

VOLUME 8 ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2014





"If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one." ~ Mother Teresa



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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

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

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

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MISSION STATEMENT

Peel, Inc. Community Newsletters

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

"Be the Community."

ADVERTISING INFO

Please support the advertisers that make The Ranch Record possible. If you are interested in advertising, please contact our sales office at 512-263-9181 or *advertising@peelinc.com*. The advertising deadline is the 8th of the month prior to the issue.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY	911
Fire	
Ambulance	
Sheriff – Non-Emergency	512-974-0845
Travis County ESD No.6/Lake Travis Fire Rescue	2
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	
Steiner Ranch Elementary	512-570-5700
River Ridge Elementary	512-570-7300

UTILITIES

Travis County WCID # 17	
City of Austin Electric	
Texas Gas Service	
Custom Service	1-800-700-2443
Emergencies	512-370-8609
Call Before You Dig	
AT&T	
New Service	1-800-464-7928
Repair	1-800-246-8464
Billing	1-800-858-7928
Time Warner Cable	
Customer Service	512-485-5555
Repairs	512-485-5080
TDS (Trash & Recycle)	
Austin/Travis County Hazardous Waste	512-974-4343

OTHER NUMBERS

Lake Travis Postal Office	
Coyote Sightings	

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

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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 <u>steinerranch@peelinc.com</u>. The deadline is the 8th of the month prior to the issue.

COVER PHOTO

This month's cover photo was taken by Phil Dorr of his two children in their home last year at Christmas time. Phil and his family have been Steiner Ranch residents since 2000!

Do you take great photos?

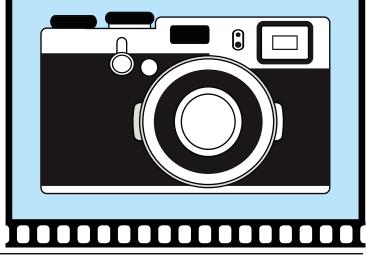
Would you like to see your photo published? We are looking for great cover photos for upcoming January issue of the Ranch Record. (Think NEW YEARS Celebrations)

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 January 2015 issue submittal deadline is December 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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Around Steiner



By Scott Selman, Executive Director

It's that time of year again. I would like to say thank you to the many committee volunteers and social groups that make Steiner Ranch such a wonderful place to live. These volunteers are homeowners that dedicate their time to managing and enhancing the lifestyle enjoyed by all here in the community.

The Social Committee, Facilities Committee and Finance Committee and now the Transition Committee are the core committees providing feedback and direction to the Board of Directors that is vital to the board when making decisions that are in line with the desires of the community.

Within each of these committees there are various areas of responsibilities taken on by volunteers that provide input or even take on a specific task that enhances the community. For example, the Facilities Committee has groups that focus specifically on tennis, trails, pools and fields. The Social Committee has volunteers that may focus on a single social event or community function each year depending on the interests of the volunteer. By splitting out some of these responsibilities, it allows volunteers to commit to something in the community that interests them and they can focus their efforts on the one area or event without over committing their time for the entire year.

As we organize the committees for 2015, the Board is working on establishing a new committee to specifically focus on the common area and park landscaping within the community. We are currently seeking candidates to volunteer for this committee. The responsibilities are still being finalized, but ultimately this committee will work with the management office and our landscaping contractor to improve the quality of landscaping through regular inspections, make recommendations and prioritize landscaping replacements and improvements and help budget for future projects. If you are interested in being involved in this new and impactful committee, please contact the management office.

There are also groups that focus on a specific demographic group within the community. The Mom and Tots group for mothers and their children not only provides a network for the those looking of friendship and support, but they have stepped up to organize and manage some of the family events in the community such as the July 4th parade and the Trunk or Treat function at Halloween.

The Young at Heart group is one of the most successful and well attended groups in Steiner Ranch. They organize literally hundreds of events each year for the active adults within the community. Wine Socials, dinner outings and card games are only some of the many activities the volunteers have arranged.

Thank you again to all of the wonderful volunteers we have in Steiner Ranch!!

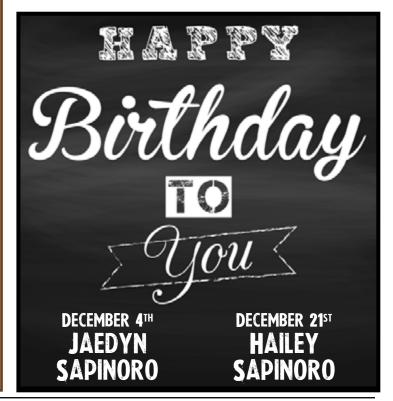
Mark Your Calendars

2015 Steiner Ranch Social Committee Events Coming Soon

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.







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Rû

<u>Around Steiner</u> **Transition Committee Update – DECEMBER** –

By Sharon Adams, Community Manager

The committee is happy to report that the SRMA Board of Directors approved several recommendations, including;

The adoption of Steiner Ranch, River Dance, Phase Seven-B Development Area Declaration for all non-gated development areas within the SRMA with modification to Article 2.08 Noise, and Article 2.17 Unsightly Articles; Vehicle and to define "commercial vehicles". This will make all of the non-gated sub-division "DAD" within Steiner Ranch consistent with each other.

The Board of Directors will consist of seven homeowner members. (Currently there are 4 homeowners and 2 Developers). There will be a standard term of three years after the initial terms are completed.

Steiner Ranch will divide into six districts. Representation on the Board will be limited to no more than two directors for any one district. (Districts were listed in the November issue).

Voting will not be limited by district. All homeowners can vote for candidates from any district on the ballot.

The Board hired a third party company to conduct a Transition Study of all of the SRMA common areas, which was conducted in October. Once there result are received, they will be reported. A transition study is a thorough inspection by an engineer of a community association's common elements to document any construction, design or condition defects. A transition study gives us an expert opinion of how to remediate the defects and supplies local cost estimates to correct the problems.

In December, the Transition Committee will be reviewing the Transition Study to determine what/if anything, the Developer may be responsible for prior to transition. They will also be reviewing and making recommendations on the current Management Agreement between the SRMA and SRROA. The committee will also start the process of seeking an Association Attorney and making a recommendation to the Board.

PUMPKIN PATCH UPDATE



A BIG thanks to all the sponsors who took part in the 5th Annual Steiner Ranch Pumpkin Patch that took place at John Simpson Park on October 19th. Many came out and enjoyed the festivities including games, a raffle, face painter, balloon twister, 2 petting zoos, concessions, photo area and live music at the daylong event. All 600 pumpkins were sold at the event along with concessions and the raffle. The event raised \$6935.00 for the Children's Medical Center of Central Texas.

Pictured is Ethan Finnessey a Steiner Ranch resident handing over the Big Check to Audery of the Children's Medical Center. For more information about this year's Steiner Ranch Pumpkin Patch or to get on the list to be contacted first for next year's Pumpkin Patch contact Brandy Finnessey at 512-698-3366.













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<u>Around Steiner</u>



The Steiner Ranch Ladies Group is hosting their 2nd Annual Holiday Cookie Exchange. Saturday, December 6 | 3:00pm Towne Square Community Center

Please gather with other Steiner Ranch residents to celebrate the season with a Holiday Cookie Exchange. Bring 4 dozen cookies and you'll go home with 4 dozen different ones. Just bring them in one container and we'll figure out how many of each to take home based on the number of people who show up. Please RSVP to this event on the Ladies Group Meet up page at http://www.meetup.com/Steiner-Ranch-Ladies-Group/events/206690692/

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

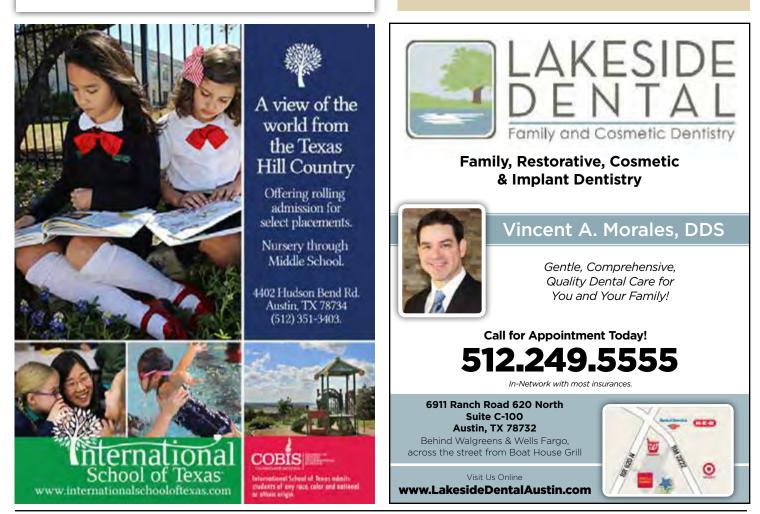
Sign your young chef up for these special cooking classes. We love getting kids in the kitchen all year, but especially during the holidays.

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.





Ladies Night Out!

Grab some friends and come join us for a "Paint & Sip" Painting Party on December 11th from 7pm – 9pm. Join UnCorked Painting for an evening of laughing and relaxation as a professional artist guides you step-by-step through the painting process. No prior experience is needed. Bring your favorite bottle of wine and light snacks. Check-in begins at 6:30pm so come early and enjoy socializing with friends before we start painting. We will begin at 7pm and be finished by 9pm. Cost is \$30 per person. Advanced Reservations are required by December 8th. RSVP to parties@uncorkedpainting.com with your name, number of guests you are registering, and a daytime phone number. We will be painting a beautiful holiday ornament. Space is limited, so reserve your spot today!



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Around Steiner

YOUNG 🕪 HEART

DECEMBER ACTIVITIES

steinerranchyoungatheart@gmail.com | www.facebook.com/groups/SteinerRanchYAH

In Dec. 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 kjstans@gmail.com.

Art Group - Dec. 4th and 18th - 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 - Tuesday, Dec. 9th The Book Club meets on the second Tuesday of each month. In Dec. the book we will be discussing is The Prince of Tides by Pat Conroy. Contact: Cheryl Howard at cchoward24@gmail.com.

Bridge (Ladies Social) - Wednesday, Dec. 10th 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) - Thursday, Dec. 18th 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) - Friday, Dec. 12th 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) - Monday, Dec. 8th 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 February. 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 - Fridays, Dec. 5th and 19th 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! Recently we have gone to the Painted Churches, a tour of the DKR Stadium at UT, the "Making of Gone With the Wind Exhibit" at the Ransom Center, Austin City Limits tour and more.

Happy Hour - In Dec. there will not be a Happy Hour. 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 Dec. We usually get together on the fourth Monday but many will be away or having guests for the holidays. 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 - Thursdays, Dec. 4th and 18th Whether an experienced player or new to Mah Jongg, you are welcome to come. We'll teach new players. Mah Jongg is a good way to keep your brain "young" - it takes some concentration and strategy not a casual social game. 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 (Dominoes) - Ladies Daytime - Monday, Dec. 1st On the first Monday 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 (Dominoes) - Evening - Monday Dec. 15th On the third Monday 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 Dec. - Christmas Contact Diana O'Reilly if you'd like to participate. These movie buffs meet on the fourth Thursday 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) - Monday, Dec. 8th On the second Monday 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 - No Spanish Conversation in Dec. This group of Spanish speakers gets together in a social setting for an opportunity to converse in 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 - Monday, Dec. 15th 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 - Thursday, Dec. 11th This month Laurie Scott will be explaining some of the recent updates and features available on our computers as well as the latest security concerns. Workshops concerning specific features of the iPhone with Dawn Weisman are also 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 texasthoms@gmail.com.

Walking Group - Thursdays, Dec. 4th, 11th and 18th Every Thursday - 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 Holiday Wine Social will take place at the home of Rick and Karen Steans - date and details will be given by email. 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.



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Around Steiner



Holiday House Decorating Contest Your Vote Counts!!!

GET READY FOR OUR ANNUAL HOLIDAY HOUSE DECORATING CONTEST!



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

Best Themed Best Holiday Spirit Most Beautiful

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

Here's how it works:

FIRST -

Nominate your home (or someone else's home) by emailing the physical address to Sharon Adams, Community Coordinator at sharon@steinerranchhoa.org no later than Sunday, December 14th. Be sure to indicate which category you are nominating them for!

NEXT –

Go to the website (www.steinerranchhoa.org) and download the list of participating homes. (Should be posted on Monday, December 15th)

FINALLY -

Vote for YOUR favorite home between Dec 15th – December 22nd from the list on the website (only one vote per household, per category) no later than Monday, December 22nd.

Winners will be announced on the website and Facebook Page! Good Luck!!!

Brown Santa Toy/Food Donation Drive Donations will be accepted at the HOA office until December 12th.

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

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

Brown Santa gives toys to each child in the family from age 0.14 boys and girls. Donations of books, puzzles, stuffed animals, new toys are needed for every age group. The ages that are less donated for are infants to toddlers (0-2) and 10-14 boys and girls.

Suggested donations for the older kids could be: Wallets, electronics, bath gift sets, basket balls, foot balls, purses, curling irons, hair dryers, hair straightners, ball caps, sock caps, hat and gloves sets, mittens, board games, etc

Suggested donations for infants to toddlers could be:

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

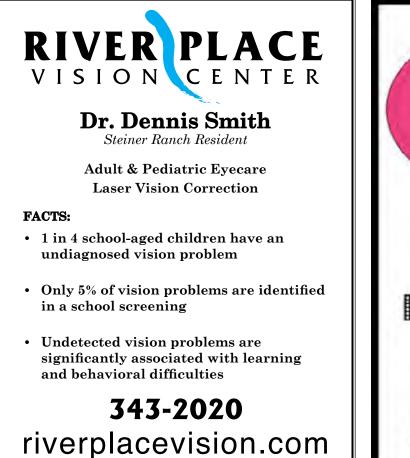
All donations need to be new and unwrapped.

Donations can be brought to the HOA Office at 12550 Country Trails Lane, until Friday, December 12th. Hours of operation will be Mon-Thurs 1p-5pm, Fri/10a – 5p.

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

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

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





Around Steiner

2015 Winter/Spring Programs REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

2015 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

LEAGUE PROGRAMS

- Neighborhood Sports
 - Flag Football
 - Soccer
- Lone Star Soccer Academy

ELEMENTARY – TEEN PROGRAMS

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

ADULT PROGRAMS

- Yoga
- Karate
- Tennis
- Zumba
- Carriefit
- Cardio Bliss
- Ballet Barre Bootcamp

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.

Chinese Cuisine Festival



Steiner Ranch Tai Chi Group brings Chinese culture to life at 11 am on January 17th. Enjoy live music, homemade Chinese food and dessert, noodle and dumpling making competitions, kid's events, cooking demos, silent auction, arts & crafts & more. Please R.S.V.P to http://goo.gl/xZOws3 by January 10th, 2015.

Admission - \$3 Cash

- Storytelling Learn the culture of dumpling and many more!
- Live Music!
- Dessert and Tea
- Get Your Name in Chinese Calligraphy
- Chopstick training
- Games and Crafts
- Tai Chi Demonstration
- Cooking demonstration with authentic Chinese cuisine



GLAMOROUS HOLIDAY HAIR STYLING

Sunday, December 7, 2014 from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PN Towne Square Community Center \$35

Register online: http://www.eventbrite.com/o/bryttanneeeaton-beauty-6886312101



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 of Chen Style Tai Chi

BENEFITS OF TAI CHI:

Relieve stress on the body and mind
Improve health and physical fitness
Enhance self defense capability



QUESTIONS/RSVP 512-470-6978 or email Rosaliachiu@gmail.com

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- Owning a Downtown Condo for UT Football Games?
- Living closer to Vandegrift High?

Kimberly can help you sell your Steiner Ranch home and find your next authentic Austin property.



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Around Steiner

Holiday Camps for Kids

Join Team Sportball over the holidays for 3 hours of sports skills and fun fames 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.

> **December 29 – 31st; and January 2nd** at Towne Square Community Center

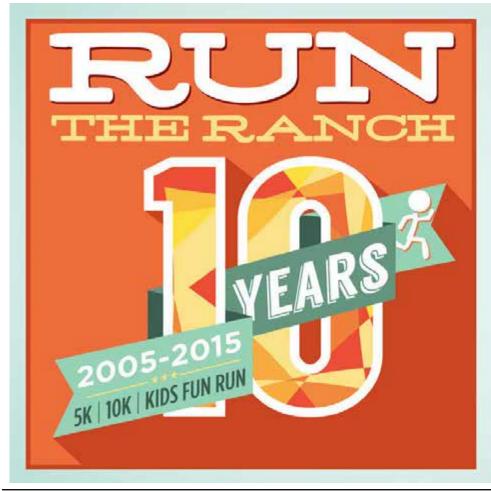
Registration information can be found at www.steinerranchhoa.org.



CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Come one, come all for a family fun, carol singing, cooking decorating and Holiday craft project with Loree Gretta! We hope you join in the holiday spirit and drop in for some holiday cheer.

Sunday, December 14th | Cups & Cones | 4:00pm – 7:00pm Mr. Rudy | Children Giving | Community | Hot Chocolate | Cookies



SAVE THE DATE MARCH 22, 2015

Runners and walkers of all ages are invited to join the 2015 Run the Ranch

5K, 10K & Kids Fun Run

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'

for more info, visit hcbc.com/runtheranch

activities.

Thank You, Steiner!

Wags, Hope and Healing wants to extend a big thank you to everyone who participated in October's dog-item donation drive for rescue dogs. This community has been so generous over the last few years and has played a key role in helping the organization grow and help hundreds of dogs in need. Thank you!

If you missed the donation drive and have new or gently used items to donate to the charity, contact kristen@gustodogs.com who does regular drop-offs to Wags.

Other ways you can help this holiday season:

CIRCLE OF CHANCE

Visit their web site to make a donation via Pay Pal, and make sure you check the "monthly/recurring" box next to your donation. This will put you in the organization's Circle of Chance, which saves at least one additional dog per month that they normally have to turn away due to financial reasons. These dogs typically have special medical requirements that are too expensive for a shelter to pay for, but the treatment would save the dog's life. Any amount helps and is tax-deductible.

THROW A PARTY!

Ask your holiday or birthday party guests to bring donations this year in lieu of gifts. The dogs at Wags will thank you with joyous wiggles and dances!

VOLUNTEER

Wags is looking for volunteers to use their skills or special interests to help the organization grow and thrive. Opportunities are available in administration, graphic or web design, photography, outdoor projects, event planning, fundraising, and much more.

To learn more visit wagshopeandhealing.org, find them on Facebook or email wagshopeandhealing@gmail.com





Steiner Ranch Resident Making a Global Impact

Former Steiner Ranch Elementary and Canyon Ridge Middle School student Collin Morris is making a global impact working with Texas State Enactus. Primarily volunteering with one of Texas State Enactus' projects partnered with True Vineyard Ministries, Collin is putting in work to help make a difference in the world.

True Vineyard Ministries is a non-profit organization that works with widowed and vulnerable women in Rwanda and Kenya, and provides them with income by selling their handmade goods here in the United States. Texas State Enactus is partnered directly with True Vineyard Ministries and provides them with eager business students looking to make an impact while gaining practical business experience. Collin has participated in multiple trunk shows where Enactus sends volunteers to sell True Vineyard's handmade goods. "It is empowering to be making a difference in people's lives half way across the planet and I thoroughly enjoy working with Enactus to be the change I want to see in the world."

Enactus is a global, non-profit organization that is changing the world through highly dedicated student teams, on more than 1600 university campuses in 40 countries. Enactus offers these students the opportunity to develop leadership, teamwork, and communication skills through learning, practicing and teaching the principles of free enterprise, thereby improving the standard of living for millions in the process.

Texas State Enactus is one of the leading collegiate teams within the United States. Enactus has been helping others achieve their dreams through free enterprise education for more than 25 years. Today, Enactus is the world's prominent and largest university-based free enterprise organization.

Pool & Swimming News

Just for Steiner Ranch Dads!

For all you Steiner Ranch dads, always focusing and supporting your kids as they participate in sports and activities, how about a morning of friendly sports competition, just for you?

Think of it as the Ultimate Field Day!

The inaugural Club Mojo event will be held on Saturday December 6th at Towne Square Community Center field. It will be a morning of Olympic based team sports, with a really fun twist.

Breakfast tacos will be provided, and there will be over \$1000 worth of prizes.

The morning is all about lighthearted competition.

To participate, you must pre-register, and can do so by going to the HOA Website at www.steinerranchhoa.org. If you register early, the cost is only \$28.

If you have friends in the neighborhood, who you think might enjoy this as well, please forward the information on to them.



Free Holistic Yoga Trial Class

Come give Holistic Healing Yoga a try on Wednesday, December 10th at 10:00am at the Bella Mar Community Center for Free!

This is a free trial class, if enough interest, these classes will be added to the Programs beginning in January.

Questions? Call Kyung at 469-878-9441.





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512-266-8585 DIPLOMATE AMERICAN BOARD

OF ORTHODONTICS



					BER		
	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		8:00am – Free Tai Chi (TSCC) 1:00pm – YAH Mexican Train 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) 11:30 am - YAH Paint Class (TSCC) 6:00pm – SRROA Board Meeting (TSCC)	5 9:30am – YAH Euchre	6 8:30am – Camp Mojo (TS Fields) 3:00pm – SRLG Cookie Exchange (TSCC)
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	7:00pm – Glamorous Holiday Hairstyling (TSCC)	8:00am – Free Tai Chi (TSCC) 11:30am – ROMEO 6:00pm – YAH Canasta 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC) 7:00pm – SRNA Meeting (BMCC)	1:00pm – YAH Book Club 7:00pm – Volunteer Appreciation Dinner (TSCC)	8:00am – Free Tai Chi (TSCC) 12:30pm – YAH Ladies Bridge 7:30pm – SRLG Knitting & Crocheting (Cups & Cones) ACC Reviews	8:00am – Free Tai Chi (TSCC) 8:30am – YAH Walking Group 1:00pm – YAH Technology Group 7:00pm – SRLG Painting Party (TSCC)	1:00pm – YAH Canasta	
(4) (1) (2) (2) (2) (2) (2) (2) (2) (2) (2) (2	7:00pm – 9:00pm – Lux Lashes (TSCC)	L 5 8:00am – Free Tai Chi (TSCC) 6:00pm – YAH Single Ladies Dinner Group 6:00pm – YAH Mexican Train 6:30pm – Free Yoga (TSCC) 7:00pm – Firewise Committee Meeting (BMCC)	I 6 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 11:30am – YAH Paint Class 1:00pm – YAH Paint Class 7:00pm – YAH Bunko	19 9:30am – YAH Euchre	20
	21	22 LISD Student Holiday 8:00am – 11:15am – LCA Swim (BM Lap Pool) 8:00am – Free Tai Chi (TSCC) 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC)	23 LISD Student Holiday 8:00am – 11:15am – LCA Swim (BM Lap Pool)	24 LISD Student Holiday 8:00am – 11:15am – LCA Swim (BM Lap Pool) 8:00am – Free Tai Chi (TSCC)	25 LISD Student Holiday HOA Office Closed Trash Service Slides One Day	26 LISD Student Holiday HOA Office Closed Trash Service Slides One Day	27
Paller I W	28	29 LISD Student Holiday 8:00am – Free Tai Chi (TSCC) 9:00am – 12:00pm – Holiday Sportball 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC	30 LISD Student Holiday 9:00am – 12:00pm – Holiday Sportball Camp	3 I LISD Student Holiday 8:00am – Free Tai Chi (TSCC) 9:00am – 12:00pm – Holiday Sportball Camp		YAH - Young At Heart Steiner Ranch Ladies	Group



JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
\$				Happy New Year!! LISD Holiday HOA Office Closed	2 9:00am – 12:00pm – Sportball Holiday Camp 9:30am – YAH Euchre LISD Holiday	3
4	5 8:00am – Free Tai Chi (TSCC) 1:00pm – YAH Mexican Train 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC)	6 :30pm – Facilities Committee Meeting (TSCC)	7 8:00am – Free Tai Chi (TSCC) 7:30pm – SRLG Knitting & Crocheting (Cups & Cones) ACC Reviews	8 8:00am – Free Tai Chi (TSCC) 8:30am – YAH Walking Group 1:00pm – YAH Technology Group	9	10
🛟 II	I 2 8:00am – Free Tai Chi (TSCC) 11:30am - ROMEO 6:00pm – YAH Mexican Train 6:30pm – Free Yoga (TSCC) 7:00pm – SRNA Meeting (BMCC)	I 3 1:00pm – YAH Book Club 6:30pm – Social Committee Meeting (TSCC)	I4 8:00am – Free Tai Chi (TSCC) 12:30pm – YAH Ladies Bridge 7:30pm – SRLG Knitting & Crocheting (Cups & Cones) ACC Reviews	I 5 8:00am – Free Tai Chi (TSCC) 8:30am – YAH Walking Group 11:30am – YAH Paint Class 7:00pm – YAH Bunko	l 6 9:30am – YAH Euchre	17 11:00am – Cultural Cooking Class (TSCC)
18	I 9 8:00am – Free Tai Chi (TSCC) 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC) 7:00pm – Firewise Committee Meeting (BMCC) LISD School Holiday	20 11:30am – YAH Ladies Lunching Out	2 I 8:00am – Free Tai Chi (TSCC)	22 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)	23 9:30am – YAH Euchre 5:30pm – Thanksgiving Kids Cooking Class (TSCC)	24
YAH Cruise to the Caribbean	26 8:00am – Free Tai Chi (TSCC) 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC	27 6:00pm – SRMA Board Meeting (TSCC)	28 8:00am – Free Tai Chi (TSCC) 12:30pm – YAH Ladies Bridge	29 6:00pm – SRROA Board Meeting (TSCC)	30	31

Call me today to discuss your options.

Some people think Allstate only protects your car. Truth is, Allstate can also protect your home or apartment, your boat, motorcycle - even your retirement and your life. And the more of your world you put in Good Hands[®], the more you can save.



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GIVE THE GIFT OF BEAUTY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON



PURCHASE \$100 GIFT CARD - GET \$25 BONUS PURCHASE \$200 GIFT CARD - GET \$50 BONUS PURCHASE \$300 GIFT CARD - GET \$75 BONUS

> STOCKING STUFFER SPECIALS!! MICRODERMABRASION ONLY \$50 EXPRESS FACIAL ONLY \$50 HYDRAFACIAL ONLY \$125



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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!

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 – Tuesday – Friday 7:15am – 9:15am

(December exceptions –No practice 12/5 or 12/22 – 12/31)

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

(December expectations – No practice 12/25 හ් 12/26. On 12/22 – 12/24 practice will only be held from 8am – 11:15am)

> **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.

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/

Sports News



Before you make a decision, Discover School in the Hills

You've heard about the amazing academic and social program offered at School in the Hills in Steiner Ranch, but wish the campus was closer. **Now it is!** School in the Hills is opening a second location at River Place that will include all of the things you love about the Steiner Ranch location, plus much more, including a **lower elementary program**!

Potential Nurtured Here

18 months through 3rd grade

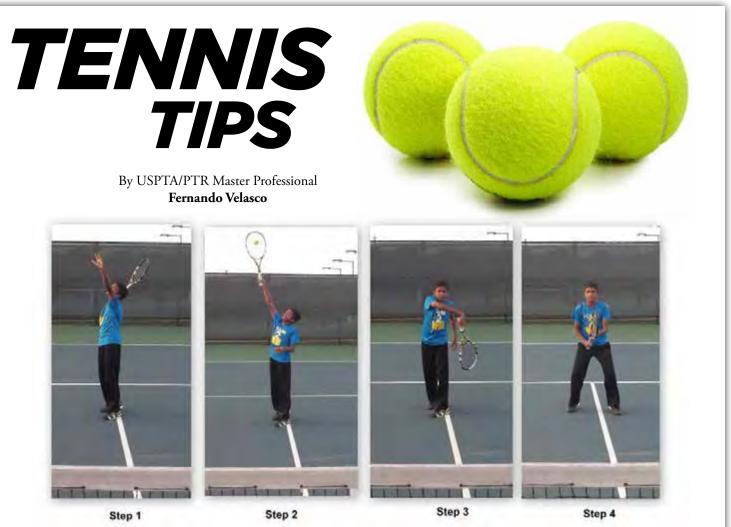
School in the Hills Montessori in Steiner Ranch 2900 N. Quinlan Park Austin, TX 78732

Phone 512.266.6160 Fax 512.266.6150 School in the Hills Montessori at River Place 10819 Ranch Road 2222 Austin, TX 78730

Phone 512.266.8180 Fax 512.266.6150 Coming Soon to River Place... are YOU
 on the waiting list?

schoolinthehills.com info@schoolinthehills.com





The Modern Game: The Slice Overhead

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 content with hitting the ball over the net and controlling the point with consistency. These players may already be playing for leagues or tournaments and are looking for more "weapons" on the court.

In this issue, I will offer instructions on how to execute "The Slice Overhead." This shot is utilized when an opponent hits a lob that is both high and deep. The player will take the overhead and hit it slightly on the side of the ball forcing the opponent off the court.

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

Step 1: The Back Swing: When Chaitanya 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, and his eyes are focused on the ball. His right wrist is "laid back" to allow maximum for point of contact.

Step 2: The Point of Contact: The success of a slice overhead shot is in keeping the ball on the strings of the racket as long as possible outside of the ball. Chaitanya started the swing high and is allowing the head of the racket to be fully extended. His left shoulder is almost opening and his weight is moving through the shot.

Step 3: The Follow Through: In order to attain maximum control and power, Chaitanya is wrapping the racket around his body. He has "snapped" his right wrist and has the head of the racket facing down. His weight is going forward.

Step 4: The Ready Position: If Chaitanya's overhead is successful but was not a winner, he now gets ready for the next shot, which probably would be a volley.

Look in the next Newsletter for: "The Modern Game: The Forehand Baseline Drop Shot"

From the Association Office

Association Assessment PAYMENTS DUE

Semi-annual assessments for January – July 2015 are due on January 1, 2015. Statements will be mailed to each homeowner at the mailing address on file in mid-December. If you do not receive a statement, please contact the Community Associations Office at 512-266-7553. You are not exempt from paying assessments or late fees even if you do not receive a statement. Payments received after January 31, 2015 for any reason are subject to an initial \$25.00 late fee per association and a \$25.00 late fee for each additional month that the assessment remains unpaid. Please note that the assessment must be received by January 31st, not simply postmarked by January 31st. Your escrow account does not pay your assessments.

Online Assessment payments can be made at www.steinerranchhoa.org, by clicking on the "Online Assessment Payments" link. You can also sign up to receive your statements online. You can still mail in your payments at the address listed on your statement, or bring them to the Association office at 12550 Country Trails Lane to avoid an On-line fee.

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



The Steiner Ranch HOA encourages residents to recycle their Christmas trees from Thursday, December 26, 2014 – Jan 4, 2015 at the entrance of the WCID Water Treatment driveway off of Quinlan Park Road and Logan's Way. Before recycling your tree, please remove all decorations, nails, wires, ornaments, tree stands, lights, and tinsel. Place your tree to the right side of the driveway. Thank you to WCID #17 for the use of their entrance and to Landscape Resources for removing and shredding the trees.



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- Member, American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry

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Decorated Holiday Trees

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

Where did this tradition get its start? The story goes that it started about 11 years ago along Hwy 360 by a family honoring their son who had recently passed away. Quickly the tradition grew with many more "trees of memory", then came along the fun quirky trees and the trees with local business logos on them. Now, you'll see hundreds of trees decorated on Hwy 360 in hopes of "keeping Austin weird".

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

Do not use expensive or cherished ornaments

Keep the tree maintained and looking nice throughout the season

Be aware of your surroundings while decorating

If you plan on being out of town, ask a friend or neighbor to maintain the tree while you are away and have the items removed by the deadline.

Remove all decorations no later than Sunday, January 4, 2015.

If you do not remove your decorations, they will be removed by HOA staff and held for a few days. However, we do ask you to remove your own, so that this tradition may continue and does not become too costly in HOA funds to have removed.





From the Association Office



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!

The Children's Center Of Austin

CCOA-STEINER RANCH 4308 N. Quinlan Park Rd. Suite 100 Austin, TX 78732 512.266.6130 CCOA-JESTER 6507 Jester Boulevard Building 2 Austin, TX 78750 512.795.8300 CCOA-WESTLAKE 8100 Bee Caves Rd Austin, TX 78746 512.329.6633

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- Spanish Little Wing Martial Arts
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childrenscenterofaustin.com

Happy Holidays from ADC!

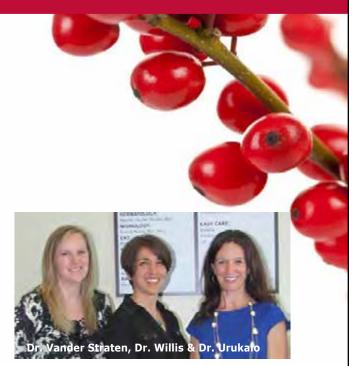
The Austin Diagnostic Clinic Steiner Ranch doctors and staff wish you and your family a healthy, happy holiday.





ADC Steiner Ranch Specialists & Services

- Allergy & Asthma, Scott Oberhoff, M.D.
- **Dermatology,** Melody Vander Straten, M.D.
- ENT, Richard Bryarly, M.D.
- Family Practice, Vimal George, M.D. and Brenna Gerdelman, M.D.
- **Neurology,** Patrick Nolan, M.D., Ph.D.
- Pediatrics, Theresa Willis, M.D.
- **Podiatry,** Ana Urukalo, D.P.M.
- Rheumatology, Kevin Osgood, M.D.
- Lab and Infusion Services



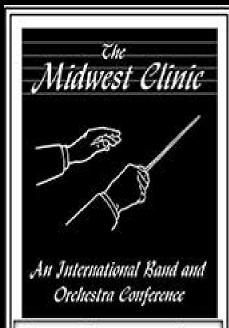
We offer same-day and next-day appointments in Family Practice, Pediatrics and Dermatology and accept most insurances.

Call 512-681-5900 to make an appointment or for more information.

Ask us about Flu Shots and how to prepare for Cedar Fever!

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

School News



OFFICIAL PERFORMING GROUP

Canyon Ridge Middle School Band to Perform at the Midwest Clinic

Congratulations to the Canyon Ridge Middle School (CRMS) Band! The CRMS band will perform at the prestigious Midwest Clinic in December. Held annually in Chicago, the Midwest Clinic is the largest instrumental music education conference in the world. Its focus is to introduce U.S. and international music directors to the best published music, new and established teaching techniques, as well as the latest products and services for music educators.

In addition to being one of the four middle school bands accepted, the CRMS Band placed first in the rankings from among the national and international middle school contenders. It also received one of the highest accolades of any auditioning band.

At the conference, CRMS students will have the opportunity to interact with well-known composers, conductors, and music educators while hearing ensembles from other countries. The CRMS Band students will perform before an audience of more than 2,000 at the conference and is honored to represent Steiner Ranch.

Not everyone wants to brave the Windy City in December; the CRMS Band would love to perform their program for you in Austin. Please join us for a send-off concert on Sunday, December 7th, at 2:00 pm at Vandegrift High School.

An invitation to the Midwest Clinic is a testimony to the dedication, hard work, and talent of the CRMS band students and their directors: Ms. Amy Allison, Mr. Carter Matschek, and Mr. Joshua Munoz. Thank you for your support! We hope to see you at the send-off concert.



Thank You Four Points Community!

At the Hill Country Education Foundation, we asked you to help us raise \$20,000 to prepare, inspire and engage our students and you did just that! Let's keep the momentum going. Please consider participating in HCEF's 2014 Fall Giving Campaign through the end of this year.

Your donation helps prepare your children for college and beyond, inspire them to find their career passion, and engage them in learning through tools, technology, and programs for our Four Points area schools. Learn more about our programs at www.HillCountryEdFoundation. org. Don't forget, many local companies match employee donations!



Help us raise \$20,000 to support Four Points-area schools.



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Reservations / call or click 512/381-0800

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School News

LOCAL CHILDREN WIN MATHNASIUM OF NORTH AUSTIN'S 2014 TRIMATHLON CONTEST

U.S. & Canada Participants Raise \$40,000 for Local Schools, Supported by Smarties, Rubik's, Lakeshore Learning, and PFL

Austin students put their math skills on display last weekend, earning money for local schools and winning prizes for themselves in the Mathnasium of Austin 2014 TriMathlon contest.

In the U.S. and Canada, Mathnasium TriMathlon participants raised about \$40,000 for local schools. Participants earned money for local schools just by participating in TriMathlon.

The Top 3 Mathnasium of Austin winners in each of the grades represented, 2 through 5, are listed below.

"Our Mathnasium of North Austin TriMathlon contest was a big success with students and parents alike this year, demonstrating clearly that math Winners of the North Austin Mathnasium 2014 TriMathlon were:

GRADE 5:

1st Place: Jessica Shoemaker, Holy Family Catholic School; 2nd Place: Aman Tewari, Spicewood Elementary School; 3rd Place: Anshul Desai, Spicewood Elementary School;

GRADE 4:

1st Place: Krishna Grandhe, Fern Bluff Elementary School; 2nd Place: Rishi Koneru, Patsy Sommer Elementary School; 3rd Place: Nikki Sheu, Spicewood Elementary School;

GRADE 3:

1st Place: Anvith Maddipoti, Laurel Mountain Elementary School;

2nd Place: Vineet Burugu, Laurel Mountain Elementary School; 3rd Place: Aanchal Save, Spicewood Elementary School;

GRADE 2:

1st Place: Annika Shivam, Homeschool; 2nd Place: Rithik Vazzalwar, Cactus Ranch Elementary School; 3rd Place: Jonathan Simon, Spicewood Elementary School children and to prepare them to do well in their future careers," says Eric H. Ostrow, Smarties Vice President of Sales & Marketing.

All participants received fun goody bags and certificates of participation. Participants who registered by September 30 received a free downloadable Math Plinko game from Lakeshore. Grand Prize winners will receive Rubik's prize packages and Mathnasium scholarships.

For more information on Mathnasium of North Austin, please contact Lakshmi Jagarlamudi at (512) 331-6284 or northaustin@mathnasium. com, or visit www.mathnasium. com/northaustin.

ABOUT MATHNASIUM

Mathnasium, the nation's

can be fun. The fact that the children raised money for local schools just for participating added a level of community service to the contest. Everyone who participated should be proud of what they've accomplished for their schools, their community, and themselves," said Lakshmi Jagarlamudi, owner of the Mathnasium of North Austin franchise.

"The Smarties" Candy Company supports the efforts and good work that are provided by Mathnasium in helping to educate our leading math-only learning center franchise, specializes in teaching kids math in a way that makes sense to them. Students go to Mathnasium year-round to catch up, get ahead, and excel in math. The proprietary Mathnasium Method[™] is the result of 40+ years of hands-on instruction and research. Franchising since 2003, Mathnasium has become one of the fastest-growing educational franchises, with a new center opening each week. There are more than 500 Mathnasium franchises in the U.S. and abroad. www.mathnasium.com





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News You Can Use



Take Care of Texas by Managing Your Leaves

As autumn brings cooler temperatures, it also signals the arrival of another seasonal display - falling leaves! While Take Care of Texas encourages you to plant shade trees to help lower your utility bills in the summer, these deciduous trees lose their leaves in the fall. Instead of raking and bagging them, where they will head to a landfill, put them back into your lawns and gardens as a valuable source of mulch and fertilizer. Leaves contain 50 to 80 percent of the nutrients a plant extracts from the soil and air during the season. Grass clippings, leaves, and other yard debris make up 20 percent of the trash sent to landfills each year. It costs Texans over \$250 million a year to collect and dispose of this waste. There are four basic ways to manage leaves and use them in landscaping:

Mowing: a light covering of leaves can be mowed, simply leaving the shredded leaves in place on the lawn. This technique is most effective when a mulching mower is used.

Mulching: a lawn mower with a bagging attachment provides a fast

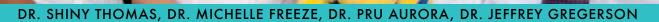
and easy way to shred and collect the leaves. Apply a three to four inch layer of shredded leaves around the base of trees and shrubs. A two to three inch mulch of shredded leaves is ideal for flowerbeds. For vegetable gardens, a thick layer of leaves placed between the rows functions as a mulch and an all-weather walkway that will allow you to work in your garden during wet periods.

Composting: in addition to leaves, other yard wastes such as grass clippings, pine needles, weeds, and small prunings can be composted. Compost can serve as a soil conditioner that nourishes your yard and reduces the need for outdoor watering up to 60 percent.

Soil improvement: leaves may be collected and worked directly into garden and flowerbed soils. A six to eight inch layer of leaves tilled into a heavy, clay soil will improve aeration and drainage. The same amount tilled into a light, sandy soil, will improve water and nutrient holding capacity.







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News You Can Use

Winter Averaging Began November 17

WCID 17 begins the winter averaging cycle that determines wastewater charges for customers for the following service year. This year's winter averaging cycle begins Nov. 17, 2014 and ends Feb. 17, 2015. WCID 17 calculates wastewater costs based on the average amount of water used during three winter billing cycles. These three billing periods occur between mid-November and mid-February, when less outside water is being used, making it a good measure of the water volume sent to the wastewater system. Minimizing and conserving your water usage during these months could result in a lower wastewater charge every month next year! This water evaluation will affect your bill beginning Oct., 1, 2015.

Some ways to save water in the winter and help lower your wastewater average are:

- Turn off your irrigation system for the fall and winter months;
- Fix all leaky faucets and toilets;
- Take shorter showers, shallower baths;
- Run your dishwasher and washing machine only with a full load;
- When buying new appliances that are water-using, look for the WaterSense® label; and
- Visit www.wcid17.org/ConservationTips.htm for more ways to save water. **PROTECT FROM FREEZING WEATHER**
- Wrap all exposed pipes located outside or in unheated areas of the home.
- Remove garden hoses from outside faucets.
- Cover vents around the foundation of your home.
- Know where your property owner's cut-off valve is located and how to use it. The valve is located adjacent to the water meter box under a 6" metal lid.

IN SUB-FREEZING WEATHER

- Drip outside faucets 24 hours a day (5 drops per minute).
- This is not necessary unless temperatures are expected to be 28 degrees or below for at least 4 hours. (Be sure to turn off the faucets after the threat of freezing weather.)
- Open cabinet doors under sinks adjacent to outside walls.
- In unheated garages, shut off water to washing machines. Water softeners should be drained and protected from freezing temperatures.
- In sustained sub-freezing weather, let water drip slowly from inside faucets.
- Take extra precautions to protect pipes that have frozen in the past. IF YOU ARE NOT GOING TO BE AT HOME
- Shut water off at the property owner's cut-off valve.
- Drain all outside water faucets if your house will be unoccupied for several days (leave outside faucets open).
- Or, leave home heating system on at a low setting.
- Open cabinet doors under sinks adjacent to outside walls.
- Renters and tenants may be responsible for personal property damage caused by broken water pipes during severe weather conditions. Residents should contact property management/landlord or maintenance personnel to locate property owner's cut-off valve and find ways to avoid pipe breakage during a freeze.
- WCID 17 encourages all residents to turn off and drain outside irrigation systems during the winter months to help conserve water. However, businesses that continue to operate landscape irrigation systems are asked to shut their systems off in order to prevent possible freezing of pedestrian areas and damage caused by freezing conditions.

Cardio Bliss

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.

75% of Households Use Chemical Pesticides – Does Yours?

Submitted by Colleen Morrison

While 8 in 10 families buy at least some organic food each week - in large part to avoid pesticides - 3 in 4 families use neurotoxic chemical pesticides at home, on their pets and on themselves. We all deal with bugs, whether they are fleas and ticks on our pets, or common pests like ants, roaches or mosquitoes. Pesticides are commonly used to manage these nuisances, but most people don't even realize it. Even the commonly-prescribed "spot drops" are chemical pesticides.

On December 6, from 9-1pm, we will be hosting our "Wondercide Winter Wag" at The Coffee Bean in Steiner Ranch. We invite families and their furry loved ones to celebrate the holiday season with us. We hope to create awareness around switching to a more natural and effective solution for managing pests around your pets and property. The event is free! There will be activities for the kids, pet and family holiday photos, raffle prizes, discounted specialty beverage and treats, as well as some sweet holiday surprises for your furry friends! Donations will be greatly appreciated for our rescue groups in attendance as well.



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Contact Mike Brooks | C: 512-745-3954 | O: 512-402-1400 | ReserveAtLakeTravisMarina.com

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Business Section

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YOGA INSTRUCTION AT HOME: Practice yoga at HOME individually or with family and friends. Increase flexibility and strength while reducing stress. Help rehab injuries. Certified yoga instructor (ERYT-500) with 15 years experience. References available. Contact Paula at paulasyoga@gmail.com or (512) 947-9530.

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Classified Ads

Personal classifieds (one time sell items, such as a used bike...) run at no charge to Steiner Ranch residents, limit 30 words, please e-mail <u>steinerranch@</u> <u>peelinc.com</u>.

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

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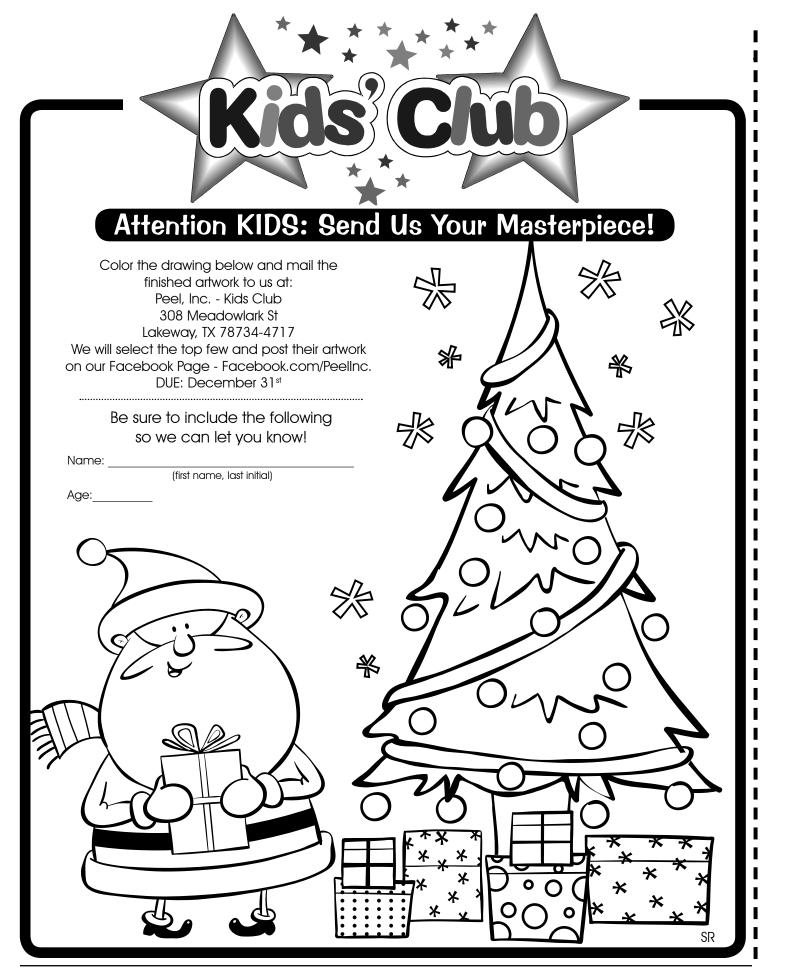
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