

RANCH RECORD

Official Newsletter for the Steiner Ranch HOA

VOLUME 8 ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2014



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COMMUNITY INFO

STEINER RANCH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS OFFICE

12550 Country Trails Lane
Austin, Texas 78732
512-266-7553 – Telephone
512-266-9312 – Facsimile
www.steinerranchhoa.org

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

REGULAR OFFICE HOURS

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

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MISSION STATEMENT

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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.

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Ambulance 911
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Travis County ESD No.6/Lake Travis Fire Rescue
Administration Office 512-266-2533
Travis County Animal Control 512-974-2000

STEINER RANCH CONTACTS

Steiner Ranch Community Association Office 512-266-7553

SCHOOLS

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

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TDS (Trash & Recycle) 512-421-1300
Austin/Travis County Hazardous Waste 512-974-4343

OTHER NUMBERS

Lake Travis Postal Office 512-263-2458
Coyote Sightings 311

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community newsletters



ARTICLE INFO

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

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

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COVER PHOTO

This month's cover photo was taken at last year's Wag & Walk event at the John Simpson Park. It's a great way to get outside with your dogs AND help a great cause! Photo courtesy of Ed Matthews Photography.

Do you take great photos?

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

REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBMISSION:

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

We'd love to have something that pertains to this time of the year in some way, so be creative and give it a try. Our March 2014 issue submittal deadline is February 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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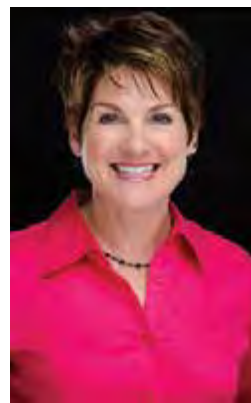
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HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



**Happy 3rd Birthday,
Westin Thomas!**



**Happy 5th Birthday,
Gavin Kinard
January 29th**



**Happy 2nd Birthday,
Sloane Kinard
February 9th**

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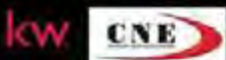
- Do you need more space?
- Have you had a "life changing event" and need to sell?
- Are you being re-zoned?
- **Up**-date or move-**Up**?
- Thinking of moving but not sure where to begin?

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The RANCH REPORT

PET HARMONY

Our association is proud to be pet-friendly, and we're happy your four-legged family members are part of our community. Of course, like any good neighbor, it's important that these pets don't create an unpleasant environment for everyone else. To avoid unnecessary disputes and potential rule violations, here are some guidelines owners should follow to ensure their furry friends continue to be a welcome addition to the neighborhood.

READ THE RULES

While we welcome pets in our association, we have a few rules and requirements. Please check our website or the association's governing documents for more information.

KEEP IT CLEAN

No one wants to see, smell or accidentally step in the "gift" your dog left on the grassy common area. So when your dog needs to go, be sure to properly dispose of it, preferably in a pet waste disposal can. Not only will this keep our community looking better, but it will help keep ground water clean and help prevent the spread of fecal-borne diseases.

QUIET DOWN

Pets will be noisy from time to time. However, when loud barking or meowing becomes annoying to neighbors, it's time to help your pet become less talkative. First, try to find out what causes your pets to get vocal: Do they get noisy when they've been alone and bored all day and need some playtime? Have they gone through a stressful change in environment recently? Are they suffering from health issues? Do they simply like saying "hello" to every squirrel, person or car that passes by? When you've identified the cause, take remedial actions such as confining them to an area where they feel calm while you're away, removing or blocking as many stimuli as possible, exercising them more and spending more time with them. You can also take them to a professional or search online for tips on how to train your pets not to get too noisy.

NO WANDERING

For the safety of your pets as well as all residents, please do not allow your pets to roam unattended outside. Along with helping protect your pets, leashing your dog is the law.

Mark Your Calendars

2014 Steiner Ranch Social Committee Events

FEB 22 – Wag & Walk

MAR 30 – Run The Ranch 5K and KidsK

APR 4 - 6 – Spring Scrap-a-Thon

APR 12 – Spring Community Wide Garage Sale

APR 19 – Easter Egg Hunt

MAY 4 – Casino Night

JUN 7 – Movies in the Park

JUL 4 – Parade

JULY 19 – Movies in the Park

AUG 2 – Movies in the Park

AUG 16 – Concert in the Park

SEPT. 20 – Fall Community Wide Garage Sale

OCT 10-12 – Fall Scrap-a-Thon

OCT 18 – Ladies Night Out for SafePlace

OCT 19 – Pumpkin Patch

OCT 26 – Halloween Trunk or Treat

NOV 8 – Camping on the Ranch

NOV 15 – Holiday Shopping Event & Santa Photos

DEC 13 – Holiday Social

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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It's Time to Wag and Walk

Register now to walk with your dog at the Steiner Community Wag and Walk presented by Steiner Serves. Even if you don't have a dog, come along for the fun!

Saturday, February 22 - event begins at 9am, walk at 10am

John Simpson Park

Presented by Steiner Serves, benefiting Wags, Hope and Healing

Browse booths by local businesses, bid on impressive silent auction items (Lake Austin Spa is back!), check out the adorable adoptable dogs and of course, walk the 1.75 mile leisurely stroll to raise awareness for Wags, Hope and Healing.

REGISTER TO WALK

\$25 adult or \$10 for youth

Walkers can bring their dog or walk solo and are asked to arrive at 9am for sign-in.

Register and learn more at steinerserves.org

BUSINESS PARTICIPATION OR SILENT AUCTION DONATION

Individuals or business owners who would like to participate with a table display or by contributing a silent auction item can contact Steiner resident Kristen West at kristen@gustodogs.com.

VOLUNTEER

We love volunteers! Those interested in volunteering before or during the event can contact kristen@gustodogs.com.



YOUNG@HEART

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.

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

Spring Break Camps

Steiner Ranch will be offering two different camps over the Spring Break Holiday!

March 10th – 14th

Sportball Camp

Join the Sportball team for a spring break camp experience that your child will never forget! Children participate in the skills and games of seven different ball sports. Sports include soccer, hockey, basketball, baseball, volleyball, tennis, and golf. Camp will also incorporate arts-and-crafts, music, co-operative games, snack time, and theme days. Please bring a NUT-FREE snack and juice or water. Camps are run indoors with some outdoor activities depending on the weather.

Ages 3 - 7

½ day 9:30am – 12:00pm \$45 per day

Towne Square Community Center

Registration on-line at www.sportball.us.

March 10th – 12th

Lonestar Soccer Spring Mini Camp

For boys and girls ages U5 – U12 (divided in age groups), from beginner level, designed as an introduction to soccer, to the more advanced player, designed to enhance the player's technical development.

½ day 9:00am – 12:00pm

Westridge Fields

Registration on-line at www.lonestarsoccercamp.com.



Summer Camps

Yes, that's right – it's already time to start planning for the summer and we have some great camps scheduled; some we've had before and some great new ones! We are accepting registration beginning February 4th for most camps. Look for registration forms and current information on-line at www.steineranchhoa.org. Here are some of the summer camps we will be offering:

- Lonestar Soccer Camp
- Brown's Gymnastics Camp
- Amazing Minds Camp
- Sportball Multi-sport Camp
- Steiner Tennis Camp
- Creative Action Camp
- Kidventure Camp
- Mad Science Camp
- Advancing Robotics Camp
- Culinary Cooking Camp
- Abrakadoodle Art Camp
- Curious Einstein Camp
- Neighborhood Sports Dallas Cowboys Football

Surprise, Surprise, Surprise!

Ten year Steiner Ranch residents, Rick and Angela Broun of Majestic Oaks, celebrated not one, but three surprise birthday parties on January 4, 2014. Unbeknownst to Angela, her husband Rick organized a perfect trio of surprise parties. "Surprise parties aren't easy to pull together, but all three were successful and quite the surprise to my wife" tells Rick. Phone numbers and mailing addresses were gathered, a creative and lovely invitation was printed, and locations and catering were selected and delivered. The first party was held early Saturday morning, 9:00am, for family at Mimi's Café at the Galleria. The second party started at 1:00pm at the Black Walnut Café, 2222 and River Place, in-wait were Angela's high school friends from the past. The last party was a gathering of Angela's neighborhood girlfriends held at the Broun's Grimes Ranch Road home at 6:00pm. A traditional Spanish paella dish was catered to complete an amazing and unforgettable day for Angela.

The invitation had two birthday poems written by her husband, one on the front and one on the back:

*'Twas eleven days past Christmas when down flew a stork,
they celebrated the new baby by popping a cork.*

*Oh what shall we name her the young couple did agree,
oh how could we go wrong with baby Angela Marie.*

*Now some days have passed us how time refuses to linger,
a secret celebration to come so on lips place a finger.*

*Your love for this lady no doubt as to why,
come early come all for sweet cake and some pie.*

*I thank you for sharing your time and your love,
this special young lady God's gift from above.*

*"Twas eleven days past Christmas and the home full of life,
every creature was stirring especially Pat's wife.*

*With a wink and a nod this time was no maybe,
was the hour to rush let's deliver this sweet baby.*

*Their first little angel all hearts filled with pride,
let's wrap her so tight it's her first New Year's ride.*

*The family soon gathered 'round new baby Angie,
grandparents Tedrow, Bailey and Aunt Sandy.*

*Dear daughter of ours Happy Birthday sweet child,
so many great memories all filled with a smile.*



Angie & Rick Broun

New Homeowner Welcome & Wine Social

Thursday, February 13th
6:30pm – 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'oeuvres will be served, so please RSVP to Donan Grant at donan@steinerranchhoa.org by Wednesday, February 12th.

Steiner Ranch Social Committee is on Facebook



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



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Steiner Ranch Couple Reaches Out To Rescued Dogs *Helps Keeps Them Safe From Harsh Weather*

Wags, Hope and Healing, which rests on five acres of rolling hills in Johnson City, rescues and re-homes dogs that were the victims of abuse or neglect. Rather than rows of wired cages with cement floors, the dogs at Wags are given natural space to run, socialize and play.

As with anything worth doing, however, it is a work in progress. The organization only gained possession of the property a year ago, so until recently they were still determining the best way to comfortably shelter the dogs on the sprawling land.

"Since we just moved to the property, we are still building out our vision," said Wags founder and director, Jennifer Carroll. "My biggest stress in the winter was keeping the dogs warm. I laid in bed at night worrying if they had enough hay and bedding and ended up with way too many dogs in my house when it got really cold."

Thanks to a Steiner Ranch couple, Ed and Donna *Myer (who have asked that we don't use their last name), however, that worry is a distant memory. After the Myers learned more about the organization and its mission, they wanted to help.

"Once we met the owners of Wags, we were confident in their commitment, love and ability to help the dogs," Donna said. "Ed and I are confident that our capital improvement donation to this group will make a world of difference -- the dogs will be sheltered from the cold, wind, rain and sun. The owners will now have more time to spend on helping the dogs, instead of rushing around to put makeshift measures in place to protect them. I'm happy Wags has chosen to help rescue dogs; it is not easy doing what they do."

The now completed, custom-built shelters, which are designed to look like miniature human houses, include two large dog share houses and two pool cabanas as well as renovations to a patio area to provide extra shelter, and are "a perfect blend of form and function," said Jennifer. "We are absolutely elated."

The tin siding and white plastic roofs of the houses will reflect the sun and allow light in while tile floors will keep the dogs cool in the summer and prevent chewing on the wood underneath. The houses have been waterproofed and designed to withstand the hill country conditions as well as the wear and tear the dogs will give it.

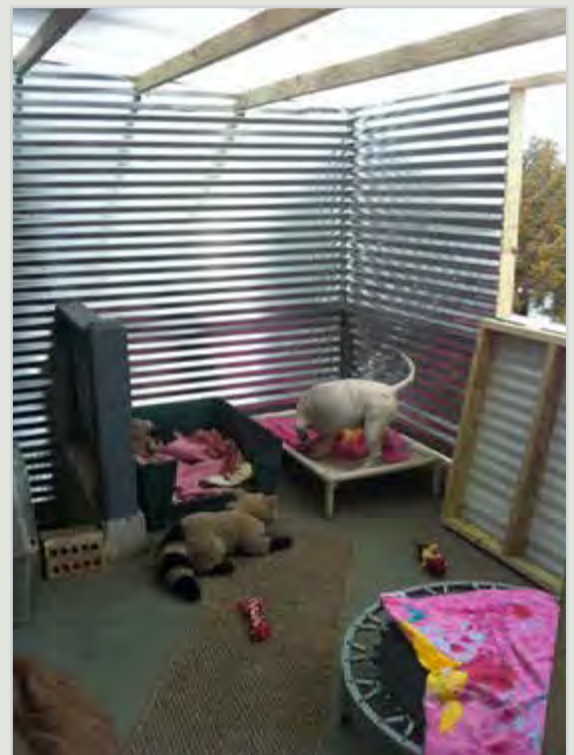
The Myers just hope that their contribution might inspire others.

"There are so many ways to help," Donna said. "A family outing at a nearby shelter to comfort, walk and play with the sheltered dogs, a family, school or scout project of building raised beds for shelters like Wags, or small fundraising projects geared towards helping a shelter in a certain way where that group can feel like they made a difference."

Jennifer said the Myers have not only given them a way to keep their dogs safe and comfortable during harsh weather, but they've also given the Wags team the ability to focus their time and energy on other important aspects of the rescue.

"We are so very grateful to the [Myers] for their generosity and heart. They truly love the animals and have such passion for saving homeless dogs. They have given us and our rescue dogs the biggest gift."

If you would like to learn more about contributing to Wags, Hope and Healing, visit wagshopeandhealing.org.





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STEINER RANCH

By Kimberly McLaughlin

Neighbor Spotlight

The theme for this month's article is GREEN. More specifically GREEN Building. I have always been curious about what it really means to build a "green" or an energy efficient house. Some things were obvious – but others not so much. I will provide highlights on several of the things this Steiner Ranch home builder is installing in their home. This article focuses on things that are way easier to do if you are starting from scratch – not trying to retrofit an existing house. So I learned that building a "GREEN" house includes not just installing things to minimize the energy consumption of the property but also includes things that minimize the waste during construction.

INSULATION. This is a picture of spray foam insulation. I have walked into attics that have spray foam insulation (instead of more traditional batt or blown in insulation). It actually sprays like foam but then hardens. This can be used in the ceilings, inside all walls (interior and exterior) and in between floors (great sound buffer). This is a picture of an external wall – you can see the pipes laid in the wall as well. This type of insulation can make it much more difficult to move wires and pipes after the fact, so you probably want to make sure things are in the right place (like electrical outlets and light switches) before you fill in the walls. This is one feature that can be installed in the attics of existing homes. A few things would have to be modified because spray foam does not use external vents.



EXTERIOR BOARDS. This builder used ½ inch rigid insulation on the outside of the house with crinkle wrap. Hopefully you can see the detail of the crinkle wrap in the picture. The crinkle wrap on the outside leaves a buffer for air between the insulation and the masonry on the outside of the wall. It acts like a buffer between the two, allowing breathing room which dampens the transfer of heat or cold through the wall.



PIPE INSULATION. An easy, but more expensive option is to have all of your pipes and drains insulated.

ROOFING. Metal roofs can act as a reflector of sun which helps reduce the cooling requirements for the house. Metal roofs also have the longest duration, so would not need to be replaced as frequently as composite tiles. Be sure to check your



neighborhood documents to make sure these roofs are allowed.

Another thing this home owner did was to place 2x4 inch boards, with about 1 foot between them in between the felt roof deck and the metal roofing materials. This creates an air buffer between the roofing materials which buffers both heat and cool transference.

Lastly, this picture also shows you the overhangs placed into the architecture of the entire home. Having a 3 foot overhang reduces the sun exposure to the home.



Spray foam insulation, 3 foot overhangs, metal roofing and this trick with placing an air pocket between the roof layers can significantly scale back the homes HVAC needs/system.

HVAC. This home owner is to install a hydro thermal heating and cooling system. The one very unique thing this home owner did was to design the system to leverage water in the pool to provide the cooling element. Water is able to absorb energy more efficiently than air which provides a more efficient cooling feather than typical air heat exchangers. There is a backup system in place with cooling towers that will take over if the pool reaches a certain temperature (like in the middle of our 100 degree summers). One of the other benefits is that the pool will be heated in the spring and fall when temperatures start to drop making it more useable all year long with very little additional heating costs!

Orientation of the house can make a huge difference in the energy efficiency of a home. This starts with the developer of the neighborhood and how the lots are designed. Orienting a house to minimize the west sun in the evening can save \$\$ in utility costs as well as orienting the roof pitches to maximize the most direct sunlight for solar panels.

Last but not lease, my favorite feature of all. All of you who currently live in Steiner Ranch realize how much rock exists under and around our homes. Instead of paying a service to haul off the rock dug up during the site preparation for the foundation and pool, they reused the rock to create natural looking retaining walls and a stair case. It looks awesome.



I want to thank this Steiner Ranch Home Owner and Builder for sharing his home and green building techniques with me. I plan to feature a future article when the house is complete to talk about some of the real energy savings gained from this type of construction. If you have done something unique in your home (big or small) that you would be willing to share in a future Steiner Ranch Neighborhood Spotlight, please contact Kimberly.A.McLaughlin@gmail.com. I would love a neighbor with a Xeriscape yard, bathroom or kitchen remodel.



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Around Steiner

Nesting Season for Endangered Birds

Two endangered species of birds, the Black-Capped Vireo (BCV) and the Golden-Cheeked Warbler (GCW), will again be making their home in Steiner Ranch this spring. These songbirds are native to this area and their nesting seasons begin soon. Why is this important to know? Several of the trails established in Steiner Ranch make their way through the Balcones Canyonland Preserve (Powerline Hill and Eastridge trails) where many of the birds reside. The birds are especially sensitive to environmental changes during nesting season. The established trail rules were designed to minimize the effect humans have on the birds during this period. Though the Steiner Ranch Master Association (SRMA) has the right to install and maintain trails in the Preserve, violations of these rules could force closure of the trails through the end of the nesting season.

GCW Nesting Season – March 1st through July 31st

BCV Nesting Season – March 15th through August 31st

Please review the following trail rules before your next hike:

- The trails are for Steiner Ranch residents, their guests, and persons with written authorization from Taylor Woodrow Communities/Steiner Ranch, Ltd. ONLY.
- Trail hours will be from dawn until dusk. There will be no access of the trails allowed after dark.
- Use of the trails is at your own risk.
- Only use of designated trails is allowed. Leaving designated trails is prohibited.
- No motorized vehicles are allowed.
- No horses are allowed.
- No feeding animals.
- Bikes are allowed only on Hike-and-Bike Trails. Bikes must yield to pedestrians.
- No loitering.
- No hunting.
- No cooking, fires, or smoking.
- No camping.
- All pets must be on a leash at all times.
- No littering or dumping is allowed.
- Do not disturb natural landscapes. Be cautious of plants and wildlife in their native habitat.

In addition to the rules above, the following apply only to the Permitted Trails in the Conservation Easement (Powerline Hill and Eastridge trails):

- No picnicking.
- No tape recordings of birdcalls or other wildlife.
- Access permitted at trailhead access points only.



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

ADULT PROGRAMS

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

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.

The Real Estate Deal (RED) in Steiner Ranch

Steiner Ranch Real Estate Statistics

By Kimberly McLaughlin

List Price Range	Homes Active for Sale			Homes Pending Sale			Homes Sold in the last 90 days			
	# of Homes	Avg List \$/SqFt	Avg Days on Market	# of Homes	Avg List \$/SqFt	Avg Days on Market	# of Homes	Avg Sold \$/SqFt	Avg % of LP	Avg Days on Market
Up to 300K	0	\$ -	0	2	\$ 134.62	67	7	\$ 135.45	99.11%	34
301K-400K	8	\$ 204.68	89	4	\$ 116.77	47	22	\$ 128.58	98.32%	63
401K-500K	11	\$ 166.90	70	7	\$ 138.88	115	14	\$ 134.80	97.75%	58
501K-600K	1	\$ 167.87	149	1	\$ 156.34	2	9	\$ 149.53	97.58%	46
601K-700K	5	\$ 167.34	107	2	\$ 169.82	65	3	\$ 146.24	98.61%	71
701K - 999K	3	\$ 201.43	21	2	\$ 168.46	26	6	\$ 189.14	96.85%	60
1M and up	3	\$ 369.09	68	0			0			
Total	31			18			61			

*This data was pulled from the Multiple Listing Service provide by the Austin Board of Realtors on Jan 8, 2014.

Check out the number of homes for sale in Steiner Ranch in December – only 31. This is the lowest number I have on record since I have been tracking Steiner Ranch sales over the last 6 years. I also noticed that our average price for a home here is higher – there was a time when you could choose from 10-20 homes in the up to 300K price range in Steiner – whereas today, there are at best 1-3 at any given time. The average list price for the 300-400K range is skewed by two separate products. The condo's along Quinlan Park are listed in the ~\$240/sqft average price range where as the “houses” in that price point are closer to ~\$126/sqft. Now on to last year's overall sold stats in Steiner Ranch.

What a crazy, unpredictable real estate year in Steiner Ranch! As you



can see we basically formed an upside down V in this neighborhood with June being the peak and ending with the lowest number of home sale in the last 7 years for the month of December.

Even though we ended on a low note, we sold more homes this year in Steiner Ranch – for a total of 366 – than we have in the last 7 years (maybe longer since my data only goes back to 2007). Please keep in mind that these numbers will not include the new construction homes that were sold that the builder's sales representatives did not place in the Multiple Listing System (MLS) – aka realtor database.

This graph will show you, with the exception of last year, that the selling season in Steiner Ranch is pretty consistent throughout the year.

What I mean by that is that selling your home in March is pretty much just as good a time as it is in July or October – or any other month.

This trend might change over time but due to the low number of homes on the market and the increased demand from relocations into Austin, that as long as you price your home “in the market”, it could sell at any time of the year.

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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

(Exception - 2/3, 2/4 practice 8am – 10am; no practice 2/24-2/28)

Lost Creek Aquatics

Mon – Fri 3:45pm – 7:00pm (6 lanes)

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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FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <div> YAH - Young At Heart SRLG - Steiner Ranch Ladies Group </div>						I
2	3 LISD Winter Break YAH Daytime Mexican Train 6:30pm - FREE Yoga (TSCC)	4 LISD Winter Break 1:00pm - YAH Book Club (BMCC)	5 LISD Winter Break 1:00pm YAH Ladies Social Bridge (TSCC)	6 8:30am - YAH Walking Group	7	8 Newsletter Articles Due
	9	10 YAH - Couples Mexican Train YAH - ROMEO YAH Canesta 6:30pm - FREE Yoga (TSCC)	11 6:30pm - Social Committee Meeting (HOA Office) 7:00pm - SRLG Book Club (TSCC)	12 1:00pm YAH Ladies Social Bridge (TSCC)	13 Spring Field Lottery 8:30am - YAH Walking Group 1:00pm - YAH Technology (TSCC) 6:30pm - New Owner Welcome Wine Social (TSCC)	14 Happy Valentine's Day 11:30am - SRLG Ladies Lunch
16	17 6:30pm - FREE Yoga (TSCC) 7:00pm - Firewise Committee Meeting (BMCC)	18	19	20 8:30am - YAH Walking Group 7:00pm - YAH Bunko (BMCC) 7:00pm - SRLG Book Club	21	22 10:00am - Wag & Walk (JS Park)
	23	24 6:30pm - FREE Yoga (TSCC)	25 6:00pm - SRLG Bingo Night (TSCC)	26 3:30pm - SRMA Board of Directors Meeting	27 8:30am - YAH Walking Group 6:00pm - SRROA Board of Directors Meeting 7:00pm - Exercise to Prevent Disability (BMCC)	28

STRETCH

YOUR ADVERTISING DOLLAR

MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 YAH Daytime Mexican Train 6:30pm - FREE Yoga (TSCC)	4 6:30pm - Facilities Committee Meeting (TSCC)	5 1:00pm - YAH Ladies Social Bridge	6 8:30am - YAH Walking Group	7	8
 Daylight Savings Time Begins	9	10 YAH - Couples Mexican Train YAH - ROMEO YAH Canesta 6:30pm - FREE Yoga (TSCC)	11 YAH Book Club (TSCC)	12 1:00pm - YAH Ladies Social Bridge	13 8:30am - YAH Walking Group 1:00pm - YAH Technology (TSCC)	14 6:00pm - Chili Cook-Off
SPRING BREAK CAMPS						
15	16 Returning Family Swim Team registration begins	17 6:30pm - FREE Yoga (TSCC) 7:00pm - Firewise Committee Meeting (BMCC) St. Patrick's Day	18 7:00pm - History of Treatment of CHF (TSCC)	19	20 8:30am - YAH Walking Group 7:00pm - YAH Bunko (BMCC) First Day of Spring	21 11:30am - SRLG - Ladies Lunch
22	23/30  30th - Run the Ranch 5K & Kids K (TSCC)	24/31 6:30pm - FREE Yoga (TSCC)	25	26 3:30pm - SRMA Board of Directors Meeting	27 8:30am - YAH Walking Group 6:00pm SRROA Board of Directors	28 Returning Family Swim Team registration ends
29						




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- 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

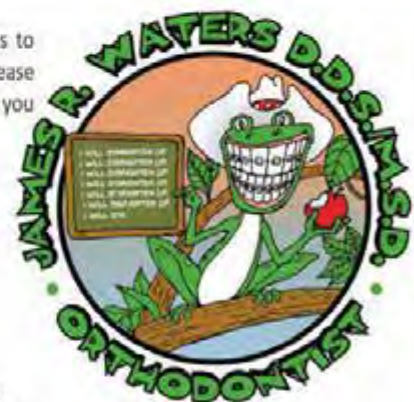
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STEINER STARS SUMMER SWIM PROGRAMS

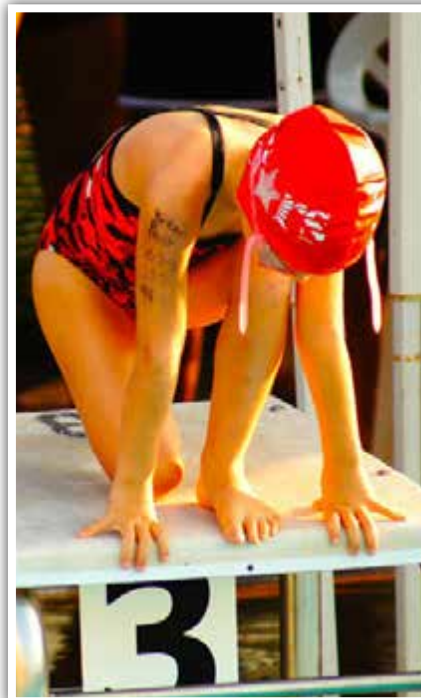
With the cold weather, you probably are not thinking of summer or your summer plans. No worries...the Steiner Stars organization is preparing for its 2014 summer swim activities.

STEINER STARS SUMMER LEAGUE SWIMTEAMS

Last year, over 500 swimmers swam on our recreational competitive swim teams. Two recreational competitive summer league teams for swimmers ages 5 through 17 years exist in Steiner Ranch. The season runs from May 5th through July 20th. Swim meets are held on Saturday mornings. Swimmers with qualifying times have the option to swim in the Invitational meet on July 20th at the University of Texas Swim Center. Don't forget to join the Stars at our annual Stars Wars swim meet between Stars Blue and Stars Red, which will be held the evening of Wednesday, June 24th at the Bella Mar Community Center. If you are interested in joining a team this summer, please go to the Steiner Stars website for information about the upcoming season and registration, www.steinerstars.org. Residents must be in good standing with the HOA in order to register and agree to volunteer requirements to participate in the league. Space in each age group is limited. Swimmers must be 5 years or older by May 1, 2014, to participate. Returning Family Registration will be online from March 16th through March 22nd. New Family Registration information will be posted on our website: www.steinerstars.org.

SHOOTING STARS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

In 2013, over 150 children participated in the Shooting Stars. For those who do not want to participate on a recreational competitive swim team, the Shooting Stars is an opportunity for swimmers age 5 through 10 years to develop competitive swimming skills. This program is four weeks long and begins after the Steiner Stars Swim Team season. Registration details will be posted on the website.



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Tip of the Month

In the past year, my travels included: Bermuda, South Pacific, Caribbean & Costa Rica. Please call me to help with your vacation.

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CONNECTING THE MIND AND THE BODY

Coach Jerry Johnson

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It's the beginning of a new year for all of us, so let's start it off the right way, by connecting the mind and the body. With schools cutting back on the amount of time for Physical Education, children are experiencing increased rates of obesity, diabetes and immune disorders such as Celiac Disease at a record high. I am writing this article to assist us all in a new existence filled with motivation. Physical fitness and education open up the mind to the body's impulses through a diverse computer system that receives and reacts at the speed of light. All age groups and body types can increase their connection between mind and body, regardless of physical abilities by using visualization and becoming involved in physical education and tennis. They will open up avenues which will enhance their health and well-being. Each of us learns via different learning styles that are opened through the use of the total body.

1. Physical: These are people that excel through the use of the body. For the best results, the body must be totally employed. Tennis is an excellent sport that uses 100% of the body. The mind analyzes the angles of the court, the legs propel us, as the arms engage the racquet to the ball.

2. Spatial: These athletes/students learn from visual images, color, and pictures. A great formula is Imagination X Vividness = Reality in the subconscious mind. Using visualization to make body impulses fire across the receptors.

3. Verbal: These students need verbal direction and motivation. They use positive verbal feedback.

4. Musical: The flow of the music and the beat of the drum carry the athletes to progress and health. They use music for relaxation and stimulus. The flow of the music leads the athlete to a state of meditation for progress and development.

5. Independent: These athletes develop their own learning activities. They practice self motivation, study the sport via modeling and repetitiveness.

We all know that when a person is physically fit, he or she has a positive outlook on life. High energy levels, fulfilled outlook, healthy relationships. They experience success at home and at the office. This linkage of the brain and the body influences the immune system in the prevention of illness.

Generally those that perform physical exercise regularly for 45 minutes, three to four times a week, will become less angry, less depressed, and less anxious. Tennis is an excellent sport to use because it will let you get out of your mind and into your body and relax. Recreational tennis and exercise will also produce perspiration that removes poison from the body, and the physical movement will empty the lungs of stale air, increase blood flow as well as the obvious which is burning of unwanted or undesired calories. If you are anything like me, this is my new year's resolution for 2013.

These positive accomplishments make us elated over our new source of power and self-esteem. We, as athletes/students are in a state of mental euphoria when we make advancements and accomplishments, which encompass our body, mind and spirit.

This is an excellent time for me as a coach to suggest to the growing athlete/student that he or she get into their imagination and see the vision of himself performing in a positive relaxed fashion. Example, you become

as you think you are. Example (perception is reality) Obviously this is a very powerful concept that by creating an environment where athletes live up to their expectations and dreams. This produces positive results in the growth pattern of young and older students alike. One must always feed the inner-self only positive reinforcements to obtain one's goals. So let's put an end to any negative self talk this year.

A good coach is very aware of the self-concepts of his students and team members. Athletes live up to their expectations and dreams. A positive athlete sets into motion many psychological processes that make goals come true. When we get involved in tennis and education through the physical, it will connect the mind and the body essentially opening up new avenues for totally new experiences of advancement and adventure. These positive experiences give the individual a feeling of elation and accomplishment that are building blocks for greater success in all walks of life. What are your goals? Now is the time to become physically fit and connect the mind and the body with the sport of tennis. Get rid of tension. Get out of your mind into your body and relax. Now is the time to start the journey.



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SAVE THE DATE MARCH 30, 2014

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SADDLE UP AND RIDE!

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. There are no cost or membership fees to ride.

SATURDAY RIDES

We meet Saturday's at Cups & Cones at 8:30am. Our Saturday rides are faster and longer than our Sunday rides.

Our Saturday rides have an advanced group with average speeds in the 18 – 20 mph and we have an intermediate group that averages between 15 – 17 mph. Both groups roll out together but about ½ way through the ride the main group splits into two groups. The distances range from 40 up to 60+ miles. The turnout is typically around 10 – 20 riders depending on weather and route.

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. However, 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. Again, this is a NO DROP RIDE. The turnout is typically around 10 riders depending on weather and route.

FEBRUARY RIDES

STEINER RANCH STEAKHOUSE RIDE – Sunday February 23, 2014 Jack & Adams and the Steiner Ranch Steakhouse host this great ride. There is a beginner, intermediate and advance ride. Distances range from 10 – 30 miles. Afterwards stick around for half price brunch and music. Always a good time. Ride starts at 8:30am from the Steakhouse parking lot.

MS150 – Saturday and Sunday April 12 – 13, 2014 The BP MS 150 is a two-day fundraising cycling ride organized by the National MS Society. It's not the miles that matter - it's the unforgettable journey. Steiner Ranch Cycling Club will be setting up a team in October so people can start signing up. The ride starts in Houston and finishes in Austin. We are working on some sponsorships right now so we will get back to you soon with details on all the cool stuff we are going to get. This ride will cost \$100 to register for and you will have to raise \$400 in donations. If someone raises more than \$400 they will be able to shift there excess funds to another rider that has not hit their limit. This is a Beef Team approved ride so 60% of the entry fee can be reimbursed. You can join our team at <http://main.nationalmssociety.org/goto/BEEF>

SPONSORS

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

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From the Association Office

Sign Up for Email Alerts!

Ever wonder why your neighbor always seems to know what activities are going on in Steiner? Or why they are up to date on any safety concerns? Because they have registered to receive email alerts from the HOA. It's easy to register! Just go to the HOA website at www.steinerranchhoa.org and click on login. If you've never requested a login before, then now is the time to do it. Once logged in, then follow these steps:

- Click on the menu item "My Profile".
- Then click on "Subscriptions".
- Check off all the email alerts you'd like to receive. You must be specific here. If you want to receive "activity" alerts, then check that box. If you leave it as "all", then you'll only receive emails that are specifically sent to every email on file.

It's that simple! While you are in "my profile", go to "user profile" and update your information. Especially your neighborhood! This is a great tool for the HOA to be able to send emails directly to your neighborhood. Maybe there is a county street closure, or we need to send a reminder to your street or neighborhood. The website is a great tool for homeowners, so get to know it! You can do a variety of functions, including looking up facility reservations, reporting a problem, obtaining homeowner Documents, rules and regulations and the latest budgets!

Sidestepping Solicitors

With the nicer, warmer weather comes solicitors!

Annoyed by the persistence of solicitors' unwelcome knocks on the door? It seems like no matter what they do, they always manage to show up on your front porch. They come with fliers, door hangers, a rehearsed speech and the distinct ability to ignore the polite decline of the products they're peddling—cleaning supplies, appliances, cosmetics, magazine subscriptions, home-improvement products, coupons for local businesses and other unwanted items—sometimes even making you feel trapped in your own home. Steiner Ranch is a particularly attractive and frequent target of commercial, religious and political solicitors; part of the appeal is that population density makes our community is an easy environment for them to canvas. Because of this, finding a way to keep solicitors away can be invaluable.

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

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

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

Association Board Meetings *Guidelines for the Homeowner Forum*

Residents are encouraged to attend and observe association board meetings. If you'd like to bring an issue to the board's attention, you're welcome to speak during the homeowner forum—a time set aside just for you. So that everyone who attends has an opportunity for a meaningful exchange with the board, we ask that you observe the following guidelines:

- If you'd like to address the board, please sign in when you arrive. You will be called in the order you entered. This allows the board to contact you if we need further information and to report back to you with an answer.
- The homeowner forum is an exchange of ideas. If you're bringing a problem to our attention, we'd like to hear your ideas for a solution too.
- To keep the meeting businesslike, please refrain from speaking if you're particularly upset about an issue. Consider speaking later, speaking privately with a board member, or putting your concerns in writing and e-mailing them to the HOA's Executive Director, Scott Selman.
- Only one person may speak at a time. Please respect others' opinions by remaining silent and still when someone else has the floor.
- Each person will be allowed to speak no more than five minutes.
- If you need more than five minutes, please put your comments in writing. Include background information, causes, circumstances, desired solutions and other considerations you believe are important. The board will make your written summary an agenda item at the next meeting.

We may not be able to resolve your concerns on the spot, and we will not argue or debate an issue with you during the homeowner forum. We usually need to discuss and vote on the issue first. But we will answer you before—or at—the next board meeting. Check the community calendar for the date and time of your Associations Board meeting.



Do You Need A Field For Practice?

Are you planning on coaching a team in the Spring?

Need a place to practice?

Then mark your calendar for the 2014 Spring Field Lottery to be held on February 13th.

Register your team*** by sending an email to sharon@steinerranchhoa.org. Registration must be in by 5:00pm on Wednesday, February 12th with the following information:

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

If you are coaching more than one team, please list each team separately.

On Thursday, February 13th, I will be contacting you by email with assigned field.

*** Please Note*** If you are with Neighborhood Sports (soccer

or flag football), or Viper Lacrosse, you do not need to register your team for the lottery. Representatives will be attending the lottery on your behalf.

FIELDS:

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

TIMES:

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

DAYS:

- Monday – Friday only
- Saturday – Game Days

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

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

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HCEF Gala Committee Invites Four Points Community to Raise Vital Funds for Teachers and Students at the 2014 Giddy Up Gala

Social Evening Set for Friday, February 21, 2014 at The Oasis

The Hill Country Education Foundation's Giddy Up Gala Committee members invite you to strap on your boots and don your country-chic for the 4th annual fundraising event at The Oasis. Area residents who attend will enjoy an evening of dining, dancing, games and auctions while helping HCEF to raise vital funds for our teachers and students in the Four Points area schools.

Gala Committee Chair Myra Roberts is organizing the event with committee chairs that include Susan Arant, Stephanie Johnson, Kai Lamb, Michelle Lamb, Chris Lee, Julie Petrucelli, Cherisse Smyser and Michelle Beck. Special thanks to Kimberly Sarantakes for donating her time and talent for this photo shoot.

Along with a sit-down dinner and drinks, guests will enjoy participating in the popular and entertaining Heads or Tails Game, emceed by VHS Football Coach Drew Sanders. Evening activities will also include live and silent auctions, an important Fund-A-Need and a live band.

Table purchases and sponsorship options are available. Learn more at www.HillCountryEdFoundation.org.



Committee Chairs (foreground from left) Susan Arant, Michelle Beck, Myra Roberts, Stephanie Johnson, Julie Petrucelli, (background from left) Cherisse Smyser, Kai Lamb and Chris Lee.

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-L & R Romero, Austin



KIDS OUT OF SCHOOL REMINDERS

Leander Independent School District has a Staff Development/ Student Holiday February 2 – 5th this year and we want to remind you to:

- Slow down. As kids will be out on their bikes, walking the trails and playing at the parks.
- Know where your kids are. Vandalism tends to spike when kids aren't in school.
- Stranger Aware. Make sure you go over all the "safety rules" you have with your kids. Some examples are:
 - Always say no if someone asks you to go with them, no matter what, unless your parent has said yes and knows where you are.
 - Don't listen to stories that a stranger tells you to convince you to go with them.
 - Don't go with a stranger, even if there seems to be an emergency and they say it involves someone in your family. If a stranger really needs help, they will go elsewhere and seek out other adults.
 - Never get close to anyone who approaches you or asks for help from their car.
 - Always stay at least one adult arm's length away from any stranger you're talking to so you can get away if you need to.

*Giddy Up
★ Gala ★*

Friday, February 21st
at the top of the Oasis

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

\$115 Early Bird Tickets Available Til January 24th
buy tickets at HillCountryEdFoundation.org

Last year this event sold out, so be sure to buy your tickets soon!

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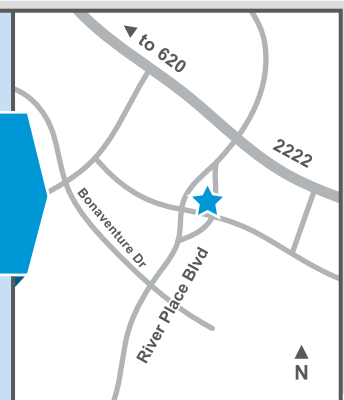
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2 .14 .14

**Location: Medical Towers River Place
6611 River Place Blvd**

5Pm – 7Pm Building Tour Open House

7Pm – 9Pm Fundraising Event

Pierce Broe is a normal 5th grade Boy. He loves fishing, lacrosse, cuB scouts, theater, swimming, football, paintball with friends, and his family. He has curly hair and blue eyes. He is happy, witty, and genuinely good; charming by all standards. For 11 years he has undoubtedly brought laughter and joy into the lives of his parents, siblings, friends and numerous others.

FEAR: On June 28 Pierce was diagnosed with a cancerous brain tumor. Since that time he has undergone chemotherapy, proton beam radiation, steroids, surgery, loss of various small and large motor functions, rehabilitation, and more. It is a daily battle and he has fought courageously. Yet fear and uncertainty is ever present for all who love him.

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To RSVP, Please visit our website www.BroeEvent.com (Adults only please)

Business Section

Four Points Chamber of Commerce to host Dr. Donald Christian at February 2014 Luncheon

Dr. Donald Christian, accomplished musician and former band director, serves as the Dean of the College of Business for Concordia University Texas, a position he has held since the fall of 2005. Please register online at www.fourpointschamber.com to attend the luncheon on Thursday, February 20th from 11:30am- 1:00pm. You do not have to be a member to attend the monthly luncheon and most other Four Points Chamber events!

We will have four spotlight members: Dr. Adam Kristoff- Cool Creek Family Dental, Tom Robinson- W. Tom Robinson, CPA, Billy Braxdale- Braxdale Travel, and Leslie Sloan- Trails at 620 Commercial Condominiums. They will be sharing with you information about them and their business.

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

February 3rd 12:00-1:00pm – Ambassador/Membership Committee Meeting at Four Points Chamber Visitor Center.

February 5th 11:30am-12:30pm – New Member Orientation at Austin Baptist Church. This event is free to attend however you must register online at www.fourpointschamber.com. A light lunch will be provided.



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

February 17th 7:00pm-9:00pm – WordPress for Business West 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 monthly happy hours and luncheons.

The Four Points Chamber of Commerce provides networking 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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BIRDIES FOR BIKES JUNIOR CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

River Place Country Club was the site in November of the third annual Birdies for Bikes Junior Charity Golf Tournament, a tournament for young golfers ranging in age from six through seventeen years. The tournament drew junior golfers from San Antonio in the south to Round Rock in the north and Pflugerville in the east to Bee Cave and Marble Falls in the west. The Birdies for Bikes tournament works in conjunction with the Mix 94.7 Bikes for Kids charity. In its short three year history, Birdies for Bikes has raised more than \$22,000 to help fund bicycles, helmets and bike locks as Christmas or Hanukkah gifts for underprivileged children of Central Texas. The young Birdies for Bikes golfers solicit donations and pledges from family, friends and neighbors for the birdies and pars that they make during tournament play. This year the tournament raised \$10,759.



Hailey Derrickson presenting check to Alex Franco and Sarah Osburn of Mix 94.7.

Tournament founder Hailey Derrickson solicited donations from local businesses. Supporters of the tournament with cash donations as hole sponsors included Financial Solutions (Life Insurance, Retirement and Estate Planning), Field Photography, Jill Briley of Private Label Realty, NFP (Benefits, Insurance and Wealth Management), Paula Kaisner of CruiseOne Dream Vacations and several individual families. Many businesses donated prizes for the junior golfers that collected the most money for the charity, for closest-to-the-pin competitions and for raffle drawings. These donors included Strait Music with a guitar which was later autographed by The Plain White T's band, Alamo Drafthouse, Austin Park, Biejo Bags, Big Frog Custom T-Shirts, Brighton Collectibles (Lakeline Mall), Chili's Restaurant, Cinemark Theatres, Crowned Chick Designs, Cups and Cones, Flores Restaurant, Lake Travis Zipline Adventures, Main Event, Menchie's, Moviehouse & Eatery, Oasis Restaurant, Papa Murphy's, P. Terry's, Round Rock Express, San Antonio Spurs, Subway Restaurants of Four Points and Lakeway, Target of Four Points, Texas Junior Golf Tour, Texas Stars hockey, The League Kitchen & Tavern, Top Golf, Volente Beach Waterpark and Zack's American Bistro. Many thanks to these very community oriented businesses that helped the young Birdies for Bikes golfers prove that kids can help other kids less fortunate than themselves.

Some of the Birdies for Bikes Junior Charity Golf Tournament participants with Sandy McIlree, formerly of Mix 94.7 and Rich Beem, professional golfer, both of whom donated their day to come and play with the junior golfers.



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BARTLETT REAL ESTATE GROUP COORDINATES 4TH ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE

February is Heart Month and The Bartlett Real Estate Group is calling on their community to help replenish The Blood and Tissue Center of Central Texas. The Blood Center of Central Texas will have a Bloodmobile bus in The Bartlett Real Estate Group parking lot Saturday February 22th from 10:00am – 12:30 pm. Their office is conveniently located in the Four Points area next to the Boathouse Grill at 6816 RR 620 N. Refreshments will be provided by their Corporate Sponsor Four Points Chamber of Commerce.

The Bartlett Real Estate Group and the Chamber encourages you to come and donate to this very worthwhile cause. It only takes a few minutes to donate blood and help save many lives. According to the Blood and Tissue Center, those who donate quarterly could potentially save as many as 8 lives per year. Every drop counts.

The Bartlett Real Estate Group of Keller Williams is one of the most successful real estate groups in Austin and is a partnership of top producing agents who are dedicated to community involvement.



**For more information please contact
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PERMIT AND INSPECTION REMINDER

**WCID 17
UPDATES**

With spring home improvement time just ahead, please remember that plumbing permits and inspections are not only required for new construction, they are also required for alterations to plumbing, and for the installation of pools, water heaters, and irrigation systems. These inspections are performed by WCID 17 for all properties in the district (even those in the City of Austin limited purpose ETJ.) Call the WCID 17 plumbing inspection coordinator, MaryAnn, at 512 266 1111, extension 10 for more information.

Protect Your Home From Excessive Water Pressure; Check Your Pressure Regulating Valve (Prv)

Water systems in the Hill Country have widely varying pressure because of the uneven terrain. Water pressure in the large mains can range anywhere from 55 to over 150 psi (pounds per square inch) depending on the elevation of the area. In the highest pressure areas, District 17 has installed in-line pressure reducing valves to keep the pressure down, however, these valves can sometimes fail, and individual pressure regulating valves (PRV) should be installed at each home.

Your home's water pressure should be set no higher than 80 psi in order to protect your pipes, and if you do not have a pressure regulating valve (PRV) installed, you should install one to reduce the main pressure to a proper level for your home. If you do have a PRV installed, you should check it regularly to make sure it is working. If your water pressure fluctuates drastically, drops off suddenly, or goes extremely high, you should immediately check your PRV.

A PRV is located on the customer side of the meter box after the shut off valve. The required type of regulator will have a built-in thermal expansion bypass, (for example, the WATTS series LFX65B). The District requires use of a valve with an all brass body and top, because other materials such as aluminum or plastic deteriorate rapidly in the soil. The valves may be purchased at any home improvement store or at the District Office. These valves should be installed by a licensed plumber, but no permit is required.

If you need any further information, please contact the District Field Supervisor, Henry Marley, at (512) 748-2868.

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