

RANCH RECORD

Official Newsletter for the Steiner Ranch HOA

VOLUME 8 ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2014



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www.steinerranchhoa.org

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

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MISSION STATEMENT

Peel, Inc. Community Newsletters

Our goal is to provide the Steiner Ranch community with one source of local news content that is provided by Steiner Ranch residents. Our goal is to help build Steiner Ranch by connecting local businesses with residents and residents with relevant neighborhood information.

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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

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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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Texas Gas Service
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TDS (Trash & Recycle) 512-421-1300
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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 by Ed Mena of his sons (and BEVO) at the UT Golf Club during a tailgate party. We love football season here in Steiner Ranch!! Dad loves having his boys here in Steiner and takes advantage of the parks, pools and activities.

Do you take great photos?

*Would you like to see your photo published?
We are looking for great cover photos for upcoming December 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 December 2014 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.

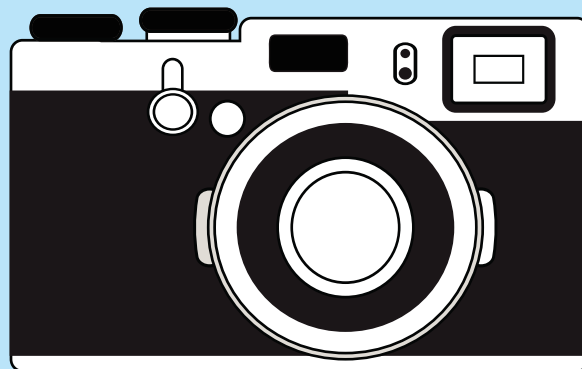


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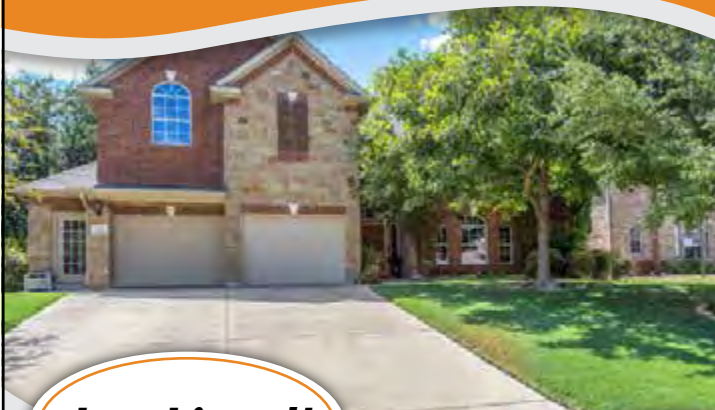
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The RANCH REPORT

WHY HOAs NEED PROFESSIONAL MANAGEMENT

By Scott Selman, Executive Director

There's a lot more to managing a community association effectively than you may realize. It's much more than property management; it's also about governance—enforcing rules, conducting elections and more. Your home and your ownership interest in the common elements represent a huge asset—possibly your largest asset. Doesn't it make sense to have a knowledgeable, trained, professional community association manager watching out for your interests? Consider all they have to offer.

- Professional managers must be aware of many laws and regulations—real estate, corporate and labor laws; federal laws and state statutes and government regulations.
- Professional managers must have a working knowledge of finances, accounting, budget preparation, taxes and insurance.
- Professional managers must have strong personnel management skills—hiring and supervising contractors and staff.
- Professional managers must work and communicate effectively with residents, resolve disputes and facilitate communications.
- Professional managers must have a keen understanding of property maintenance—landscaping, repairs and replacements, facilities upkeep and mechanical maintenance.
- Professional managers coach and mentor the board members who govern the association. They help conduct meetings, supervise elections and ensure compliance with governing documents. Governance is one of the key areas where property management and community management differ.

The Steiner Ranch Board of Directors and Management Team work very closely with the local and national chapter of the Community Association Institute (CAI) to train and hire managers. Their professional designation program provides training and credentials necessary for effective community management. The Steiner Ranch Staff currently has two managers with the Professional Community Association Manager designation (PCAM) and two more staff members with the Certified Manager of Community Associations designation (CMCA). Additional information on these professional credentials can be found at www.caionline.org.

Mark Your Calendars

2014 Steiner Ranch Social Committee Events

NOV 15 – Camping on the Ranch

NOV 15 – Holiday Shopping Event & Santa Photos

Look for the 2015 events to be listed in the December issue. Got a great idea for an event? What to get involved with helping with an event? Contact Sharon Adams, Community Manager at 512-266-7553 or sharon@steinerranchhoa.org.

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.



Happy Birthday!

November 3 – Sarah Stephens

November 22 – Andrew Stephens



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To all of my past, present, and future Steiner Ranch clients and to those who have always been my loyal supporters. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve each of you.



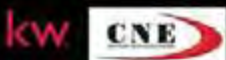
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Transition Committee Update – November

By Sharon Adams, Community Manager

Members of the Transition Committee and HOA Management staff started meeting twice a month in October to try and stay on task for a smooth transition from the Developer to the Homeowners with a target date of April 2015 for full transition.

In September, the committee made a recommendation to the SRMA Board of Directors and the SRROA Board of Directors to keep our current Landscape contractor, Landscape Resources. This recommendation was based on several factors, including the competitive bid, their history with Steiner Ranch and by viewing the landscaping of actual communities of all the contractors that bid on Steiner. Although it was not a unanimous vote, the SRMA Board approved Landscape Resources for a 3 year contract.

The committee also made a recommendation to the SRMA Board on how the Board will be comprised after transition to have a 7 member board, and to separate the community in to 6 districts. Each district will be limited to a maximum of 2 representatives on the Board to help keep the representation balanced between different areas of the community. All SRMA members will be able to vote for candidates in any district. The following are the recommended Districts by the committee:

This recommendation was on the SRMA Board of Directors Agenda for the October 28th meeting. The result will be shared in the December issue of the Ranch Record and on the HOA website at www.steinerranchhoa.org under the Transition tab.

For October, the committee prioritized their tasks, worked on the Bylaw revisions, CC & R revisions, Transition Study, and Long Term Management plans; their focus for the next two months.



PROPOSED DISTRICTS

DISTRICT 1

<i>Neighborhood</i>	<i># of Homes</i>
UT Golf Community	520

DISTRICT 2

<i>Neighborhood</i>	<i># of Homes</i>
Bellagio Estates	30
Beverly Ridge	13
The Bluffs	49
The Fairways	88
Lakewood Hills	71
River Heights Overlook	108
Santaluz	89
Savannah Point	68
Sierra Vista	37
The Grove	84
Total	637

DISTRICT 3

<i>Neighborhood</i>	<i># of Homes</i>
Canyon Glen	160
Headlands	216
Estates of Westridge	132
Hills of Westridge	54
Total	562

DISTRICT 4

<i>Neighborhood</i>	<i># of Homes</i>
Majestic Oaks	252
Parkside	155
Towne Hollow	124
Shire Ridge	86
River Heights Grove	45
Total	662

DISTRICT 5

<i>Neighborhood</i>	<i># of Homes</i>
Las Brisas	87
Rio Mesa	120
Summer Vista	185
Savannah	247
Total	639

DISTRICT 6

<i>Neighborhood</i>	<i># of Homes</i>
Monterey	96
Belcara	42
Palisades	143
Emerald Ridge	99
Mediterra	122
Tierra Grande	70
Total	572



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Around Steiner

CAMPING ON THE RANCH

All families are invited to go camping right here in Steiner Ranch! The Steiner Ranch Social Committee is hosting Camping on the Ranch so you can spend the night with your kids for some great "Ranch Style" camping fun.

When: Saturday November 15th – Sunday November 16th – 9:00 am - 6:00pm

Where: Towne Square Community Fields

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

Haven't tried camping with your kiddos yet? What a great place to try it, just minutes from the house but an adventure away. No activities are scheduled, just a great evening outdoors with your kids. Steiner Ranch's own, 512 Kitchen, will be on-site selling food, so be sure to bring cash!

The next morning, Cups & Cones will be there selling breakfast tacos and the Social Committee will be giving away doughnuts and coffee! Bring your own tent, sleeping bags, games and activities!

Please register for this event at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/camping-on-the-ranch-2014-tickets-12961035807> no later than Friday, November 7th with the number of people in your tent/camp site.




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YOUNG @ HEART

NOVEMBER ACTIVITIES

In Nov. Young at Heart is partnering with Steiner Serves to support CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates). Young at Heart of Steiner Ranch is trying to fill the Christmas stockings of some of the more than 1000 children who are in foster homes, shelters or residential facilities in Travis County. Everyone will be able to help by going to Cups and Cones and give a gift card or pull an ornament. To help us with this project, please contact Karen Steans at kjsteans@gmail.com.

Art Group - Nov. 6 and 20 - Carol Witt teaches Watercolor while Bonnie Wilcynski and Carol Kneisley will be teaching other genres. If you are interested in art and would like to learn more, please contact Carol Witt at carolsuewitt@gmail.com.

Book Club - Tues., Nov. 11 The Book Club meets on the second Tues. of each month. This month we will be discussing The Presidents' Club by Nancy Gibbs. In December the book will be Prince of Tides by Pat Conroy. Contact: Cheryl Howard at cchoward24@gmail.com.

Bridge (Ladies Social) - Wed., Nov. 12 and 26 Ladies Social Bridge meets in players' homes. A new group is being started on different days and is looking for more players. If you have questions or are interested in playing, please contact Nancy Harger at n_harger@yahoo.com.

Bridge (Couples) - dates to be determined. This is a new group of experienced Bridge players. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact Dottie Thoms at dottie.thoms@gmail.com.

Bunco (Ladies) - Thurs., Nov. 20 A fun evening playing this easy dice game. To have your name added to the the Sub List, please contact Linda Mikolajek at miko4@msn.com or Ruth Isaacson at rcisaacson@gmail.com

Canasta (Ladies Daytime) - Fri., Nov. 14 A casual game of the Hand & Foot version of Canasta. Easy to learn - we'll teach you. To become a part of this group, please contact Dottie Thoms at dottie.thoms@gmail.com.

Canasta (Evening) - Mon., Nov. 9 Join the group of semi-serious Canasta players - both men and women. We play Hand and Foot after enjoying a light potluck supper. For more information, please contact Barbara Clark at bkc429@yahoo.com.

CLEO (Classy Ladies Eating Out) Date and Location to be announced. "Ladies Lunching Out" has been renamed "CLEO". Ladies get together at a nearby restaurant to enjoy good food, conversation and friendship. Come to lunch, meet people and learn more about Young at Heart. For more information contact Lidia Schmidt at L79D@aol.com.

Dinner Groups - various times, twice a year, groups of four couples are organized to get together either in restaurants or in each other's homes. Each couple acts as the host one time and either selects the restaurant or - when in a home - prepares the entree with the others bringing the side dishes. It's a great opportunity for people to get to know each other. The groups are formed at this time. The next groups will be selected in Feb.. If you want your name added to the list, please contact Karen Steans at kjsteans@gmail.com.

Epicureans - Epicureans are people who love food and entertaining! They host theme dinners, cooking demonstrations and holiday celebrations. Many of their events have limited space while others can be open to a larger number of people. For more information, contact Donna King at donnaking200@yahoo.com.

Euchre - Fri., Nov. 7 and 21 Many of us are just learning this easy trump card game popular in the Midwest. Kathy Finley is teaching and coaching us. Let her know if you'd like to join the group and learn. We meet at various locations. Contact Kathy Finley for details at jfinley825@aol.com.

Exploring Austin - Date TBD Several times a year Exploring Austin plans a visit to a local Austin or Hill Country attraction ranging from art to history and food!

Happy Hour - Our Nov. Happy Hour will be at a restaurant near Steiner Ranch. Date and location will be announced by email. Happy Hours are held in alternate months with Wine Socials. Young at Hearts meet at a selected restaurant for Happy Hour - a great way to meet new people in a casual atmosphere.

Hiking - Date TBD - depends on weather and trail conditions. Once a month a group gets together to hike trails in Steiner Ranch and surrounding areas. The hikes vary in difficulty. For details, please contact Karen Steans at kjsteans@gmail.com

International Dining - No International Dining in Nov. and Dec. We usually get together on the fourth Mon. but both Thanksgiving and Christmas are within

days of our usual times. A group of adventurous eaters enjoy trying the cuisines of various countries and cultures together. It is open to all - couples, singles and those whose spouses don't like trying different foods. The people vary each month depending on the cuisine featured. For more information, please contact Dottie Thoms at dottie.thoms@gmail.com.

Mah Jongg - Thurs., Nov. 6 and 20 Whether an experienced player or new to Mah Jongg, you are welcome to come. We'll teach new players. Players will need to have a current Mah Jongg card. Games take place in players' homes. If you'd like to play and want more information, please contact Gail Ellenbogen at gellenbo@yahoo.com.

Mexican Train (Dominos) - Ladies Daytime - Mon., Nov. 3. on the first Mon. of each month the group meets to play Mexican Train in the home of one of the players. It's a very easy game - if you've never played, we'll teach you. A relaxing afternoon of fun! If you'd like to join the ladies, please email Joy Vostatek at jvostatek@gmail.com.

Mexican Train (Dominos) - Evening - Mon. Nov. 17 On the third Mon. of every month, a group comprised of both men and women meet for a light potluck supper at the home of one couple. Join us for an evening of fun and friendly competition! Details: Dottie Thoms at dottie.thoms@gmail.com.

Movie Lovers - No Movie in Nov. - Thanksgiving. Contact Diana O'Reilly if you'd like to participate. These movie buffs meet on the fourth Thurs. of each month to view the film together and then get together afterward to discuss the movie while enjoying dinner at a nearby restaurant. Those who cannot see the movie with the group can view it on their own and then meet the group for dinner and discussion. About a week before the discussion, Diana will contact everyone on her list to tell them the name of the movie and the time and place to meet. Diana's email is dbor46@aol.com.

ROMEO (Retired Old Men Eating Out) - Mon., Nov. 10 On the second Mon. of every month the men get together at a restaurant in the area to enjoy good food and friendship. It's a great opportunity to relax and to meet a very interesting group of men with varied backgrounds. Please contact Rick Steans at rasteans@gmail.com to learn more.

Spanish Conversation - Wed., Nov. 12 On the second Wed. of each month this group meets for coffee at Cups and Cones for a morning of speaking Spanish. It includes native Spanish speakers, people who want to refresh their Spanish conversational skills as well as those who know some Spanish and are trying to improve accents and actually carry on a conversation in Spanish. Contact Maureen Michel at momichel17@gmail.com if you want to know more.

Single Ladies Dinner Group - Mon., Nov. 17 An opportunity for those women who are single to get together for a nice dinner at a variety of restaurants throughout Austin. This month the ladies will enjoy classic style interior Mexican food at Fonda San Miguel. For more information, please contact Maria Kolkhorst at mkolkhorst@aol.com.

Technology Group - Thurs., Nov. 13 This month we'll be learning about the features of the iPhone. Dawn Weisman will present some basic information. Workshops concerning specific features are being scheduled. At our monthly meetings we cover such things as Smartphones, Tablets, Photo Sharing, Facebook, the Cloud, Computer Security and more. To learn more about this, please contact Fred Thoms at texasdthoms@gmail.com.

Walking Group - Thurs., Nov. 6, 13, 20 and possibly on 27. Every Thurs. - rain or shine - a large group of Young at Hearts meets at Cups and Cones at 8:30 am and branch out from there. The walks last about an hour and groups of people walk at different speeds. It's more fun to walk with someone. To participate, contact Emilie Dacunto at emiliedev43@yahoo.com. She maintains a contact list to notify everyone of any changes - location, time, weather.

Wine Socials - Our next Wine Social will be in Dec. Every other month we have a Wine Social in the home of a member. Everyone brings their beverage of choice and an appetizer to share. Meet old friends and new ones for a casual social evening.

All Young at Heart activities are announced in the monthly and weekly bulletins emailed to all Young at Heart members. To become a member, please just contact Karen Steans at kjsteans@gmail.com.

Steiner Serves November Initiative is CASA

What is CASA? It is Court Appointed Special Advocates of Travis County. CASA believes that every child who's been abused or neglected deserves to have a dedicated advocate speaking up for their best interest in court, at school and in our community. All advocates are volunteers.

For children who've been abused or neglected, CASA means having a home instead of feeling lost, and being a priority instead of feeling invisible. CASA of Travis County was created in 1985 by concerned community members and judges and was the fourth CASA program in Texas. CASA of Travis County is now one of the top ten CASA programs in the nation who advocate for 1,600 children a year.

A huge thank you to the residents from Steiner Ranch for bringing so much joy to the CASA kids last holiday season. We gave 50 gifts plus gift cards to the children, which was incredible.

In 2013 approximately 2,000 Austin area children were involved with CPS due to alleged abuse or neglect. These children have often been removed from everything familiar -- home, family, friends and school. They find themselves in a world filled with social workers,

lawyers, judges, and courtrooms where life-altering decisions are made on their behalf. CASA serves children from birth to eighteen. The majority of the children are placed outside of their home, in foster homes, shelters or residential facilities.

Once again, The Young at Heart Group will collect toys, gift cards to Wal-Mart or Target, or money to be given to the children that CASA represents. More than 1,000 children need our help to bring joy to their holidays this year. That's a lot of stockings to fill, so we're asking you to join our holiday Toy Drive by:

1. Going to Cups & Cones
2. Get an ornament off of the Christmas tree
3. Buy the \$30.00 gift that a child has requested.
4. Return the gift unwrapped with the child's name on it and number
5. OR Buy a \$30.00 gift card from Wal-Mart or Target and drop it in the CASA box.

All gifts, money, and gift cards, are used for the children. If you have questions, please contact Karen Steans at KJsteans@gmail.com.

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Around Steiner

FOR ALL YOU STEINER MEN

There is an upcoming event, tailored just for you. We are happy to announce that Club Mojo will be putting on their inaugural event on Saturday December 6th, right here in Steiner Ranch. It is something like a "field day", with a mix of team sports that are designed to get a group of guys out together, with an emphasis on fun! The specific sports have a unique twist to them, and the level of competition can only be described as "lighthearted".

For more information visit the HOA website at www.steinerranchhoa.org.



It's Santa, Baby!

FREE PHOTOS!

We know it's just November, but what better time to get your cute little ones Santa photo's done! Avoid the mall, lines, cost and hassle!

YOU'LL HAVE TWO OPPORTUNITIES:

Saturday, November 15th from 10am – 2pm during the Holiday Sales Event at the Towne Square Community Center, 12550 Country Trails Lane. This is a "bring your own camera" and take your photos of your kids yourself, plus you can get a little Holiday Shopping done! (And this SANTA is the real deal!)

Friday, November 28th from 2pm – 5pm Toy and gift drive benefiting Austin Children's Shelter at the Gene Arant Keller Williams Realty Office, 4304 N. Quinlan Park road. A photographer will be onsite taking photos and you'll be able to take the photo with frame with you. (See the last page for details)

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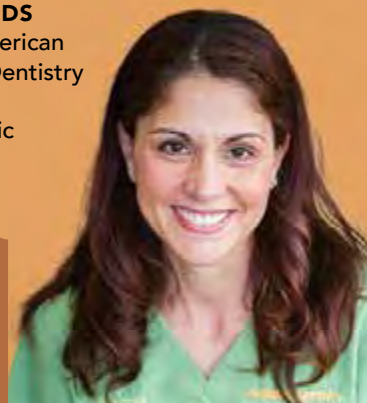
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- ★ Member, American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry



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Holiday Shopping Event and Santa Photos

I know, I know, it's too early to start thinking about the Holidays, but planning is in full swing for the 2014 Holiday Shopping Event. The Steiner Ranch Social Committee will be hosting its Annual Holiday Shopping event on Saturday, November 15th from 10:00am - 2:00pm at the Towne Square Community Center. You can come and get all of your Holiday shopping done without ever leaving Steiner Ranch. Bring the kids and your camera and take a photo with Santa!

Want to be a vendor? Information and registration can be found at <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/holiday-shopping-event-2014-tickets-12783737503>.

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

- Ronda Bauman, Pollyanna Theatre Company
- Cindy Bezella, Vandegrift Towels and Water bottles
- Heather Bickel, Silpada Designs Jewelry
- Nancy Burke, Hampton Jewels Handcrafted Jewelry
- Patricia Campbell, Unique gifts
- Ross Coccimiglio, Four Points Family Chiropractic
- Kelly Connor, K&C
- Donna Cooper, Cooper Creations
- Tiffany Alana Dodgen, ROCK STARR DESIGNS
- Bryttannee Eaton, Bryttannee Eaton Beauty
- Jocelyn Edison, It Works Global
- Lisa Fallon, Syd K Designs
- Brittany Gerson, Trinkets and Butterflies
- Bonnie Gonzalez, Origami Owl / It's a Hoot!
- Michelle Hedgecock, Stunning 3D Lashes by Younique
- Ashley Hesck, Bibetts Baby Carriers
- Terri Hinojosa, Whimsy Girl
- Nicole Korensky, Matilda Jane Clothing
- Miranda Mehlhaff, Superstarfashion Jewelry
- Susan O'Keeffe, Emerald Star Designs
- Stephanie Peebus, Initial Outfitters
- Teresa Robertson, The Lash Lounge Austin NW
- Patty Rovano, Mary Kay Cosmetics
- Melissa Sehlhorst, Eternal Threads
- Nion Stapp, Beautycounter
- Liz Stobart, Vintique Matters
- Elisa TORRES, Froggin Learning Center
- Leslie Ulmer, Stella & Dot
- Bonnie Wilczynski, Bonnie Wilczynski Fine Art Studio
- Catherine Workman, THIRTY ONE GIFTS
- Amy Baltera, Arbonne Independent Consultant
- Shashank Karanje, Urvee

Holiday Camps for Kids

Join Team Sportball over Thanksgiving and December holidays for 3 hours of sports skills and fun games each day.

At Sportball camp, your child will improve his or her kicking, footwork, throwing, catching, batting, dribbling, and scoring skills. Our goal is boost your child's confidence and to instill a lifelong love of sports and athletics.

Using creative instruction and positive encouragement, our programs focus on the development of gross motor skills along with balance, strength, coordination, stamina, and timing.

Kids are divided into groups by age to challenge them at the appropriate level. Kids in the 6-8 age group will refine, repeat, and rehearse skills, usually ending in a scrimmage to practice those skills.

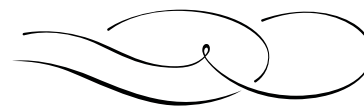
November 24 – 26th 9:00am – 12:00pm

at Towne Square Community Center

December 29 – 31st; and January 2nd

at Towne Square Community Center

Registration information can be found at www.steinerranchhoa.org.



Holiday Kid's Cooking Classes with Cook, Learn, Grow!

Sign your young chef up for these special cooking classes. We love getting kids in the kitchen all year, but especially during the holidays.

THANKSGIVING CLASS

Kids will enjoy learning how to cook foods you will be thankful to serve on your holiday table. Menu: Pear & Pomegranate Salad, Sweet Potato Casserole, Harvest Bread Pudding

*Friday, November 21st 6-8pm | Towne Square Community Center
\$45*

HOLLY JOLLY WORKSHOP

Tis the Season for making sweet memories! Kids will have fun making holiday memories with friends while decorating their own gingerbread house and baking up holiday treats. Students will get to choose a baked item to take home packaged as a food gift. Great for teacher gifts or gift exchanges.

*K-5 Menu: Gingerbread House Decorating, Christmas Cut-out Cookies, Peppermint Meringue Kisses
Tuesday, December 2nd 6-8pm | Towne Square Community Center
\$65*

Registration Information is available on the HOA website at www.steinerranchhoa.org.

STEINER RANCH

By Kimberly McLaughlin

Neighbor Spotlight

This is a great month for my next Neighbor Spotlight. The weather is starting to cool off and there are plenty of opportunities to get together with friends and family. There is my favorite all time holiday, Thanksgiving, then every Thursday – Monday you can watch a football or volleyball game and of course tailgating. I can't believe we have starting tailgating at high school games now - we love any excuse to get together here in Austin, TX!

Check out this kitchen! This family's goal was to create a comfortable space that the entire family could hang out in and a great space to entertain in and they succeeded!!! As most of you already know, at least here in Texas, the kitchen is one of the most popular rooms in a home. My pre-teen boys definitely spend a majority of their time at home raiding my refrigerator. The one thing that caught my eye with this room, besides the fact that it's beautiful and the owners thought of every little detail when they designed it, was the size of the island. You can count the number of chairs that it can very easily fit 6 people but it can actually accommodate even more than that.

The scraped wood beams above, then antiqued white French country cabinets surrounding the darker solid wood island and the beautiful pendant lights (she found these on Houzz.com by the way) all make this a very gorgeous, relaxing space to spend time in. For all those sports fans, don't worry, if you were facing the other way, you could see the big screen television very easily from your spot at the kitchen island.

I love this next photo with the tape measure – totally HGTV if I might say so myself – and yes you are reading it correctly, the island is just over 12 feet in length! The original idea for the design came from a home these owners lived in prior to moving to Texas. They

had a large L shaped countertop that easily allowed their family to gather in the kitchen without bumping into each other. This planted the first seed. Then after visiting another friend who also had an awesome kitchen with a double island, they came up with this large T shaped island concept. If you are interested in the cut for the granite edge it's called a "laminated ogee with a full bullnose".

At the far end of the island, she put in a second sink making it a very usable area for food preparation. They also installed 2 dishwashers and hidden trash cans for regular trash and recycling all camouflaged beautifully with the cabinetry. The attention to detail in the cabinetry is really beautiful. You can see the design better in this next photo. It was also something I have not seen before making the finish out in this kitchen very personal and unique.

I couldn't end this article without point out the super sexy Wolf range. I've only previously seen these things in catalogs. 6 burners, griddle, 2 ovens – wow – I don't think I would know what to do with one of these but I would sure have fun trying to figure it out. Also, notice the backsplash – I love the simplicity of the back splash with the design patter behind the range. Very elegant.

I totally think Southern Living could do a piece on this home. I have only shown you the kitchen but the rest of the home is just as remarkable. Another beautiful home and beautiful family in this neighborhood I am truly blessed to call home.

Did you enjoy reading this article? If so, I need your help! I need leads for future articles. If you have done something in your home that I could feature in a future article or if you have any friends that might make for a good article, please contact me at Kimberly@REDinAustin.com. The only requirement is that the home be in Steiner Ranch.



Photos by John Bishop, Forefront Foto



WORKSHOP SERIES

Free Workshops for Steiner Residents

DIET & HEALTH WORKSHOP

November 11th

7:00pm TSCC

RSVP's not required

*Learn about Paleo and Mediterranean Diets
by Dr. Ben Rosin*

WOMEN'S SELF DEFENSE CLASS

November 13th

6:30pm TSCC

RSVP required at www.steinerranchrealttygroup.com

Text or call 512-EXPERTS

Come have a good time learning how to defend yourself, learn invaluable life-saving tools with friends. Terri Armstrong from www.damseltraining.com will show us basic self-defense moves, boundary setting and assertiveness, personal and street safety, defense against an armed attacker and multiple attackers. Please wear comfortable clothing and shoes.

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

Free Tai Chi Workshop

9/22/2014 – 3/31/2015

Mon, Wed, Thurs 8 - 9 AM

Towne Square Community Center

12400 Country Trails Ln., Austin, TX, 78732

*Master Zhang Hungsen will teach basic forms
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BENEFITS OF TAI CHI:

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QUESTIONS/RSVP

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Around Steiner

3 WEEKS OF FREE CLASSES

benefitting Safe Place Austin

Join the women of Cardio Bliss Fitness Class in Steiner Ranch to help the families of Safe Place Austin get what they need, while you get fit. Each year Cardio Bliss founder and class leader Shannan Renee waives all fees for the enthusiastic and inspired fitness classes offered weekly at Town Square Community Center in exchange for donated items to Safe Place of Austin.

Shannan and the women she leads are passionate about living a full and healthy life, as well as supporting and encouraging other women to do the same. This 3 week series of classes is dedicated to lifting up one another and giving back. Help the women and children of domestic violence experience the spirit of this season. Show up for one class or all 6. All fitness levels welcomed and loved!!



Dec. 1 – 17
Monday & Wednesday
9:00am – 9:45



Bring one donation item for each class and pay no fee.

Visit www.cardioblissfit.com to register and learn more about the class, as well as see what items are on the Safe Place Wish List.

Beauty Classes in Steiner

Lux Lashes Faux Lash Application Class - \$50

Sunday, November 9, 2014 from 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM
Towne Square Community Center

Holiday Makeup Trends - \$35

Sunday, November 30, 2014 from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Towne Square Community Center

Glamorous Holiday Hair Styling - \$35

Sunday, December 7, 2014 from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Towne Square Community Center

Register online: <http://www.eventbrite.com/o/bryttannee-eaton-beauty-6886312101>



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Runners and walkers of **all ages** are invited to join the
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The race will take place at the
Towne Square Community Center
where participants will
enjoy a fun-filled morning
of racing, awards, goodie
bags, vendors and kids'
activities.



for more info, visit
hcbc.com/runtheranch



STEINER RANCH SUPERHEROS

Jace Ballard & Gabriel

Loundsbury pausing for a picture while climbing trees at John Simpson park!

Parents this is your chance to brag on your kiddos. We want pictures of your kids doing everyday things, school events, plays, sports, etc. Send in your pictures to be featured in the Ranch Record. E-mail your pictures to steinerranch@peelinc.com by the 8th of the month.



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DON'T BLOCK THE GATES



The Steiner Ranch HOA wants to remind you that blocking a gate open at the pools is a MAJOR safety concern. It only takes a second for a child to wonder off and make their way into an unattended pool area.

If you are attending a soccer game, visiting the playgrounds or pools, and you see a gate propped open, help us avoid the unthinkable risk of a child drowning. PLEASE close the gate!

For information on childhood drowning, read the story of Colin Holst, who, only a few years ago, tragically drowned at an Austin pool at the age of 4. <https://www.colinshope.org/>

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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.
- \$50 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!

No Diapers Allowed

As the swim season gears up, please be aware of the pool policy regarding children who are not potty-trained:

- Children who are not potty-trained and who use swim diapers are not allowed in the Bella Mar Lap Pool.

ALL OTHER COMMUNITY POOLS:

- Double diapers (swim diaper + plastic pants) must be worn by children who have not been completely toilet trained.

This policy is in place to help keep accidents from happening and reducing the need to close pools due to contamination.

FALL POOL HOURS

The following hours will apply:

BELLA MAR

Closed Monday until 2:00pm

Open Tue- Sun 7:00am – 10:00pm

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

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

*Vandegrift High School Swim Team – Tuesday –
Friday 7:15am – 9:15am*

November exceptions – Modified practice 11/24 – 11/25 8:00am – 10:00am. No practice 11/26-11/28)

*Lost Creek Aquatics – Mon – Fri 3:45pm – 7:00pm
(4 lanes)*

(November expectations – Modified practice 11/26 7:30am – 10:45am. No practice 11/27-11/28)

TOWNE SQUARE

Closed for the season

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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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 is no cost to ride.

**** Note!** Starting times are changing to 8:30am on November 2 due to the end of daylight savings time ******

SATURDAY RIDES

We meet Saturday's at Cups & Cones at 8:30am. The advanced group will have average speeds from 18 – 20 mph and the intermediate group will average between 15 - 17 mph. While each group will be travelling at different speeds each group will be tackling the same course and the typical course has distances between 45 up to 60+ miles. The turnout is typically between 10 – 20 riders depending on weather. Come on out and have some fun. Everyone is welcome.

The advanced and intermediate groups require a higher level of fitness and experience and there is NO designated sweeper.

SUNDAY COFFEE SHOP AND BABES ON BIKES RIDES

Please join us for the weekly Coffee Shop Ride! Those wanting to explore options outside of Steiner Ranch, or those wanting a nice recovery ride option should consider joining the Sunday Coffee Shop Ride Group.

The group will leave Cups & Cones at 8:30am like the other Sunday ride groups, but will target some not-too-far coffee shop for some espresso, biscotti, and socialization. The ride will average around 14-15 mph and should be perfect for those looking for a recovery ride or to extend their range out of Steiner. Each week we will pick a different destination, but they would typically be around 15 miles from Cups & Cones. This is a no-drop ride, but you should be able to ride 30-40 miles at a 14-15 mph pace.

The other Sunday social option is Babes on Bikes, also leaving Cups & Cones at 8:30am. This user-friendly ride is intended to recruit new female riders in hopes to establish an SRC ladies group, but is open to EVERYONE - guys and gals alike - looking for a beginner ride or easy cruise.

The ride stays in Steiner, is mostly flat and about 1 hour long. Distance varies from 10-20 miles with optional hill climbs for those wanting an extra challenge. This is a no-drop ride co-lead by SRC members Cheryl Campbell and Christi Mondrik. You will learn the basics of bicycle safety, riding technique, equipment recommendations, but mostly, you will have FUN! Come join us!

Please visit our website at www.steineranchcycling.com to check out what is going on in the Steiner Ranch cycling community.

NOVEMBER EVENTS

November 1:

Crank House Cycles' Infamous Brewery First Saturday Ride

This ride will start and finish at Infamous Brewing Company, at 8 am, with 2 route options. All riders (over 21) will enjoy a

complimentary Infamous beer and Brewery Tour. Additional beverages and food will be available. Infamous Brewing Company, 4602 Weletka Dr. Austin, TX 78734

November 8:

Tour de Gruene

The history, charm, and ambiance of River Road, between Austin and San Antonio, provides the perfect setting for our bicycle classic events. The tours and races meander along the tree lined banks of the Guadalupe River and the enchanting limestone cliffs of the Balcones Fault. Step back in time as you bask in the warm Texas sunshine all while riding through the heart of Texas - then enjoy the delicious post ride Lunch and fellowship at the Lazy L & L. Cap off your evening with dining and dancing to Bavarian entertainment at Wurstfest! More details at <http://www.tourdegruene.com/>.

OR

SRG Oasis Brewery Ride

Join us for the third Saturday of each Month when Steiner Ranch Cycling will host a ride starting from Cups & Cones at 8:30 am, covering 50-70 miles and ending at the Oasis Brewing Company. Bring your bikes up on the deck and enjoy views of Lake Travis with discounted beer and lunch options from the Noble Pig.

November 23:

JACK & ADAMS / STEAKHOUSE RIDE

On Sunday November 23, 2014 the Steiner Ranch Cycling Club will be riding on the Jack & Adams / Steiner Ranch Steakhouse Ride. The ride begins from the Steakhouse and leaves promptly at 8:30am so we recommend that you arrive at 8:00am.

The ride goes out to Crystal Falls golf course and back and there is a beginner, intermediate and advanced ride. There are two distances and one is about 12 miles and the other is about 32 miles. They have changed the ½ priced brunch menu and they have gone to an all you can eat buffet. I don't know if they will be offering the group any discounts but there will still be live music and it should be a nice morning to sit under the mister and enjoy the music, food and view. Come one come all.

SPONSORS

Please join Steiner Ranch Cycling in thanking the following sponsors for supporting cycling in our community and procuring our group the coolest cycling kits west of the Mississippi:

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RIDE DISCLAIMER: Each rider is responsible for his or her own safety on our rides. Please join us at your own risk. Our weekly rides are open to public participation but ride leaders do NOT assume any liability for your participation. We will ask that all participants follow traffic laws and wear a helmet while on our rides.

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NOVEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
 2 DLS Time Ends	3 8:00am – Free Tai Chi (TSCC) 1:00pm – YAH Mexican Train 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC)	4 Election Day	5 8:00am – Free Tai Chi (TSCC) 7:30pm – SRLG Knitting & Crocheting (Cups & Cones) ACC Reviews	6 8:00am – Free Tai Chi (TSCC) 8:30am – YAH Walking Group 11:00 am - YAH Art Class (TSCC)	7 9:30am – YAH Euchre	8
9 7:00pm – 9:00pm – Lux Lashes (TSCC)	10 8:00am – Free Tai Chi (TSCC) 11:00am – YAH ROMEO 6:00pm – YAH Canasta 6:30pm – Free Yoga (TSCC) 7:00pm – SRNA Meeting (BMCC)	11 1:00pm – YAH Book Club (The President's Club) 7:00pm – Diet & Health Workshop – Paleo and Mediterranean Diets (TSCC)	12 8:00am – Free Tai Chi (TSCC) 9:30am – YAH Spanish 12:30pm – YAH Ladies Bridge 7:30pm – SRLG Knitting & Crocheting (Cups & Cones) ACC Reviews	13 8:30am – YAH Walking Group 1:00pm – YAH Technology Group 6:30pm – Women's Self Defense Class (TSCC)	14 11:30pm – SRLG Ladies Lunch 1:00pm – YAH Canasta	15 10:00am – 2:00pm – Holiday Shopping Event and Santa Photos (TSCC) 6:00pm – Camping on the Ranch (TSCC)
 16	17 8:00am – Free Tai Chi (TSCC) 6:00pm – YAH Single Ladies Dinner Group 6:00pm – YAH Couples Mexican Train 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC) 7:00pm – Firewise Committee Meeting (BMCC)	18 11:30am – YAH CLEO 6:00pm – SRMA Board of Directors Meeting (TSCC)	19 8:00am – Free Tai Chi (TSCC) 7:30pm – SRLG Knitting & Crocheting (Cups & Cones) ACC Reviews	20 8:00am – Free Tai Chi (TSCC) 8:30am – YAH Walking Group 11:00am – YAH Art Group 6:30pm – SRROA Board of Directors Meeting (HOA Offices) 7:00pm – YAH Bunko (BMCC)	21 9:30am – YAH Euchre 5:30pm – Thanksgiving Kids Cooking Class (TSCC)	22
23/30 30- 7:00pm – Holiday Make Up Trends (TSCC)	24 8:00am – Free Tai Chi (TSCC) 9:00am – 12:00pm – Sportball Camp (TSCC) 6:00pm – YAH International Dining 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC) LISD Student Holiday	25 LISD Student Holiday	26 LISD Student Holiday	27 LISD Student Holiday	28 LISD Student Holiday HOA Office Closed	29

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DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 8:00am – Free Tai Chi (TSCC) 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC)	2 6:00pm – Gingerbread House Decorating, Christmas Cut-out Cookies, Peppermint Meringue Kisses (TSCC)	3 8:00am – Free Tai Chi (TSCC) ACC Reviews	4 8:00am – Free Tai Chi (TSCC) 11:00 am – YAH Paint Class (TSCC)	5	6 8:30am – Camp Mojo (TS Fields) 3:00pm – SRLG Cookie Exchange (TSCC)
7 7:00pm – Glamorous Holiday Hairstyling (TSCC)	8 8:00am – Free Tai Chi (TSCC) 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC) 7:00pm – SRNA Meeting (BMCC)	9 7:00pm – Volunteer Appreciation Dinner (TSCC)	10 8:00am – Free Tai Chi (TSCC) 7:30pm – SRLG Knitting & Crocheting (Cups & Cones) ACC Review	11 8:00am – Free Tai Chi (TSCC) 8:30am – YAH Walking Group 11:00 am – YAH Paint Class (TSCC)	12	13
	14 7:00pm – 9:00pm – Lux Lashes (TSCC)	15 8:00am – Free Tai Chi (TSCC) 6:30pm – Free Yoga (TSCC) 7:00pm – Firewise Committee Meeting (BMCC)	16 1:00pm – YAH Book Club 7:00pm – The Value of Sunscreen (TSCC)	17 8:00am – Free Tai Chi (TSCC) 7:30pm – SRLG Knitting & Crocheting (Cups & Cones) ACC Reviews	18 8:00am – Free Tai Chi (TSCC) 8:30am – YAH Walking Group 1:00pm – YAH Technology Group	19
21	22 LISD Student Holiday 8:00am – Free Tai Chi (TSCC) 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC)	23 LISD Student Holiday	24 LISD Student Holiday 8:00am – Free Tai Chi (TSCC) 7:30pm – SRLG Knitting & Crocheting (Cups & Cones)	25 LISD Student Holiday HOA Office Closed	26 LISD Student Holiday HOA Office Closed	27
	28 LISD Student Holiday 8:00am – Free Tai Chi (TSCC) 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC)	30 LISD Student Holiday	31 LISD Student Holiday 8:00am – Free Tai Chi (TSCC)	Trash Service Slides One Day		
				YAH - Young At Heart SRLG - Steiner Ranch Ladies Group		

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TENNIS TIPS

By USPTA/PTR Master Professional
Fernando Velasco



STEP 1



STEP 2



STEP 3



STEP 4

The Modern Game: The Swinging Backhand Approach Shot or Volley

In previous newsletters, I offered tips on how to execute the basic strokes for players who are just beginning to play tennis or who want to resume playing.

I am now offering suggestions on how to play the “modern” game mostly geared towards players who are happy with hitting the ball over the net and controlling the point with consistency. These players may be already playing for leagues or in tournaments and are looking for more “weapons” on the court.

In this issue, I will offer instructions on how to execute “The Swinging Backhand Approach Shot or Volley.” This shot is used when an opponent hits a soft shot that is floating high on the service line area. The player will take advantage and will hit the ball on the fly with a huge swing, thus hitting with top spin high over the net and hit with power. When the ball hits the court, it will take a big hop, forcing the opponent to fall back close to the fence, or to hit the ball on the rise. This shot can be used as a “winner” or as an “approach shot.”

In the illustrations, Vishwa Aduru, one of the top players of the Grey Rock Tennis Academy, shows the proper technique to execute this stroke. Vishwa is coached by the Director of the Tennis Academy, Darin Pleasant.

Step 1: The Back Swing: When Vishwa sees the opportunity, he makes a quick turn of his upper body and takes the racket high and back. The head of the racket is now at shoulder height, his shoulders are turned, the left hand is gripping the racket tight and the right hand is semi-relaxed. His weight is on the front foot as his momentum carries his forward to attack the ball. His left wrist is “laid back” to allow maximum point of contact.

Step 2: The Point of Contact: The success of a top spin shot is keeping the ball on the strings going from low to high in a 30 degree angle and accelerating the racket head around the outside of the ball. Vishwa started the swing high and “looped” it to allow the head of the racket to drop down. He will be brushing around the outside of the ball as he makes contact with it. His left shoulder is almost opening and his weight is moving through the shot.

From the Association Office

Thanksgiving Trash Pick-Up Schedule

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

If you're normal Pick-up day is Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Friday, then your service will remain unchanged.

If your normal Pick-up day is Thursday, your Thanksgiving pick up day will be on Friday, November 28th. If your normal pick up day is Friday, your pick up day will be Saturday, November 29th.

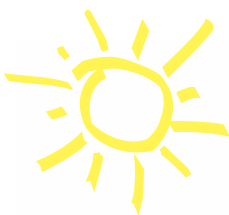


ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE

Are you getting ready to make an addition to your house or build a new shed or fence in your back yard? Before you break out the miter saw, make sure to get your plans approved by our association's architectural committee. While it may seem subjective from an individual homeowner's standpoint, the architectural committee looks out for the entire community. Aside from stopping residents from painting pink polka dots on their houses, the committee's job is to make sure that the size and style of the project, the type of building materials being used and the overall look of the new structure adhere to the association's design requirements. Of course, it's also important to note that unapproved structures might legally have to be removed at the owner's expense, so save yourself money and headaches by getting approval before building. So when you're ready to start your new project, or if the design of your project changes midway through building it, send your plans to the architectural committee first so that we can make sure they're in compliance with the association's design standards. If we do find any issues, we'll let you know what they are and try to help you come up with other options. We appreciate all the hard work residents have done to make their homes and this community beautiful—help us keep Steiner Ranch looking great by keeping us in the loop of all your building projects.

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

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Holiday Decoration Rules



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

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

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



Hey Dads!

**Finally, an activity just for you!!
Join us for the "Sports Olympics."**

**A morning of lighthearted competition.
Team sports, with an emphasis on fun.**

When? Saturday December 6th at 8:30am.

Where? Steiner Ranch - Towne Square fields.

Cost? \$35 - You must pre-register, space is limited to the first 48 participants.

How to pre-register? Details on our website,

www.clubmojoaustin.com,

or call Marc at 512-573-6664 for more information.

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



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

Tip of the Month

Now is the perfect time to book your Alaska cruise for 2015 for the best selection of itineraries and cabins. Please call me for details!

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School News

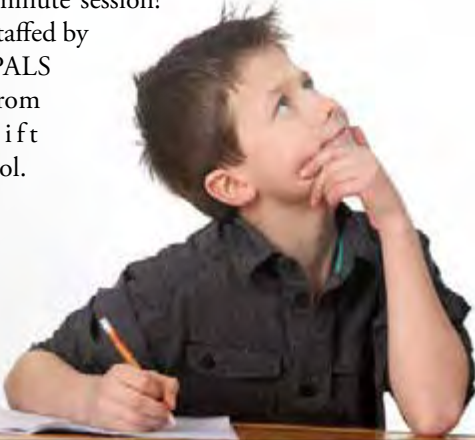
HOMEWORK HELP

Could your child benefit from one-on-one homework assistance? Four Points Homework Help is a volunteer-based organization that offers free tutoring on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5-7 pm at Cups & Cones in Steiner Ranch. Sign up for tutoring times, find more information, or get in touch with us at:

www.fourpointshomeworkhelp.org | 4ptshmwkhelp@gmail.com

Tutoring begins on Tuesday, October 7 – sign up now for a 30 or 60 minute session!

FPHH is staffed by
NHS & PALS
students from
Vandegrift
High School.



Our 8th grade sons at Canyon Ridge MS came up with a great idea for their community service hours requirement for National Junior Honor Society. They have been collecting all types of used books in good condition & donating them to Better World Books. So far our sons have donated 532 books! Better World Books is a great organization that has converted more than 117 million books into over \$15 million in funding for literacy & education & diverted more than 73,000 tons of books from landfills. If you have books to donate, we would be happy to come and pick them up! Just call or text your name and address and we will coordinate a good time to stop by. All you have to do is leave them at your front door. Thanks for your support! Cell number 512-704-2440



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2014 Fall Giving Campaign

PURPOSE:

Support our Four Points-area schools and teachers with grants to:

*Prepare our children for college,
Inspire them to discover their future career passion.
Engage them in the learning process through tools, technologies,
and programs.*

GOAL:

Raise \$20,000 from the community between October 1 and November 15

SUPPORTING:

Vandegrift High School, Canyon Ridge and Four Points Middle Schools, Grandview Hills, Laura Welch Bush, River Place, River Ridge and Steiner Ranch Elementary Schools.

For details visit
www.HillCountryEdFoundation.org



River Ridge Elementary School to Host a Fall Scholastic Book Fair

WHAT:

River Ridge Elementary School will host a Fall Scholastic Book Fair on November 10 – 14, 2014. Funds raised will help support a variety of school PTA events and programs, as well as purchase books for the River Ridge Elementary library. The entire Steiner Ranch community is invited to attend this fun reading event, A COOL PLACE TO FIND A HOT BOOK! The Book Fair offers specially priced books and educational products, including children's classics, award-winning titles, new releases, interactive software, adult bestsellers and other great reads from more than 50 publishers. Book Fair customers may help the school build classroom libraries and improve children's reading skills by purchasing books through the Classroom Wish List and All for Books programs.

WHEN:

The Book Fair will be open November 10 from 5:00-7:00pm, November 11-13 from 7:30am-3:30pm, and November 14 from 7:30am-1:30pm.

WHERE:

River Ridge Elementary School, located at 12900 Tierra Grande Trail

CONTACT:

Navak Loucks at navakloucks@gmail.com or 650.868.2967





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VHS Show, “Joy of Life,” Dedicated to Cale and Peggy Howard

VHS band is Grand Champion of Vista Ridge Marching Festival, competes at Bands of America Nov. 1

Submitted by Rich Keith



Our state-champion marching band's show, “Joy of Life” is dedicated to the memory of high school student Cale Howard and his mother Peggy Howard of Steiner Ranch, who were tragically killed by a drunk driver over Christmas break in December 2013.

The band directors for the Vandegrift High School marching band and Vision Dance Company began designing this year's show last fall. Originally the show was to be a dramatic, almost dark and edgy production with music and costuming to match.

But after the terrible accident which took the life of one of the band's most loved members, the directors began to wonder how the show could be modified. Ultimately they scrapped the entire score and visuals completely and went in a direction of light and color, featuring sunrises, sunsets and even butterflies.

“The four parts of our show represent Beauty, Excitement, Love and Peace,” said Mike Howard, director of bands.

The band's program, “Joy of Life,” features the music of Aaron Copeland including “Promise of Living,” Symphony No. 3, “Dance Panels,” “Down a Country Road” and “Happy Ending” from the Red Pony.

Based upon competition results, the judges agree with the change. In October Vandegrift finished in first place at the Vista Ridge Marching Festival. VHS has won the contest every year since it was launched in 2010.

Vandegrift was named Best in Class in 6A, and “we were named Grand Champion of the entire contest for the fourth straight year,” said Howard. In fact they swept the field by taking all category awards for best music, visual performance, general effect and percussion. The Vision Dance Co. was named best auxiliary.

The grand champion trophy represents the best marching band regardless of class of school. Vandegrift is rated a class 5A school but

competed up in class 6A this year, which included impressive bands from the larger 6A schools.

Larger marching bands often attract the judges' attention; but just as in 2013, the Vipers outworked everyone else to get their show perfect. In second and third place were Cedar Park High School and Georgetown High School respectively.

On Sat. Nov. 1 the band will compete in the prestigious Bands of America Super-Regionals marching contest in the Alamodome in San Antonio. There they will go up against 57 bands from all over Texas and nearby states. They recently took 5th place in the Regionals during October.

“This will be a tough competition against several Grand National Finalists and Super Regional Finalists from past years,” Howard said. He noted the band has made it to finals performance each of the last 2 years.

As a consideration to out-of-area schools, Central Texas schools perform on Friday. For Bands of America the Vandegrift students will get out of school on Halloween day and ride buses to the Alamodome and march in the preliminary contest. They then come back to Austin, unload, and play during the home football game against Marble Falls. The band will then get some needed sleep.

Then late Saturday afternoon they will know if they made it to finals. If so, the band loads up the equipment and the buses will roll to the Alamodome for the evening finals performance.

The Viper band and Vision Dance Company is currently ranked Texas state champion out of 250 UIL Class 4A band programs following the last competition held in 2013. There are 247 students in the program, making it by far the largest program on campus.

The community can enjoy Vandegrift's marching videos at <http://vhsband.com/audio-images/> Enter the password: “vipers” to see images and videos.

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Four Points Community Fine Art Show and Sale at the Oasis Restaurant

The 3rd Austin Four Points Community Fine Art Show takes place on Saturday, November 29th, from noon - 5p.m. at the Oasis Restaurant in NW Austin. The show and sale include original paintings, drawings and sculpture and hand made, exquisite fine jewelry. Local Austin artists will be present to discuss their experience and skills, answer questions and explain their process and inspiration. The show is juried to showcase and share the artistic talents of our most skilled and creative local artists.

Please join us at the Oasis Restaurant on November 29th, from noon-5p.m. The Oasis is located at 6550 Comanche Trail in NW Austin.

For more information, please contact Suzette at liveanotherlifeart@yahoo.com.

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Pruning Guidelines for Prevention of Oak Wilt in Texas

NOW IS THE TIME TO PRUNE YOUR OAK TREES

Oak wilt, caused by the fungus *Ceratocystis fagacearum*, is the most destructive disease affecting live oaks and red oaks in Central Texas. Most of the tree mortality results from tree-to-tree spread of the pathogen through interconnected or grafted root systems, once an oak wilt center becomes established. New infection centers begin when beetles carry oak wilt fungal spores from infected red oaks to fresh, open wounds on healthy oaks. Wounds include any damage caused by wind, hail, vehicles, construction, squirrels, birds or pruning. Research has shown that both oak wilt fungal mats on infected red oaks and insects that carry oak wilt spores are most prevalent in the spring. Below is a brief description of how you can reduce the risk of fungal spread when pruning.

- Always paint fresh wounds on oaks, including pruning cuts and stumps, with wound dressing or latex paint immediately after pruning or live tree removal at all times of the year.
- Clean all pruning tools with 10% bleach solution or Lysol™ between sites and/or trees.
- If possible avoid pruning or wounding of oaks during the spring (currently defined as February 1 through June 30). Reasons to prune in the spring include:

- To accommodate public safety concerns such as hazardous limbs, traffic visibility or emergency utility line clearance.
- To repair damaged limbs (from storms or other anomalies)
- To remove limbs rubbing on a building or rubbing on other branches, and to raise low limbs over a street.
- On sites where construction schedules take precedence, pruning any live tissue should only be done to accommodate required clearance.
- Dead branch removal where live tissue is not exposed.

Pruning for other reasons (general tree health, non-safety related clearance or thinning, etc.) should be conducted before February 1 or after June 30. Debris from diseased red oaks should be immediately chipped, burned or buried. Regardless of the reasons or time of year, proper pruning techniques should be used. These techniques include making proper pruning cuts and avoiding injurious practices such as topping or excessive crown thinning. If you are uncertain about any of this information, you should consult with a Texas Oak Wilt Certified arborist, ISA Certified Arborist, or an oak wilt specialist from a city, county or state government agency such as the Texas Forest Service or Texas AgriLife Extension Service.

References available at <http://www.TexasOakWilt.org>.

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Travis County Sets Up Reverse 911 For Cell Phones

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

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

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



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PROTECT YOUR HOME FROM EXCESSIVE WATER PRESSURE

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 55AUB). 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.

FACT:
85% of core brain structure is developed by age four.



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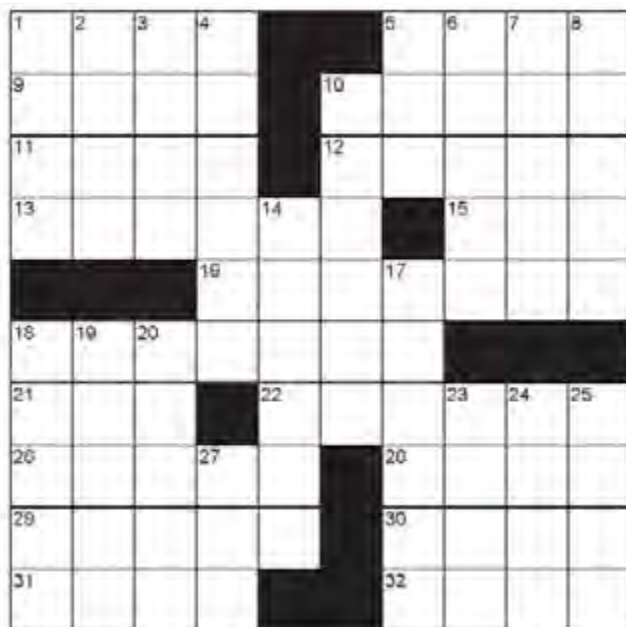
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

1. Southwest by south
5. Prophet who built the arc
9. In __ of
10. Short poem
11. Iraq's neighbor
12. More able
13. System
15. Conger
16. Avows
18. Angora (2 wds.)
21. Finale
22. Grows
26. Do penitence
28. Has 4 identical siblings
29. Automaton
30. Ancient Indian
31. Espy
32. Tier

DOWN

1. Skinny
2. Flexible metal thread
3. Lick
4. Sunbonnet
5. Catch
6. Cargo ship
7. BB Player Abdul Jabar
8. Throws violently
10. Played (2 wds.)
14. Counterbalance
17. Iranian's neighbors
18. What you shift
19. Upon (2 wds.)
20. Philippine dish with marinated chicken or pork
23. Peewee
24. Aphids
25. Fasten
27. Negative

View answers online at www.peelinc.com

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- Kids Stuff -



What does it mean to be green? "Green" is more than just a color. It also means taking special steps to protect the environment — the water, the land, and the air we breathe. Why green? Plants are green, and without them the Earth wouldn't be such a lovely home for us human beings. Every day, people make choices that affect the amount of trash and pollution that gets produced in our world. What can you do? A whole lot, actually. Here's a four-step guide to being green:

- Reduce the amount of stuff you use and throw away.
- Reuse stuff when you can.
- Recycle cans, bottles, paper, books, and even toys.
- Enjoy the Earth — walk in the woods, plant a tree, and eat some of the delicious food it produces.

REDUCE IT!

When you use less of something, you do a good thing for the Earth. For instance, a shorter shower means you used less water and less fuel since your house uses fuel to run the water heater that warmed up the water.

Here's a list of other stuff you can reduce:

- Turn off lights you're not using. Better yet, encourage your parents to switch to compact fluorescent light bulbs. They last longer and use less energy. They do need to be disposed of properly, though, so make sure your mom or dad helps if one breaks.
- Turn off the water when you're brushing your teeth.
- When you can, walk or ride your bike instead of driving in the car. You'll use less gas — and get some exercise!
- Unplug the chargers for your phone and MP3 player when you're not using them.
- Put your computer to "sleep" instead of leaving it on with the screensaver running.

REUSE IT!

Sometimes people call ours a "throwaway society." That means that we're a little too willing to throw away old stuff and buy new stuff. Many times, even if you no longer need something, someone else just might. For instance, if your baby brother outgrows his plastic basketball hoop, why not give it to another family who has a little kid? That's one less plastic basketball set that they need to buy. It's also one less large plastic toy that needs to be produced, packaged, and shipped to the toy store. Here are some additional ways to reuse the stuff you have:

- Use rechargeable batteries for your handheld computer games, MP3 players, cell phones, and digital cameras.
- Choose reusable travel cups instead of disposable paper or plastic cups.
- Take your own bags — preferably reusable ones — when you go to the grocery store.

- Drink tap water instead of buying bottled water. If you don't like how your tap water tastes, a low-cost filtration system could make a difference. Get a reusable water bottle so you can take it with you.
- Organize a swap among your friends. What can you swap? Books, toys, even clothes. It's a way for everyone to get something new without spending any money and without throwing a bunch of stuff away. Set aside some items for your swap when you're cleaning your room!
- Take paper from your computer printouts and use the other side for more computer printing or just to draw or doodle on.

RECYCLE IT!

Recycling has never been easier. Many communities will pick it up right in front of your house and some towns even require it. Tell your mom or dad you want to become "Chief of Recycling" for your household. That means you'll organize the recyclable items in bins, remember to put them on the curb on recycling day, and help remind others which items can be rinsed and recycled.

By separating plastic bottles, cans, bottles, and more, you're reducing the amount of trash that goes to the landfill. What's a landfill? A big mountain of trash, where all the trash trucks go to dump their loads. Recycled goods go instead to a recycling center, where they can be crushed, broken down, and later turned into new cans, bottles, and paper.

What else can be recycled? Sometimes water can be. For instance, some communities take used water — like from the washing machine and shower — and clean it up so it's safe to use for watering the grass and flowers.

ENJOY IT!

It's true that trash and pollution are problems, but the Earth remains a huge and glorious place that's ready for you to explore. You can start locally by visiting the naturally beautiful spots in your city and state. Go for a hike, visit local nature centers and gardens, climb up mountains, and explore lazy creeks.

Experience the outdoors in all sorts of weather — from a sunny day at the beach or lake to a wintry adventure when it snows. And if you're planning a family vacation, suggest a trip to a national treasure, such as the Grand Canyon, Yellowstone Park, or Chincoteague Island to roam with the wild ponies.

But before you travel the globe, take a look at your own backyard. Is there a spot where you could plant a tree or put in a little fruit or vegetable garden? If so, get out there and get your hands dirty. Then you can watch with pride as your tree takes root and your garden plants grow from sprigs to big plants full of ripe, red tomatoes or tiny, succulent blueberries. Who knew being green would taste so good?

*Reviewed by: Mary L. Gavin, MD
Date reviewed: September 2013*

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

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