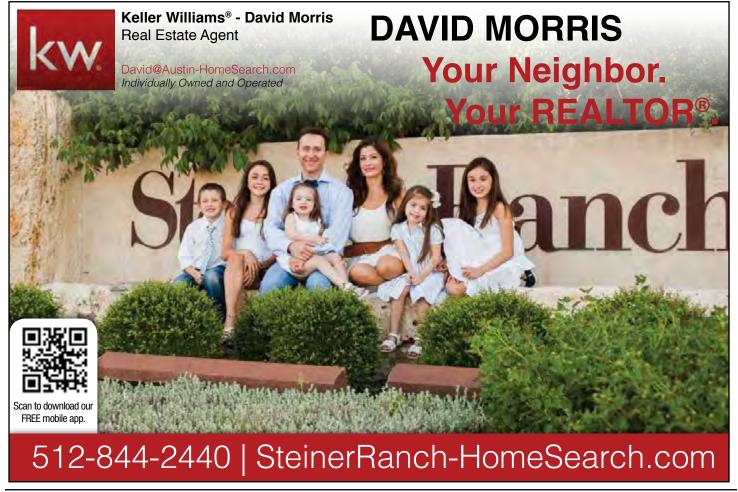
The inspection might turn up some issues that need a specific professional to further analyze. For example, it's not uncommon for an air conditioning (AC) system to have a differential between the temperature of the air when it leaves the AC system and the temperature of the air when it goes back into the AC system. The inspector will note the difference and probably recommend that a license HVAC specialist inspect/tune the unit. The inspector's job is to identify the potential issues, not to give you an in depth analysis of what the problem is and what it will take to fix it. They might have a good idea of what is wrong and the cost to fix the issue but a good inspector will also suggest you talk to a professional that specialized in the defective system.

I did have one home owner ask me if they should just have all the individual contractors come out to the home to do a more thorough

inspection in lieu of paying for an inspector. This is an option but it will likely cost you more and take longer and required much more of your time. To do this, you would need to contact at a minimum a roofer, plumber and/or septic inspector, electrician, handyman, painter and foundation specialist. If you have tried to call any of these trades lately, you might have been told that they are booked out for several weeks in advance. You will need to make yourself available for the windows of time that each of the individual contractors is available to make a visit to the home with the likelihood of getting them all to schedule on the same day and time frame you want is slim to none. Lastly, some of these trades will provide free quotes but most of them will actually charge for their time (or a minimum trip charge). Keep in mind if this is not your home, the seller may not be happy having to provide access for multiple inspections instead of one and then any required follow ups.

Pricing for a home inspection will vary by many factors. Most inspectors use some formula based on square footage and then adjust slightly up or down depending on the number of bathrooms, age of the home and/or number of HVAC units. If you live in a remote area, some inspectors will also add a "travel" charge based on the distance to the home. Lastly, some inspectors price their services higher because of the level of detail they do the inspection and the time they spend

(Continued on Page 44)



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News You Can Use

NOT AVAILABLE ONLINE

(Continued from Page 43)

actually onsite. Prices typically range between \$300-600.

I would recommend calling several home inspectors to get a quote for service. Make sure you know the square footage, number of bedrooms, bathrooms, kitchens and HVAC system there are in the home. Here is a minimum set of questions:

- When are you available? (this could be very important if your option period is short)
 - How long will the inspection take?
 - When will I get the report?
- Can we set up a time at the end to have a summary walk through of any of the defects?
- Do you do termite inspections (some do, others will provide you with someone they work with on a regular basis)?
 - Are you bonded and insured?
 - How much will you charge?
 - How long have you been in the business?
 - Do you have a lockbox key to gain entrance into the house?

If you have any other questions about home inspections or need a good inspector referral (I have a great inspector that is a Steiner Ranch Resident also), contact PEEL Inc. and they will put you in touch with me.



Dr. Dennis Smith

Steiner Ranch Resident

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- 1 in 4 school-aged children have an undiagnosed vision problem
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- Undetected vision problems are significantly associated with learning and behavioral difficulties

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Traveling with your pet over the holidays? Here are some tips that will help make your drive smooth sailing.

Submitted by Kristen West, Owner of Gusto Dogs LLC.

- 1. Take your pet on short trips prior to the big day to let him get used to traveling by car.
- 2. Keep your pet safe in a secured, well-ventilated crate or carrier. It should be large enough for your pet to stand, sit, lie down and turn around. Letting him have free range in the car not only puts him at risk, but it also poses a risk to your family if you were to stop suddenly.
- 3. Never let your dog travel in the bed of a truck. Even if he is secured on a short line to prevent him falling or jumping out, your pet can experience discomfort from the weather and wind or sustain injury from debris.
- 4. Feed your pet three or four hours prior to departure and avoid giving him any food or treats in the car.
- 5. Never leave your pet in a parked vehicle, which can quickly become a furnace and cause heatstroke, even with open windows. In cold weather, the car holds the temperature like a refrigerator.
- 6. Your pet's microchip should be up-to-date and he should be wearing a flat collar and ID at all times.

- 7. Bring a bowl and extra water in case you get stuck in the inevitable holiday traffic jam!
- 8. Take lots of breaks to let your pet stretch his legs and relieve himself. It's a great excuse to do some sight-seeing or pick up a fun treat for yourself!







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BIRDIES FOR BIKES

at River Place Country Club

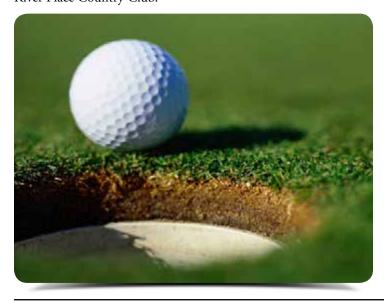
The third annual Birdies for Bikes tournament was held at River Place Country Club on Saturday, November 9th. The event was open to all junior golfers including elementary, middle school and high school ages. Prizes were awarded to the junior golfers that raised the most money for the charity.

The event this year raised \$10,000 for Birdies for Bikes. Each participating junior golfer collected donations and pledges for the number of pars and birdies they score in the golf tournament. In 2011, the tournament raised more than \$3,000. The second annual tournament in 2012 raised \$8,042.50, facilitating the purchase of 60 bikes, 60 helmets and 60 bike locks for under-privileged Austin area children. Now in its third year, Austin area junior golfers, many local residents and Austin area businesses support this tournament.

In October 2011, Hailey Derrickson, age 13, started the Birdies for Bikes Charity Golf Tournament. Its purpose is to enable junior golfers to help Austin area children without bicycles receive one during the holiday season through the Bikes for Kids Charity. Bikes for Kids began in 1996 in Austin, Texas and was created by Mix 94.7 Morning Show co-hosts J.B. Hager and Sandy McIlree.

After the event, prizes were awarded and the participants enjoyed a pizza party at the River Place Country Club pool. Tim Lopez of "The Plain White T's" had all members of his band autograph a guitar that which was awarded to the junior that raises the most money. In addition, PGA Tour Winner and former PGA Champion Rich Beem played with a group of the top money raisers.

"The first year of the event was fun, but last year the kids raised about \$3,000. Last year they took it up a level and got more players. I recruited some of my college kids I teach and some friends that are Tour Pros to play with a group and make it a Shamble Format. We added a 9 hole event for the younger players and they raised over \$8,000 last year!" said Chris de Keratry, Head Golf Professional at River Place Country Club.

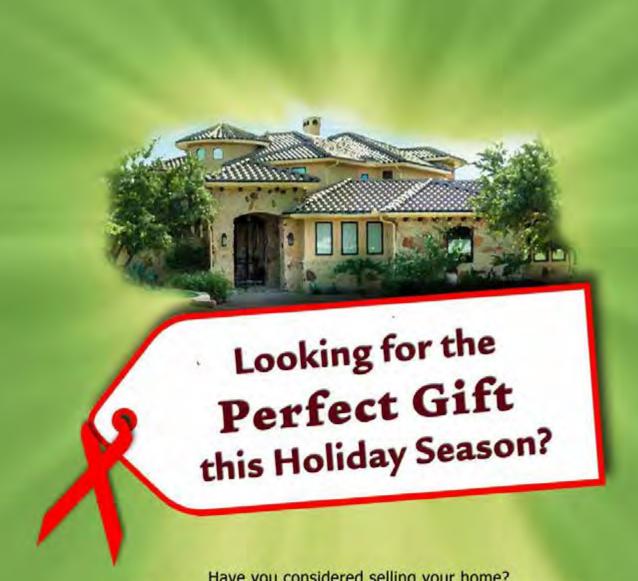


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