

# RANCH RECORD

*Official Newsletter for the Steiner Ranch HOA*

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 4

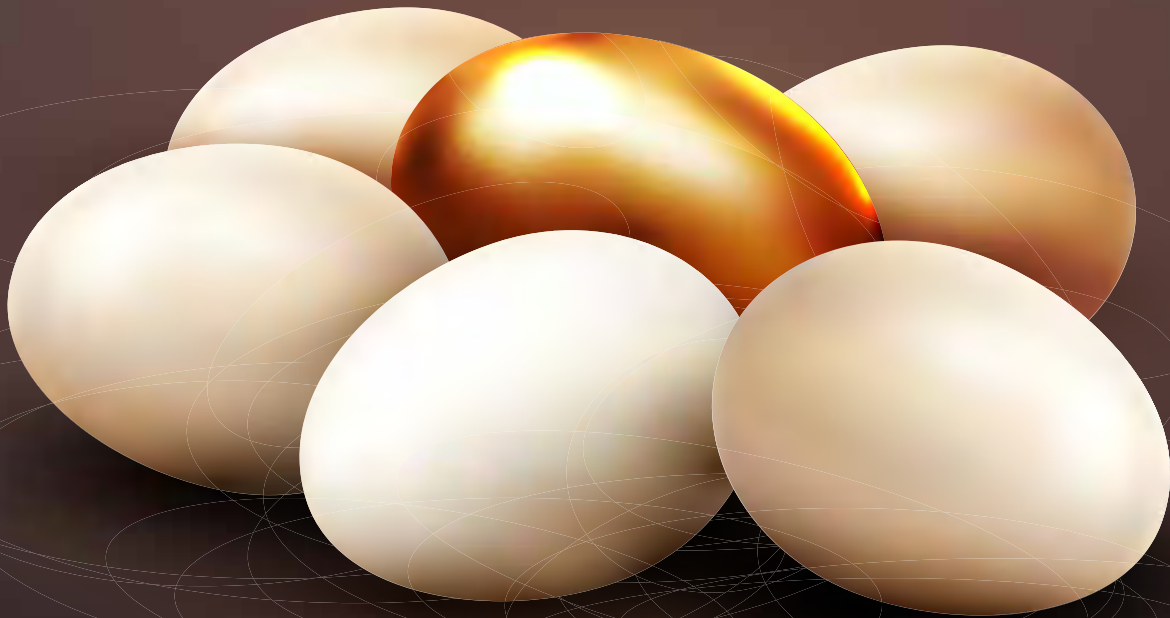
APRIL 2015



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

### STAFF

#### CMCA, AMS, PCAM, Executive Director

Randy Schmaltz ..... randy@steinerranchhoa.org

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Sharon Adams ..... sharon@steinerranchhoa.org

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#### Amenity Coordinator

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#### Front Office Coordinator

Cassie Burgess ..... cassie@steinerranchhoa.org

#### Maintenance Technician

Angel Alvarado  
Macedonio Salazar  
Karl Chrietberg

## 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](mailto:advertising@peelinc.com). The advertising deadline is the 8th of the month prior to the issue.

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

### EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY ..... 911  
Fire ..... 911  
Ambulance ..... 911  
Sheriff – Non-Emergency ..... 512-974-0845  
Travis County ESD No.6/Lake Travis Fire Rescue  
Administration Office ..... 512-266-2533  
Travis County Animal Control ..... 512-974-2000

### STEINER RANCH CONTACTS

Steiner Ranch Community Association Office ..... 512-266-7553

### SCHOOLS

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

### UTILITIES

Travis County WCID # 17 ..... 512-266-1111  
City of Austin Electric ..... 512-494-9400  
Texas Gas Service  
Custom Service ..... 1-800-700-2443  
Emergencies ..... 512-370-8609  
Call Before You Dig ..... 1-800-344-8377  
AT&T  
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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) ..... 512-421-1300  
Austin/Travis County Hazardous Waste ..... 512-974-4343

### OTHER NUMBERS

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

### NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

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Advertising ..... [advertising@peelinc.com](mailto:advertising@peelinc.com)

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**DATE:** Wednesday, April 29th  
**TIME:** 11:00 am Registration, 1:00 pm Start  
**LOCATION:** Flintrock Falls Golf Course  
**FORMAT:** 4-person scramble  
**COST:** \$165 per golfer\*  
*\*Includes lunch, dinner, hat & swag.*

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**Questions? Contact:**  
 Kim Flasch: [kim.flasch@colinshope.org](mailto:kim.flasch@colinshope.org)  
 Sue Hart: [sue.hart@colinshope.org](mailto:sue.hart@colinshope.org)

**[WWW.COLINSHOPE.ORG](http://WWW.COLINSHOPE.ORG)**

## 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](mailto:steinerranch@peelinc.com). The deadline is the 8th of the month prior to the issue.

## COVER PHOTO

This month's cover photo was submitted Bluebird Photography of Emma, age 5 and her brother, Matthew, age 9. This photo was submitted for the cover back in October 2014 and was saved for the Easter cover photo!

### *Do you take great photos?*

*Would you like to see your photo published?  
 We are looking for great cover photos for the upcoming May  
 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 May 2015 issue submittal deadline is April 8th and photos should be submitted electronically by the deadline date to Sharon Adams at [sharon@steinerranchhoa.org](mailto: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

## THE RANCH REPORT

My name is Randy Schmaltz and I would like to start off by saying that it is an honor and a privilege for me to be here as your executive director for the Steiner Ranch Community Association.

I first visited Steiner Ranch a couple of years ago when I attended a management retreat for community managers. At that time, I was impressed with the community and its leadership, especially in the aftermath of the devastating fire that destroyed 24 homes in the community. Since then, I have remained in touch with Scott Selman. Today, my family and I are very excited to now be part of this great community.

First off, a little about myself, I grew up in Slaton TX just outside of Lubbock, but spent most of my adult life in California. I've been married for 29 years and have two grown children that live in Texas and California along with three grandchildren. Besides my work, I enjoy water skiing, cycling, golf, and, most of all, traveling in our RV.

Professionally, I am on the Board of Directors of the Community Association Institute (CAI) and for the past 7 years I served as community manager for the Lake Kiowa Property Owners Association located in North Central Texas. While roughly the same acreage as Steiner Ranch, that community only had about 1300 lots with about 1200 homes. With a staff of 65, we maintained the 560-acre fishing and boating lake, 18-hole golf course, dining and tavern facilities, over 20 miles of roads, boat ramps, and parking lots while providing 24-hour emergency response and security services.

Prior to my tenure at Lake Kiowa, I held a variety of positions with the Walt Disney Company for 15 years. Those included being a facilities maintenance planner for Fantasyland and Main Street USA in Disneyland, superintendent of environmental affairs for west coast properties, and finally the facilities maintenance manager for the Disneyland Hotels.

I was interested in the executive director position here for three primary reasons: the location (Austin is awesome), the diverse community, and, first and foremost, the opportunity to work with great people. My leadership philosophy is simple. I believe we are stewards of the community, entrusted by the residents to protect what may be their largest investment. Our job is to accomplish the goals the Board of Directors set while being in accord with all Steiner Ranch governing documents and Texas law without sacrificing the willingness to listen and communicate in an engaging manner with the residents when they ask for our assistance.

In closing, if you have the opportunity, please stop by introduce yourself. I am interested in learning more about our residents and look forward to meeting each of you.

Sincerely,

*Randy Schmaltz, Executive Director  
Steiner Ranch Community Association*

## Mark Your Calendars 2015 Steiner Ranch Social Committee Events

- 4/4 - Easter Egg Hunt
- 4/10 - 4/12 - Spring Scrapathon
- 4/18 - Spring Garage Sale
- 5/2 - Kentucky Derby Casino Night
- 5/30 - Movies in The Park
- 5/30 - Paper Shred Day
- 6/27 - Movies in The Park
- 7/4 - Independence Day Parade
- 8/8 - Movies in The Park
- 8/15 - Concert in the Park
- 9/12 - Fall Garage Sale
- 10/9 - 10/11 - Fall Scrapathon
- 10/18 - Pumpkin Patch
- 10/25 - Halloween Trunk or Treat
- 11/7 - Camping on the Ranch
- 11/14 - Holiday Shopping Event & Santa Photos
- 12/12 - Volunteer Appreciation Dinner
- Dec - Holiday House Decorating Contest

*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](mailto:sharon@steinerranchhoa.org).*

All Events are tentative and subject to change or cancel.



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## TRANSITION COMMITTEE UPDATE

# Elections Are Coming!

By Sharon Adams, Community Manager

In March, the committee has met with Randy Schmaltz, the new Executive Director, and is continuing their efforts to have the Bylaws and elections guidelines completed as their first priority. Another priority to working with the developer on street repairs in the Golf Community and other repairs at the community centers.

### ELECTIONS FOR THREE NEW SRMA SEATS

The SRMA will be holding elections in May and we are seeking homeowners to run for the three new seats. These three new members will join the four homeowners that were elected at last year's annual meeting, for three (3) year terms, to make up the first ALL Homeowner board. Ideally we would like all of Steiner Ranch Master Associations areas represented, if you have questions or would like more information please feel free to contact me for more information at [sharon@steinerranchhoa.org](mailto:sharon@steinerranchhoa.org) or 512-266-7553 Ext. 27. There is also additional information on the Steiner Ranch HOA website at [www.steinerranchhoa.org](http://www.steinerranchhoa.org).

### Current Board Members serving 2 year terms:

- Alex Brooks – Savannah Point
- Tara Hollaren – Mediterra (Bella Mar)
- Doug Messer – Golf Community
- Bill Menzies – Palisades (Bella Mar)

Remember to open your Annual meeting notices, come to the meetings and vote!

*SRMA Annual Meeting*  
*Tuesday, May 12th at 6:30pm*  
*Towne Square Community Center*

*SRROA Annual Meeting*  
*Thursday, April 23rd at 6:30pm*  
*Towne Square Community Center*  
**ONLINE VOTING WILL BE AVAILABLE!**



## New Year, New You

Whether one or all of these are on your list, The UT Golf Club can help you achieve your goals. For a limited time, you can join the club for as little as 20% down plus a payment plan—customized to fit your needs. Now is the time to join!

Inquire about these new financing opportunities as well as the various types of membership available by contacting Dana or Lisa at 512-266-6464 or [membership@utgolfclub.com](mailto:membership@utgolfclub.com).





# Who Are The People In Your NEIGHBORHOOD?

*By: Adam and Tonya Stahl*

As Steiner Ranch and the Four Points area continue to grow, so does our local business community.

These brick and mortar buildings are more than just businesses; they house real people with families, hopes, and dreams.

We want to get to know our local business owners in a more personal way and allow our community the opportunity to understand who they truly are.

The spotlight on this month's Steiner Neighborhood business is Gary Shanahan. He opened the doors to his State Farm Insurance agency early November 2014. His office is located next to Menchies in the Randalls shopping plaza.

Gary and his family have been residents of River Place since 1999. He relocated his agency from central Austin to Steiner Ranch because he wanted to work within the Four Points community. Gary considers it a true blessing to have found space for his office in Quinlan Crossing. He is enjoying the easy commute and taking advantage of the goods and services available right here.

Gary grew up in Oregon and is a golf and ski enthusiast. He began his career with State Farm in Houston as a claims adjuster and was quickly moved into a catastrophic loss team. He flew all over the country helping clients in the aftermath of hurricanes, wildfires, tornados, etc. Gary started his agency 25+ years ago and represents clients all over Central Texas.

Gary told us one of the perks of his job is working with his son Patrick who joined the team in 2011. The four other staff members are Kori Cox, Joel Rollman, Tasha Freeman and Gary's wife Mary.

Mr. Shanahan has been passionate over the years about helping the youth in our community. He has supported the Special Olympics, the Lions Club youth programs, and has given countless hours and support to Little League. He recently joined the Four Points Chamber of Commerce and sponsors local school events whenever he can.

Our final question was why insurance? The answer, "My father was an attorney with State Farm and my father-in-law was in agency management. The majority of our family on both sides is associated with the company and collectively has logged over 250 years with State Farm. They are a solid company." He is happy to offer State Farm insurance and financial products to the Steiner Ranch Community and can be reached at (512) 458-2593 and [gary@garyshanahan.com](mailto:gary@garyshanahan.com).

*Do you own a business in Steiner  
and have interest in being profiled?*

*Please send your request to [Tonya@agrslaw.com](mailto:Tonya@agrslaw.com)*



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## 21<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL *Easter Egg Hunt* **SAVE THE DATE!**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 4TH**  
Rain or Shine  
Hunt will start at 10:00am (sharp)

**9:00AM - 11:00AM**  
Easter Bunny      Pony Rides  
Face Painters      Petting Zoo  
Balloon Twister      And ...

Thousands of Easter eggs will be placed on the grounds of John Simpson Park and all children ages 10 and under are invited to gather for this "eggstra" special event. Bring your camera for special photo opportunities with the Easter Bunny!

Participants should start lining up along the sidewalk next to their dedicated age group at 9:55am. Please wait for the Fire Truck or Air Horn to sound their horn for the big start. To ensure all children leave with eggs, we ask each child to limit their eggs to ONE DOZEN. Please keep this in mind when your child is on the HUNT. All children will be divided by age group and there will be one "special egg" in each age group for a great prize sponsored by Mogen Financial & Consulting.

Age Group Locations:  
Ages 2 & Under (accompanied by parent)  
Open area between the two mailbox kiosks

3-4 Year Olds  
Open area between the two mailbox kiosks

5-6 Year Olds  
In the area to the left of the volleyball court

7-10 Year Olds  
In the area to the right of the volleyball court  
and In the playground

### PLEASE HELP!

Egg Wranglers - With over 10,000 eggs to hide, we need your help the morning of the event!

Please come to the John Simpson Park on Saturday, May 4th by 8:00am. Coffee will be provided for all the early morning helpers! This is a great way for the older kids to be involved or earn Community service points.

If you can help, please contact Sharon Adams, Community Coordinator at 266-7553 or Sharon@steinerranchhoa.org. You must register your child(ren) in the age group they plan to hunt in!

<http://2015steineregghunt.eventbrite.com>





# Spring Neighborhood **GARAGE SALE**

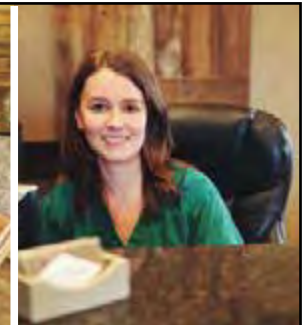
Spring has sprung and it is time to clean out your closets and reclaim your 2-car garage again! The semiannual Steiner Ranch Neighborhood Garage Sale is just around the corner. Whether you are a seller or buyer, be certain to mark your calendars for Saturday, April 18th from 8:00am to 12:00pm. The HOA will advertise in the local papers and online sites. Sellers can list their garage sale on the HOA website to help promote traffic to their sell.

- Go to [www.steinerranchhoa.org](http://www.steinerranchhoa.org)
- Log in. If you've never logged in before then you can request a new log in.
- Click on the "classified" link.
- Choose the Category "garage sale"
- Click on the "add/edit" link

On the day of the sale, you can put directional signs out. But please pick them up as soon as the sale is over.



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- 15% off Sedation Dentistry\*
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## YOUNG @ HEART

### APRIL ACTIVITIES

#### YOUNG AT HEART WINE SOCIAL

*Friday, April 10th at 7:00 PM at the home of Bonnie and Wayne Wilcynski*

Bring your beverage of choice and a large appetizer to share. Our Wine Socials often are the first Young at Heart event that new members attend. Come and meet new people and see old friends. Please contact Karen Steans for more information at [kjsteans@gmail.com](mailto:kjsteans@gmail.com).

**Art Group** - April 2nd, 16th, 23rd and 30th 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](mailto:carolsuewitt@gmail.com).

**Biking Group** - April 1st, 5th, 8th, 12th, 15th, 19th, 22nd, 26th and 29th An active group of Steiner residents bike in and around Steiner Ranch about 15 to 20 miles every Sunday and Wednesday. They meet at Cups and Cones at 1:00 pm. For details, contact Richard Ellenbogen at [rellenbogen747@yahoo.com](mailto:rellenbogen747@yahoo.com).

**Book Club** - Tuesday, April 14th The Book Club meets on the second Tuesday of each month at the UT Golf Club. This month we will be discussing East of Eden. Contact: Cheryl Howard at [cchoward24@gmail.com](mailto:cchoward24@gmail.com) for more information and to RSVP.

**Bridge (Ladies Social)** - Wednesdays, April 8th and 22nd 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](mailto: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](mailto:dottie.thoms@gmail.com).

**Bunco (Ladies)** - Thursday, April 16th - 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](mailto:miko4@msn.com) or Ruth Isaacson at [rcisaacson@gmail.com](mailto:rcisaacson@gmail.com).

**Card-Making** - Monday, April 13th - How often have you admired the beautiful greeting cards that are truly works of art? You'll be surprised by how easy it is to make them yourself. Come and learn. Candyce Welch has been making cards for years and will show you how. For more information, contact Candyce Welch at [twinsiscandy@gmail.com](mailto:twinsiscandy@gmail.com).

**Canasta (Ladies Daytime)** - Fridays, April 3rd and 17th 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 Vicky Bradley at [vickylbradley@gmail.com](mailto:vickylbradley@gmail.com).

**Canasta (Evening)** - Monday, April 13th 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](mailto:bkc429@yahoo.com).

**CLEO (Classy Ladies Eating Out)** - Wednesday, April 1st We 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](mailto: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. If you would like to participate, please contact Karen Steans at [kjsteans@gmail.com](mailto:kjsteans@gmail.com).

**Epicureans** - Tuesday, April 7th at 6:00 PM at the home of Fred and Dottie Thoms - Led by Jeff Conarko, we will be enjoying a Spring-inspired menu prepared by a food professional. Come learn a chef's techniques and savor a delicious meal. Contact Dottie Thoms to learn more about the menu and price at [dottie.thoms@gmail.com](mailto:dottie.thoms@gmail.com).

**Euchre** - Fridays, April 10th and 24th 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](mailto:jfinley825@aol.com).

**Exploring Austin** - 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. For information and reserve your space, please contact Ethel Bradford at [emb43@sbcbglobal.net](mailto:emb43@sbcbglobal.net).

**Gourmet Dining** - If you enjoy cooking and eating gourmet meals, Gourmet Dining is for you! Featuring theme dinners, regional cuisines, chef-inspired menus, etc, groups of not more than 8 people prepare and enjoy friendship and good food. For more information, please contact Dottie Thoms at [dottie.thoms@gmail.com](mailto:dottie.thoms@gmail.com).

**Happy Hour** - Our next Happy Hour will be in May. 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. Contact Dottie Thoms at [dottie.thoms@gmail.com](mailto:dottie.thoms@gmail.com) for information.

**Hiking** - Saturday, April 18th We explore the various hiking trails right here in Steiner Ranch. The views are fantastic and the hikes vary in difficulty. For details, please contact Karen Steans at [kjsteans@gmail.com](mailto:kjsteans@gmail.com).

**International Dining** - Monday, April 27th - Details will be in the weekly email 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](mailto:dottie.thoms@gmail.com).

**Mah Jongg** - Thursdays, April 2nd, 16th, 23rd and 30th 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](mailto:gellenbo@yahoo.com).

**Mexican Train (Dominoes)** - Ladies Daytime - Monday, April 6th 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 Janet Schriener at [jgschriener@austin.rr.com](mailto:jgschriener@austin.rr.com).

**Mexican Train (Dominoes)** - Evening - Monday, April 20th 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 and then play Mexican Train for about 3 hours. Join us for an evening of fun and friendly competition! Details: Dottie Thoms at [dottie.thoms@gmail.com](mailto:dottie.thoms@gmail.com).

**Movie Lovers** - Thursday, April 23rd 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](mailto:dbor46@aol.com).

**ROMEO (Retired Old Men Eating Out)** - Monday, April 13th 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](mailto:rasteans@gmail.com) to learn more.

**Spanish Conversation** - Wednesday, April 8th 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](mailto:momichel17@gmail.com) if you want to know more.

**Single Ladies Dinner Group** - Monday, April 20th The Single Ladies Dinner Group is a small gathering of interesting women who meet monthly to explore new dining choices in and around Austin. Carpools depart from the lower-level parking lot at Cups and Cones at 5:00 pm. For information, please contact Ellen Honey at [eshoney10@mac.com](mailto:eshoney10@mac.com).

**Technology Group** - Thursday, April 9th In April we'll be talking about iPhones and iPads - Dawn Weisman will give us an overview and we'll schedule workshops concerning specific features. At our monthly meetings we discuss both PCs and macs and 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](mailto:texasthoms@gmail.com).

**Walking Group** - Thursdays, April 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th 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](mailto:emiliedev43@yahoo.com). She maintains a contact list to notify everyone of any changes - location, time, weather.

**Wine Socials** - 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 Dottie Thoms at [dottie.thoms@gmail.com](mailto:dottie.thoms@gmail.com).

**Information: Dottie Thoms at 512-531-9360 or [dottie.thoms@gmail.com](mailto:dottie.thoms@gmail.com)**



**WATCH THE 141ST RUN FOR THE ROSES KENTUCKY DERBY**



# Steiner Ranch Kentucky Derby Casino Night

*Saturday, May 2nd 7:00pm – 11:00pm | Towne Square Community Center*

For the ladies, it's your chance to bring the southern belle charm and wear that wide brimmed hat you've been dying to show off! Men can wear classic styles of seersucker or khaki suits. Use your imagination and have some fun!

We'll have Black Jack, Craps, Roulette and Texas Hold'em tables. All gambling winnings can be used to purchase raffle tickets for a chance to win items at the end of the night! Raffle items will be items from areas business.

## **HOW MUCH?**

*\$25 - includes 20,000 in chips, Mint Julip drinks and a full house of appetizers.*

Interested in donating raffle items? Please contact Sharon Adams at [sharon@steinerranchhoa.org](mailto:sharon@steinerranchhoa.org). Registration information is available online at [www.steinerranchhoa.org](http://www.steinerranchhoa.org). If you are a local business and would like to donate a prize for the raffle, you will receive valuable recognition at the event and be published in an upcoming issue. Contact Sharon Adams at [sharon@steinerranchhoa.org](mailto:sharon@steinerranchhoa.org) for more information. This event is limited to the first 60 registrations received.



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# Around Steiner

## STEINER RANCH MOVIES IN THE PARK 2015!

The Steiner Ranch Movies in the Park summer movie series continues this summer on May 20th, June 27th, and ends on August 8th, all at the John Simpson Park. This year's People's Choice movie will showcase on June 27th. Now is the time to go to [SteinerRanchMoviesInThePark.com](http://SteinerRanchMoviesInThePark.com) to vote for your favorite movie of the summer. For further details about the Steiner Ranch Movies in the Park, or for Sponsorship opportunities call Brandy Finnessey at 512-698-3366



## Annual Steiner Shred Day

On Saturday May 30th the Steiner Ranch Homeowners Association, in partnership with Iron Mountain, will host its annual shred day. So please get to work cleaning out those old files to make some room for the new ones! Bring your documents to the Towne Square Community Center Parking Lot (look for the big shred truck) from 8-12 to drop off paper documents. Participants will be able to watch their information being destroyed.

This year, we will be accepting cash donations for SafePlace, which provides safety for individuals and families affected by sexual and domestic violence. They help victims in their healing so they can move beyond being defined by the crimes committed against them, and become Survivors. SafePlace also promotes safe and healthy relationships for the prevention of sexual and domestic violence, and works with others to create change in attitudes, behaviors and policies that perpetuate the acceptance of, and impact our understanding and responses to, sexual and domestic violence. For more information on SafePlace, visit their website at [www.safeplace.org](http://www.safeplace.org).



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# STEINER RANCH

## *Neighbor Spotlight*

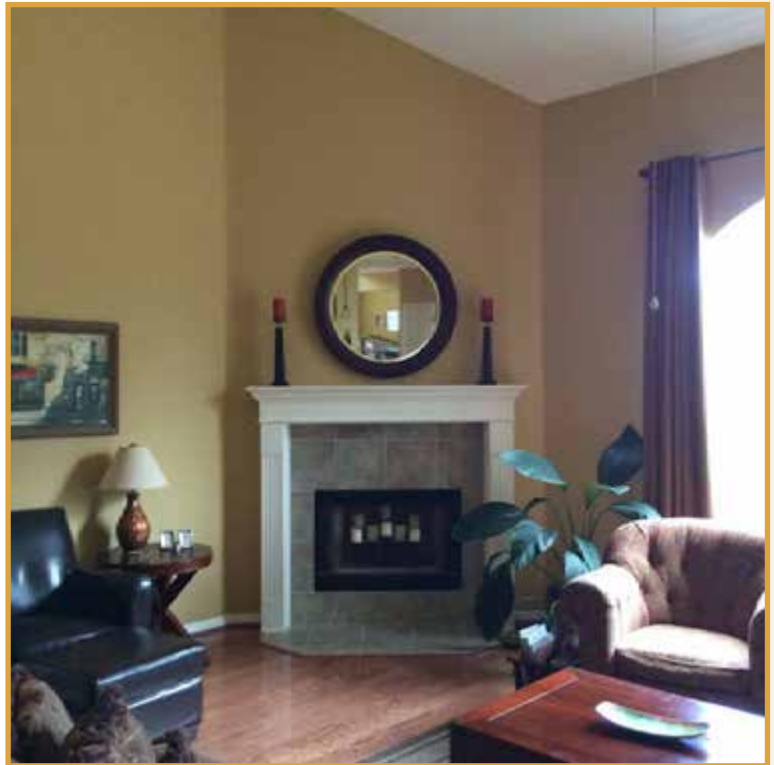
By Kimberly McLaughlin

This month's article is short and sweet because I think the pictures do most of the talking. Ever wanted to make a relatively painless change in a room that packs an amazing punch? And by painless I mean that it won't affect your daily life in any major way or for a very long period of time – like remodeling your kitchen or master bathroom does. If you've ever lived through that you know exactly what I am talking about. Okay so check out this really cool update that this steiner ranch homeowner did!

I have to start with the before. I bet 50% of you reading this article have the exact same fireplace configuration – builder special in this area. You probably have a different tile selection but the same type of surround. It's pretty but isn't going to stand out in the crowd and definitely isn't going to wow your friends because they have the same thing! But look how this homeowner used the angles in the ceiling to really make this a unique focal piece for the living room.

Voilà! The new fireplace surround totally changed the entire look and feel of the room making it much more modern and definitely unique. The same great fireplace is now the centerpiece you notice when you walk into the room. Most of the contemporary updates I have seen recently leave me feeling cold, I loved the tones and textures they selected for this because I think it actually warms up the room while still staying contemporary (ha – warms up the room, get it? Well I thought it was punny!). Since the living room is one of the most important and used rooms in the home, a small update can make a huge difference in the feel. A big shout out to this wonderful Steiner family for allowing me to showcase their unique and beautiful updated fireplace surround in their home.

Also a big thank you for reading my article. I love the feedback, so keep it coming. I could also use some help in identifying more home owner updates to showcase. Please let me know if I could entice you into sharing something you have done to make your home unique in our beautiful neighborhood. I always need new story ideas. Please contact me at [Kimberly@REDinAustin.com](mailto:Kimberly@REDinAustin.com). The only requirement is that the home be in Steiner Ranch.



*Photos by John Bishop, Forefront Foto*



## Steiner Scrappers Scrap-A-Thon

Steiner Scrappers will be dedicating hours of hard work and exceptional creativity at the Steiner Scrappers Scrapbooking Marathon!

**When:**

Friday, April 4th at 5:30pm to Sunday, April 6th at 4:00pm.

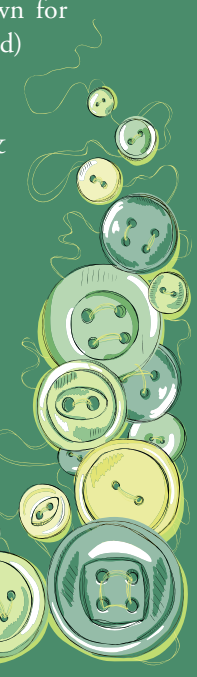
**Cost:**

\$26.62 (fees included) for the entire weekend! You will be responsible for your own meals

**Where:**

Towne Square Community Center

**WHAT CAN I EXPECT?:**

- No distraction from kids, spouse, or home
  - One six foot long table of your very own for scrappin' (leave it set up the entire weekend)
  - Fabulous gifts
  - Meet old & new friends
  - A Consultant with inventory for sale & supplies
  - Coffee, Water & Snacks
- 

*Hurry! Space is limited to the first 25 reservations! First Come, First Served!*

*Registration is available on-line at  
<http://2015springscrapathon.eventbrite.com>*



## Free Tai Chi Workshop

**NOW – 5/30/2015**

*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

**512-470-6978 or email [Rosaliachiu@gmail.com](mailto:Rosaliachiu@gmail.com)**



# AMERICAN RED CROSS BABYSITTER TRAINING COURSE

2015 SCHEDULE

May 9 & August 1

**ONLY 2 Classes! | 9:00am – 4:00pm | \$50 per person**

This is a very popular class, so sign up early for any of the dates above!

*Towne Square Community Center, 12550 Country Trails Lane*

If you're 11 to 15 years old, you can get the knowledge, skills and confidence to care for infants and school-age children. Combining video, a participant's handbook, activities, hands on skills training and discussion for a complete learning experience, this course shows you how to—

- Respond to emergencies and illnesses with first aid, rescue breathing and other appropriate care
- Make decisions under pressure
- Communicate with parents to learn household rules
- Recognize safety and hygiene issues
- Manage young children
- Feed, diaper and care for infants

Bring a sack lunch! Space is limited. Prior registration is required and the 2015 Program Registration form is available at [www.steinerranchhoa.org](http://www.steinerranchhoa.org).



## IN STEINER RANCH

Yes, that's right—it's already time to start planning for the summer and we have some great camps scheduled. Look for registration forms and current information on-line at [www.steinerranchhoa.org](http://www.steinerranchhoa.org). Here are some of the summer camps we will be offering:

- Lonestar Soccer Camp
- Brown's Gymnastics Camp
- Sportball Multi-sport Camp
- Steiner Tennis Camp
- Viper Swim Camp
- Smart Cookies Camp
- Kidventure Camp
- Mad Science Camp
- Culinary Cooking Camp
- Media Mogol Camp

This summer,  
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## WATER AEROBICS

If you want to get into an exercise program, but cannot get motivated, or the pavement plays havoc on your knees, legs or hips, or you just don't want to exercise in the workout room by yourself, try WATER AEROBICS. Water aerobics classes will again be offered this Spring/Summer @ Towne Square Pool in Steiner Ranch. Classes will begin May. The schedule will be as follows:

*Mon/Wed @ 6:45 pm*

*Tues/Thurs @ 9:00 am*

*Cost = \$6.00/class*

*8 classes/month @ \$48*

*16 classes/month @ \$90 (discounted)*

*(Plus \$5.00 for non-residents of Steiner Ranch)*

Classes are 50 minutes long & will incorporate a full body workout in the water. Classes are led by a certified water aerobics instructor. Some of the benefits of water aerobics fitness program are:

- \*strengthen & improve muscle tone
- \*enhances muscular flexibility
- \*increases range of motion
- \*improves posture & physical appearance
- \*relieves tension & stress
- \*increases energy levels & stamina
- \*burns up calories
- \*strengthens the cardiorespiratory system (heart, muscles, & brain)

These classes are a great way to start the morning or end a "trying" day at the office or work. Come join us for lots of fun & great workouts to music. It's an opportunity to meet your neighbors & make new friends. These classes are for both adult men & women.

For more information, call Ann @ 512-266-4780 or email askennedy@austin.rr.com. Sign up will take place prior to the first class of every month @ Towne Square Pool.



## SUMMER SWIM PROGRAMS

The Steiner Stars swim season begins in May. Both Stars Red and Stars Blue participate in the Northwest Swim Circuit. In 2015, Coach Kay Gerken will lead the Steiner Stars Red team and Coach Jeff Fellows will lead the Steiner Stars Blue team. Steiner Stars Swim team has over 500 Steiner Ranch resident swimmers.

### REGISTRATION FOR NEW FAMILIES

Registration for new families will be on April 11th. The location will be released on the Steiner Stars website ([www.steinerstars.org](http://www.steinerstars.org)) on April 11th at 6am. Residents must be in good standing with the HOA in order to register with the team. Swimmers must be 5 years or older by May 1, 2015, in order to participate. There are volunteer requirements for participation in the league. Space in each group is limited.

### NEW PARENT ORIENTATION

New swim families are encouraged to attend the new parent orientation meeting on Sunday, April 26th, at the Towne Square Community Center. It will begin promptly at 4pm. After the general meeting, the coaches will address their team families separately.

### SEASON KICK OFF PARTY

Steiner Stars will hold their annual kick-off party on Sunday, May 3rd, at the Towne Square fields from 4pm-7pm. All parents and swimmers of Steiner Stars are invited.

### SWIM TEAM PRACTICE TIMES AT BELLA MAR

#### *Stars Blue*

- May 4 through June 4: Mon. & Wed. 3:30pm to 7:30pm
- June 8 through July 9: Mon. - Thurs. 1:30pm to 6:30pm

There will be no practices held on May 25th (Monday) due to the Memorial Day holiday.

#### *Stars Red*

- May 5 through June 4: Tues. & Thurs. 3:30pm to 7:30pm
- June 9 through July 10: Tues. - Fri. 7:30am to 12:30pm

### STARS HOME MEETS AT BELLA MAR

- May 30 (Saturday) Stars Red vs. Brushy Creek
- June 13 (Saturday) Stars Blue vs. Pflugerville
- June 20 (Saturday) Stars Red vs. Georgetown
- July 1 (Wednesday) Stars Blue vs. Stars Red

### SHOOTING STARS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

In 2014, over 150 children participated in the Shooting Stars. For those who do not want to participate on a recreational competitive swim team, the Shooting Stars is an opportunity for swimmers age 5 through 10 years to develop competitive swimming skills. This program is four weeks long and begins after the Steiner Stars Swim Team season. Registration will be held online in May. Details will be posted on the website.



## 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](http://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!*

## 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

## SPRING POOL HOURS

It's finally SPRING! That means more people at the pools. Remember that the Bella Mar Lap pool is for Lap Swimming and children that are not potty trained are not allowed in this pool:

### BELLA MAR – (LAP POOL HEATED)

Monday 2:00pm – 10:00pm | Tue-Sun 7:00am 10:00pm

#### *The following programs will be using the lap pool:*

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

VHS Swimming - Monday - Thursday 7:15am – 9am

Lap lanes will be available to lap swimmers during these sessions.

Lost Creek Aquatics – Monday – Friday

4:30pm – 6:30pm (6 lanes)

Gold Stars Spring Fling – Tuesdays & Thursdays April 2nd – 30th

7:00pm – 7:45pm (6 lanes)

### TOWNE SQUARE – (UNHEATED)

Closed Monday until 12:00pm

Tuesday – Sunday 8:00am – 10:00pm

### JOHN SIMPSON – (UNHEATED)

Closed Monday until 2:00pm

Tuesday – Sunday 8:00am – 10:00pm

*Please note\*\*Lifeguard are not on duty. Swim at your own risk.*

## IRA Protection Trust



### Your Family May Lose Millions .... If You Don't Have an "IRA Protection Trust"!

If you have IRAs totaling in excess of \$200,000 (including any amounts you may rollover from an employer retirement plan), find out about this latest breakthrough in wealth preservation. Did you know that your IRAs may be subject to over 50% income taxation in the future? Without "IRA Protection" planning, your spouse and heirs could lose over 1/2 of your IRA assets to income taxes and lose the "asset protection" benefits previously afforded to you! Learn why your Will and/or Living Trust are not enough to protect your IRAs, or avoid crippling income taxes, and how this separate, cutting-edge trust may help you:



**Dan Johnson**

President, Certified Estate Planner  
DMJ & Associates  
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### Join us at our Upcoming Workshop

**Thursday, April 30th- 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

**Holiday Inn Express (RR 620)**

**15707 Oak Grove Blvd, Lakeway, TX 78734**

**RSVP – Call or Email**

**@ DMJEstatePlanning@gmail.com**



**Andrew Friedmann**

Attorney & Counselor at Law  
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Can't attend the workshop? Call (512) 537-1417  
today for a more information!





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*FAGD (Fellow Academy of General Dentistry)*

*LVIF (Las Vegas Institute Fellow)*

## *Featured Smile Makeover of the Month* by Dr. Lance Loveless



*Before*



*After*



*Before*



*After*



*Before*



*After*

"As a child, our home had well water; as a result, my teeth were flouride-stained. In 1999, I had some veneers done at another dentist. I ended up with a 'patchwork quilt' of veneers because they would often chip and break due to me grinding my teeth.

Finally, I went to see Dr. Loveless. His philosophy was to correct the root problem and not just to treat the symptoms. I had never experienced that before. Not only did Dr. Loveless apply the veneers, he stopped the grinding by fixing my bite. I can't imagine anyone being more technology-savvy to get this done. I was so impressed by his staff and their hands-on approach to dentistry.

I deal with people day-in and day-out. It's nice not having to worry about the appearance of my smile."

– Bryan, Attorney, Austin, Texas

**CALL TO SCHEDULE YOUR  
COMPLIMENTARY CONSULTATION!**

# Sports News



Join the Ranch Relayers on Friday, April 17th at 6:00pm at the Lake Travis High School.

The American Cancer Society Relay For Life is the world's largest and most impactful fundraising event to end cancer. It unites communities across the globe to celebrate people who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost, and take action to finish the fight once and for all. Today, with the support of thousands of volunteers like you, the American Cancer Society is helping save more than 400 lives a day. And we won't stop until we finish the fight against cancer!

You can help by donating to the team, or joining the team in the relay on the day of the event. For more information go to [www.relayforlife.org](http://www.relayforlife.org) and search for the Steiner team name, Ranch Relayers.

Look for our table at the Easter Egg hunt!

**SPECIAL NEEDS**  
**PARENT SUPPORT GROUP**  
**SUNDAYS, 2 - 3:30 PM**

Meeting at  
**HILL COUNTRY BIBLE CHURCH | AUSTIN**  
**Steiner Ranch Commons**  
2900 N. Quinlan Park Rd., Suite 260

CHILDCARE PROVIDED!  
RSVP: Amy Roberts - [mattamyroberts@mac.com](mailto:mattamyroberts@mac.com)  
[HCBC.COM/SPECIALNEEDS](http://HCBC.COM/SPECIALNEEDS)

 **HILL COUNTRY BIBLE CHURCH | AUSTIN**  
Steiner Ranch Campus Sunday morning services:  
**Laura Welch Bush Elementary**  
12600 Country Trails Lane, Austin TX 78732  
512-331-2240 - [hcbc.com](http://hcbc.com)

## STEINER RANCH TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Spring is here. That means league play is in full swing. With the past rainy days, many matches are being re-scheduled. In addition to league play, many residents take lessons on the courts. This includes private, semi-private, and group lessons. With all of these activities, it is no surprise that it can be a challenge to reserve courts during peak times such as weekday mornings, after school, and in the evenings.

### SRTA NEWS/REMINDERS

How do I reserve courts? The tennis court system is a separate system from the HOA website, so you must go to [www.srcourts.com](http://www.srcourts.com) and request a login. Please give 24 business hours to receive approval. Once you've received approval, you can reserve the Towne Square courts and Bella Mar courts at any time there is availability. The John Simpson Courts are reservable Monday – Friday. These courts are for individual use ONLY. They are NOT to be used for league play or organized team practices - with the exception of the pre-approved court usage for USTA teams for 2.5 hours on Thursdays and pre-approved group lessons. The courts remain walk-up courts on the weekends. ALL instructors MUST register and be approved through the HOA to give Group Lessons (more than three students on the court). Contact [srcourts@gmail.com](mailto:srcourts@gmail.com) for more information.

As a courtesy to other players, please cancel your reservation if you will not be using it. Often the courts are completely booked online, yet empty when you drive by. Excessive no-shows may result in suspension of reservation privileges. Reservations are forfeited after 15 minutes.

Report tennis court related maintenance issues directly to the HOA office at 266-7553. Send your suggestions/comments to [srcourts@gmail.com](mailto:srcourts@gmail.com).

Tennis is a great way to enjoy the outdoors, get some exercise, enjoy friendly competition, and spend time with friends.

Thanks and Go Play!





# Steiner Ranch Orthodontics



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# APRIL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> April Fools Day 8:00am – Free Tai Chi (TSCC) 11:30am – YAH CLEO 1:00pm – YAH Biking ACC Reviews	<b>2</b> 8:00am – Free Tai Chi (TSCC) 8:00am & 9:00am – Free Yoga (BMCC) 8:30am – YAH Walking Group 11:30am – YAH Art 1:00pm – YAH Mah Jongg	<b>3</b> 1:00pm – YAH Canasta 1:00pm	<b>4</b> 8:30am – SRCC Ride (Cups & Cones) 9:00am – 21st Annual Easter Egg Hunt (JS Park)
 <b>5</b> 8:30am – SRCC Ride (Cups & Cones) 1:00pm – YAH Biking	<b>6</b> 8:00am – Free Tai Chi (TSCC) 1:00pm – YAH Mexican Train 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC)	<b>7</b> 6:30pm – Facilities Committee Meeting (TSCC) 7:00pm – SRNA Meeting (TSCC) 8:30pm – Akido (BMCC)	<b>8</b> 8am – Free Tai Chi (TSCC) 12:30pm – YAH Ladies Bridge 1pm – YAH Biking 4pm – YAH Spanish Conversation ACC Reviews 6pm – Fairways Board Meeting	<b>9</b> 8:00am – Free Tai Chi (TSCC) 8:00am & 9:00am – Free Yoga (BMCC) 8:30am – YAH Walking Group 1:00pm – YAH Technology Group	<b>10</b> 9:30am – YAH Euchre 11:30am – SRLG Ladies Lunch 6:00pm – Scrapathon (TSCC)	<b>11</b> Steiner Stars NEW Family registration (Location TBA) 8:30am – SRCC Ride (Cups & Cones) All Day – Scrapathon (TSCC)
<b>12</b> 8:30am – SRCC Ride (Cups & Cones) 1:00pm – YAH Biking Group Scrapathon (TSCC)	<b>13</b> 11:30am – YAH Card Making (TSCC) 11:30am – YAH ROMEO 6:00pm – YAH Canasta 6:30pm – Free Yoga (TSCC) 7:00pm – Firewise Committee Meeting (BMCC)	<b>14</b> 1:00pm – YAH Book Club 8:30pm – Akido (BMCC)	<b>15</b> 1:00pm – YAH Biking ACC Reviews 5pm – SRMA Board Meeting (TSCC)	<b>16</b> 8:30am – YAH Walking Group 11:30am – YAH Art Class 1:00pm – YAH Mah Jongg 7:00pm – YAH Bunko (BMCC)	<b>17</b> 1:00pm – YAH Canasta	<b>18</b> 8:00am – 12:00pm – Spring Neighborhood Garage Sale 8:30am – SRCC Ride (Cups & Cones) 8:30am – YAH Hiking
 <b>19</b> 8:30am – SRCC Ride (Cups & Cones) 1:00pm – YAH Biking Group	<b>20</b> 8:00am – Free Tai Chi (TSCC) 6:00pm – YAH Single Ladies Dinner Group 6:00pm – YAH Mexican Train 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC)	<b>21</b> 8:30pm – Akido (BMCC)	<b>22</b> 8:00am – Free Tai Chi (TSCC) 12:30pm – YAH Ladies Bridge 1:00pm – YAH Biking Group	<b>23</b> 8am & 9am – Free Yoga (BMCC) 8:30am – YAH Walking Group 11:30am – YAH Art Class 1:00pm – YAH Mah Jongg 6:00pm – SRROA Annual Meeting (TSCC)	<b>24</b> 9:30am – YAH Euchre	<b>25</b> 8:30am – SRCC Ride (Cups & Cones)
<b>YARD WASTE PICKUP</b>						
<b>26</b> 8:30am – SRCC Ride (Cups & Cones) 1:00pm – YAH Biking Group	<b>27</b> 8:00am – Free Tai Chi (TSCC) 6:00pm – YAH International Dining	<b>28</b> 5:00pm – SRMA Board of Directors Meeting (TSCC) 8:30pm – Akido (BMCC)	<b>29</b> 8:00am – Free Tai Chi (TSCC) 1:00pm – YAH Biking	<b>30</b> 8:00am – Free Tai Chi (TSCC) 6:00pm – SRROA Board of Directors Meeting (TSCC)		



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# MAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 1:00pm – YAH Canasta	2 8:00am – Yoga Retreat (BMCC) 8:30am – SRCC Ride (Cups & Cones) 7:00pm – Kentucky Derby Casino Night (TSCC)
3 8:30am – SRCC Ride (Cups & Cones) 1:00pm – YAH Biking 2:00pm – Steiner Stars Kick-off Party (TSCC)	4 8:00am – Free Tai Chi (TSCC) 1:00pm – YAH Mexican Train 3:30pm – 7:30pm – Steiner Stars first day of practice (BM Lap Pool) 6:30pm – FREE Yoga (TSCC)	5 6:30pm – Facilities Committee Meeting (TSCC) 7:00pm – SRNA Meeting (TSCC) 8:30pm – Akido (BMCC)	6 8:00am – Free Tai Chi (TSCC) 12:30pm – YAH Ladies Bridge 1:00pm – YAH Biking 4:00pm – YAH Spanish Conversation ACC Reviews	7 8:00am – Free Tai Chi (TSCC) 8am & 9am – Free Yoga (BMCC) 8:30am – YAH Walking Group 1:00pm – YAH Technology Group 6:30pm – Behavior Management Training for Parents (TSCC)	8 9:30am – YAH Euchre 11:30am – SRLG Ladies Lunch	9 8:30am – SRCC Ride (Cups & Cones) 9:00am – 4:00pm – Babysitting Class (TSCC)
10 Mother's Day 8:30am – SRCC Ride (Cups & Cones) 1:00pm – YAH Biking Group	11 11:30am – YAH Card Making (TSCC) 11:30am – YAH ROMEO 6:00pm – YAH Canasta 6:30pm – Free Yoga (TSCC)	12 1:00pm – YAH Book Club 6:30pm – SRMA Annual Meeting (TSCC) 8:30pm – Akido (BMCC)	13 1:00pm – YAH Biking ACC Reviews	14 8:30am – YAH Walking Group 11:30am – YAH Art Class 1:00pm – YAH Mah Jongg 6:30pm – Behavior Management Training for Parents (TSCC) 6:30pm – Property Tax Protest Workshop (TSCC)	15 1:00pm – YAH Canasta	16 8:30am – SRCC Ride (Cups & Cones) 8:30am – YAH Hiking
17 8:30am – SRCC Ride (Cups & Cones) 1:00pm – YAH Biking Group	18 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)	19 7:00pm – YAH Dr. Rosin Workshop (TSCC) 8:30pm – Akido (BMCC)	20 8:00am – Free Tai Chi (TSCC) 12:30pm – YAH Ladies Bridge 1:00pm – YAH Biking Group	21 8:00am & 9:00am – Free Yoga (BMCC) 8:30am – YAH Walking Group 11:30am – YAH Art Class 1:00pm – YAH Mah Jongg 7:00pm – YAH Bunko (BMCC)	22 9:30am – YAH Euchre	23 8:30am – SRCC Ride (Cups & Cones)
24/31 8:30am – SRCC Ride (Cups & Cones) 1:00pm – YAH Biking Group	25 Memorial Day 8:00am – Free Tai Chi (TSCC) 6:00pm – YAH International Dining	26 5:00pm – SRMA Board of Directors Meeting (TSCC) 8:30pm – Akido (BMCC)	27 8:00am – Free Tai Chi (TSCC) 1:00pm – YAH Biking	28 8:00am – Free Tai Chi (TSCC) 6:00pm – SRRDA Board of Directors Meeting (TSCC)	29	30 8am – 12pm – Shred Day 6:00 am – 2:00pm – Steiner Stars Home Meet (BM CLOSED) Sunset – Movies in the Park (JS Park)

**YAH - Young At Heart**  
**SRLG - Steiner Ranch Ladies Group**

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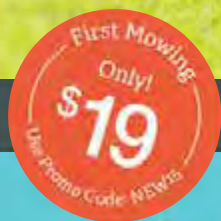
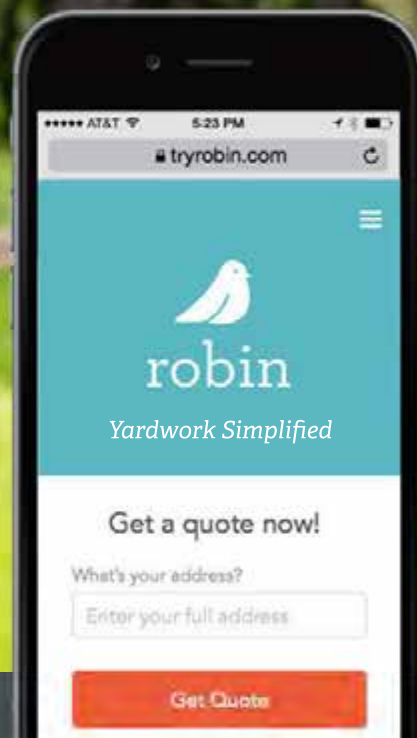
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# SADDLE UP AND RIDE!

The Steiner Ranch Cycling (SRC) 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, and we welcome new riders.

## PACE BEND ROAD RACE RESULTS

On February 22nd several SRC riders participated in the Pace Bend Road Race. This was the first-ever race for SRC and the racers did extremely well, with several riders in the top 15! Check [www.usacycling.org/results/index.php?year=2015&id=153](http://www.usacycling.org/results/index.php?year=2015&id=153) for the race results!

## LA PRIMAVERA LAGO VISTA RACE RESULTS

On March 7th SRC took on the La Primavera Road Race in Lago Vista. Once again the team flew the flag and performed even better, with several top 10 finishes! The results are available at [www.usacycling.org/results/index.php?permit=2015-435](http://www.usacycling.org/results/index.php?permit=2015-435) (see "RR Men Masters 35-39 CAT 4/5").

## SATURDAY RIDES

On Saturdays we host an open group ride, starting at Cups & Cones at 8:30am. Our Saturday rides have changed up a little and now include an advanced and intermediate group. 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 RIDE

On Sundays we host a mellow no-drop ride to a local coffee shop outside Steiner, great for new riders and/or recovery rides. The group will leave Cups & Cones at 8:30 a.m., and will target some not-too-far coffee shop for some espresso, pastries, and socialization. The ride will average around 14 – 15 mph and should be perfect for those looking to recover from the week's riding, or to extend their range out of Steiner. Each week we will pick a different destination, but they will typically be around 15 miles from Cups & Cones. This is a no-drop ride, but you should be able to ride the 30 – 40 miles at a 14 – 15 mph pace. Please visit our website at [www.steineranchcycling.com](http://www.steineranchcycling.com) to check out what is going on in the Steiner Ranch cycling community.

## APRIL EVENTS

**April 25 - Shiner GASP!** Looking for a fun group ride? Shiner GASP is back on April 25 and features a 50 mile (½ GASP) and 100 mile (full GASP) ride that ends at the Shiner brewery. Details are at [shiner.com/shinergasp](http://shiner.com/shinergasp).

**SRC Oasis Ride** Join us for the third Saturday of each Month when Steiner Ranch Cycling will host a ride starting from Cups & Cones, 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. This is another new ride option ending with beer (looks like a trend!), and it's a great time.

**Steiner Ranch Steakhouse Ride** On the last Sunday of each month, join us for the Steiner Ranch Steakhouse ride. Wheels Down at 8:30. Details at [www.meetup.com/Austin-Cycling-Meetup/events/220328352](http://www.meetup.com/Austin-Cycling-Meetup/events/220328352)

It is a beautiful bike ride of 15 miles and 34 miles through the hills of west Austin. We break into three groups, Advanced, Intermediate, and

the No Drop entry level ride. We will roll out of the Steiner Steakhouse parking lot at 8:30 a.m. for two distances of 15 miles and 34 miles. At the end of each ride there are 2 choices of long climbs to go down and back on.

## APRIL RIDING TIPS

**Intermediate:** When in a paceline, try to ride as smoothly as possible. If you catch up to the rider in front, try not to brake - instead, stop pedaling, sit up, and if necessary briefly move outside of the paceline. The increased wind resistance will slow you down without the sudden speed change from braking. Also, don't overlap the wheel of the rider in front of you (their rear wheel, your front wheel); if they have to make a sudden move left or right, they could hit your wheel and cause you to crash. And after your turn at the front, always pull off into the wind; as you'll see below, the riders behind you may be off to the downwind side.

**Advanced:** If the riders in the group have similar abilities and there's available room to do so safely, a double paceline can be used. In this case the riders in the paceline continually rotate: After pulling at the front for a few seconds, check that you're clear then move off to the side into the wind. The next rider will do the same, forming a continuously-moving double line of riders. Once you reach the back of the line, move back over and accelerate back up to speed. This keeps everyone drafting as much as possible, and lets the group ride more efficiently - and faster!

## 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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- 512 Market Kitchen

**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.



# From the Association Office

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## ANNUAL MEETINGS NOTICE

### What's Happening at Your HOA

#### SR RESIDENTIAL OWNERS ASSOCIATION

The Steiner Ranch Residential Owners Association (SRROA) will hold its Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 23, 2015 at 6:30pm in the Towne Square Community Center located at 12550 Country Trails Lane. The SRROA will be electing Three (3) new members to the Board of Directors at this meeting. Residents of the SRROA live in The Valley at Eastridge, The Summit at Eastridge, Plateau, Rocky Ridge, Hancock Hill, Mesa North and Chaparral.

#### SRROA BOARD NOMINATIONS

The Steiner Ranch Residential Owners Associations (SRROA) is currently seeking nominations for three (3) seats on the Board of Directors. Nominees must live in one of the SRROA neighborhoods. The term length is two (2) years. The SRROA is a resident-controlled homeowners association. Board members represent all members of the SRROA and are responsible for governance of the SRROA. Time commitment is variable. Board meetings are held one evening per month at the Towne Square Community Center.

#### STEINER RANCH MASTER ASSOCIATION

The Steiner Ranch Master Association (SRMA) will hold its Annual Meeting on Tuesday, May 12, 2015 at 6:30 pm in the Towne Square Community Center located at 12550 Country Trails Lane. Residents of the SRMA live in all other developments not listed above. The term length is three (3) years or two (2) years for an at-large position.

#### SRMA BOARD NOMINATIONS

The Steiner Ranch Master Association (SRMA) is currently seeking nominations for three (3) seats on the Board of Directors. Current SRMA Homeowner Board members:

- Alex Brooks – Savannah Point
- Tara Holleran – Mediterra (Bella Mar)
- Bill Menzies – Palisades (Bella Mar)
- Doug Messer – Golf Community

Nominees must live in one of the SRMA neighborhoods and we are looking for nominations for representation all areas of the SRMA. This is an exciting time to be on the SRMA Board as they transition from the Developer to a fully run Homeowner Board. Board members represent all members of the SRMA and are responsible for governance of the SRMA Documents. Time commitment is variable. Board meetings are held one evening per month at the Towne Square Community Center.

If you are interested in serving on either Board of Directors, please email your name, address, telephone number, and a brief autobiography to Randy Schmaltz, Steiner Ranch Community Executive Director at [randy@steinerranchhoa.org](mailto:randy@steinerranchhoa.org). These annual meetings are held to review the past year's financials, activities and reports of the Association. All homeowners are encouraged to attend and to raise any issues of concern. We look forward to seeing you there.

ONLINE VOTING will be available at [www.steinerranchhoa.org](http://www.steinerranchhoa.org).



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# IS YOUR PET A PROBLEM?

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## BARKING ISSUES

Dogs left alone all day get bored and restless, and many find relief in barking. Some respond noisily to any and all activity. But, nothing is as annoying as incessant barking—even for dog lovers. If your dog is a yapper or a yowler, please consider some of these bark-abatement ideas to keep the noise down in your area. Your neighbors will thank you!

**Training.** Always the first recommendation for any behavioral problem! Help is as close as the Yellow Pages. Training not only helps your dog, you'll be surprised how much it helps you, too. You may get some insight into why your dog barks so much, or what it is trying to communicate.

**Citronella collars.** A humane alternative to the electric-shock, anti-barking collar and costs about the same. Available on the web and in pet stores.

**Confinement.** Sometimes simply bringing an outspoken dog indoors or confining it to a crate can cut down on the disturbance to neighbors.

**Reduce stimulus.** Close drapes to help muffle street noise, or leave a radio on to mask it. Disconnect telephones and doorbells before leaving your home if they upset your dog or make it bark.

If you are the neighbor of one of these dogs, what do you do? First, talk to your neighbor! Many times they don't know their dog is an issue as they may leave them outside when they are away from their home. If that doesn't resolve the problem, then report this issue via "report a problem" on the HOA website at [www.steinerranchhoa.org](http://www.steinerranchhoa.org). The HOA Compliance Coordinator will send them a letter informing them of the issue.



## SPRING YARD WASTE PICK UP

It's time to get your yard work done, so the Steiner Ranch HOA has made arrangements for extra service! Texas Disposal Systems will provide Steiner Ranch residents with a seasonal curbside collection pick-up (bags and/or bundles).

*April 20th – 24th during your regularly scheduled pick up day.*

Each resident is allowed to place a maximum of twenty (20) leaf bags or brush bundles each week at their curbside on their designated trash pick-up day by 7am. Each bag or bundle shall be placed by the resident at the public curbside for collection. The total weight of the leaf bag and its contents or bundle shall not exceed 30 pounds.

*\*\*Please note – if there is a chance of rain, please do not use paper bags. This will be the only extra pick up in the Spring. You are not allowed to use community and/or business dumpsters for personal use.*



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# From the Association Office

## SEND US YOUR

### *Event Pictures!!*

Do you have a picture of an event that you would like to run in this newsletter? Send it to us and we will publish it in the next issue.

Email the picture to [steinerranch@peelinc.com](mailto:steinerranch@peelinc.com). Be sure to include the text that you would like to have as the caption.

Pictures will appear in color online at [www.PEELinc.com](http://www.PEELinc.com).



## OVERNIGHT STREET PARKING

In an effort to improve the overall appearance of our community, the management office will occasionally send out reminder notices to the neighborhood. We understand that there may be new homeowners, new people leasing homes, or even sometimes there are community members that forget the importance of the community standards. This letter is a reminder to everyone in the neighborhood to please adhere to the parking rules established in Steiner Ranch.

Steiner Ranch Rules & Regulations #6 Parking: No automobile or other vehicle, except as described in Rule #5, may be parked overnight on any roadway within the Property.

*(Rule #5 specifically addresses the parking of Recreational Vehicles)*

We appreciate each and every resident's compliance with this rule as we all work together to maintain our wonderful Steiner Ranch community. To report overnight street parking, go to [www.steinerranchhoa.org](http://www.steinerranchhoa.org) and click on "report a problem".



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# Sidestepping Solicitors

*With the nicer, warmer weather comes solicitors!*

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

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

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

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



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## Four Points 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](http://www.fourpointshomeworkhelp.org)

[4ptshmwkhelp@gmail.com](mailto:4ptshmwkhelp@gmail.com)

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Spring has sprung and it's time to clean out those closets, turn the garage back into parking for your car and help the less fortunate! The Spring Steiner Ranch Neighborhood Garage Sale is Saturday, April 18th from 8:00am to 12:00pm.

The Gene Arant Team will be set up for their 6th annual Post Garage Sale Drop-Off at the real estate building, along with Goodwill, and a number of other non-profits. They will be accepting clothing, household items and other appropriate donations that you may not have sold at your garage sale or simply wanted to purge.

Come see us at the Gene Arant Team real estate building at 4304 N. Quinlan Park Road, from 11:00am to 2:00pm. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help, please call us at 512.261.1000.

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# Pet Place Reasons to “Scoop the Poop”

by Jennifer Magness, DVM

Dogs are a very popular pet and are found in many households. There are 70 million pet dogs in the United States alone. Opening up your home to a dog also means accepting responsibility for that pet, including cleaning up their waste.

Most people have heard the term “scoop the poop” but some people may not have heard the reasons why this is so important. Some people view dog feces (or what most people call dog poop) as a good fertilizer, but this is actually a myth. Dog diets mostly contain animal products such as chicken and turkey. Thus, a dog’s waste contains substances created by the breakdown of the animal products. It does not enrich the soil for plants such as grass. If not picked up, dog feces can enter waterways via storm drains after it rains. Nitrogen in the feces depletes the oxygen from the water, and the water is made harmful to fish and other aquatics. It is often listed as the third leading cause of water pollution. Dog feces are also considered an environmental pollutant as it contains harmful organisms.



One gram of dog feces may contain as much as 23 million bacteria. Harmful bacteria such as Salmonella and E. coli can be found in dog feces. Parasites such as Giardia, Cryptosporidium, roundworms, hookworms and whipworms may also be found. Many of the parasites (usually in a resistant egg form) linger in the environment for years, even if the rest of the dog feces breaks down over time. Both bacteria and parasites are health hazards for both humans and animals that come in contact with them.

Besides the “ick” factor of stepping in dog poop and the unpleasant odor of it, dog feces can serve to attract pests (such as flies) and rodents (such as rats). Being a responsible pet owner and scooping your dog’s poop is important for the community health of both humans and animals. It helps improve local water quality. Scooping your dog’s poop also promotes favorable views towards dogs by others in the community.

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## Portable Fire Extinguishers



A portable fire extinguisher can save lives and property by putting out a small fire or containing it until the fire department arrives; but portable extinguishers have limitations. Because fire grows and spreads so rapidly, the number one priority for residents is to get out safely.

Use a portable fire extinguisher when the fire is confined to a small area, such as a wastebasket, and is not growing; everyone has exited the building; the fire department has been called or is being called; and the room is not filled with smoke.

To operate a fire extinguisher, remember the word PASS:

- **PULL** the pin. Hold the extinguisher with the nozzle pointing away from you, and release the locking mechanism.
- **AIM** low. Point the extinguisher at the base of the fire.
- **SQUEEZE** the lever slowly and evenly.
- **SWEEP** the nozzle from side-to-side.

For the home, select a multi-purpose extinguisher (can be used on all types of home fires) that is large enough to put out a small fire, but not so heavy as to be difficult to handle.

Choose a fire extinguisher that carries the label of an independent testing laboratory.

Read the instructions that come with the fire extinguisher and become familiar with its parts and operation before a fire breaks out.

Install fire extinguishers close to an exit and keep your back to a clear exit when you use the device so you can make an easy escape if the fire cannot be controlled. If the room fills with smoke, leave immediately.

Know when to go. Fire extinguishers are one element of a fire response plan, but the primary element is safe escape. Every household should have a home fire escape plan and working smoke alarms.

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## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



### ACROSS

1. Extremity
4. Nun's headwear
10. Men's neckwear
11. Asian nation
12. Limited (abbr.)
13. Serf
14. Flower
16. Poem
17. Monetary unit
18. Atomic number
20. Paid (abbr.)
22. Package label
26. Punching tool
29. Esc
31. Fine
33. Modern
34. Cat mystery writer  
Braun
35. Lingerie
36. Elevate
37. Sign language

### DOWN

1. Reference book
2. Swanky
3. Award
4. Marry
5. Abraham's son
6. Mr.'s wife
7. El \_\_ (Texas city)
8. Precede
9. Women's magazine
15. Brim
19. American Football Conference (abbr.)
21. Coffee shop order
23. Ballroom dancing
24. Aromas
25. Particular style
26. American Civil Liberties Union (abbr.)
27. Lash
28. Lounge
30. Delivered by post
32. Roman three

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# News You Can Use

## RIDICULOUSLY CLEVER HOUSEHOLD HINTS

- The simplest way to slice a bunch of cherry tomatoes is to sandwich them between two plastic lids and run a long knife through all of them at once!

- Keep brown sugar soft by storing with a couple of marshmallows
- Install a regular coat rack low down the wall to store shoes safely off the floor

- Organize jewelry on a corkboard for easy viewing when deciding how to accessorize an outfit

- Fill an old wooden box with skewers to make an all-purpose knife block

- Remove pet hair from furniture and carpets with a squeegee.

- Cover paint trays with aluminum foil to make cleaning up afterwards a breeze.

- Flip the toaster on its side to make grilled cheese.

- Use a large muffin tin to cook stuffed peppers in the oven - it will help keep them upright.

- To prevent potatoes from budding, add an apple to the bag.

- Add half a teaspoon of baking soda to the water when hard-boiling eggs to make the shells incredibly easy to peel off.

- Use non-stick cooking spray in votive holders to prevent wax from sticking to the sides

- WD-40 can be used to remove crayon marks from any surface!

- When hanging a picture frame, put a dab of toothpaste on the frame where you need the nails to be. Then simply press against the wall to leave marks (which can later be wiped) as guides for hammering in the nails.

- Sprinkle salt in the spaces between patio slabs and at the bottom of walls to get rid of pesky weeds (but be careful NOT to get salt near plants you want to keep as salt will kill them!)

- To clean a wooden chopping board, sprinkle on a handful of Kosher salt and rub with half a lemon. Rinse with clean water and dry to ensure it is clean and germ-free. You can use the same lemon and salt to clean brass.

- Use ice-cubes to lift out indentations made by furniture on your carpets.

- Prevent soil from escaping through the holes in the base of flowerpots by lining them with coffee filters

- To sharpen scissors, simply cut through sandpaper.

- Rub a walnut on damaged wood furniture to cover up dings.

- To prevent your eyes watering while chopping onions, wipe the chopping board with white vinegar (which won't affect the taste of the onions.)

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# GET MORE FROM YOUR GARDEN

Raspberries require little care to grow, but can cost a lot at the store. You can even freeze them.

Mixed salad greens, like baby lettuce and arugula are tough and quick growing, even after cutting.

If you cut them correctly they will grow again. Start at one end of your garden and cut plants about an inch from the ground. The plant could grow back 3-4 times in a season.

Flat gardening was popular years ago, but now raised beds are much better. They prevent weeds from taking over, let water drain more efficiently and plants thrive in aerated soil.

A very common error in gardening is over watering and drowning plants. If it rains at least one inch per week, you can probably skip heavy watering. Purchase a rain gauge (under \$10) at garden stores to keep track of how much or how little water your plant is getting and add or subtract from there.



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## ARE YOUR WEEDS BLOOMING?

What is a weed? A weed is any plant or flower in your yard or garden that you didn't intentionally plant. Early spring is the time of year that weeds begin to pop-up in your yard. Here are a few tips to help combat these pesky weeds.

Mowing your yard on a regular schedule will help keep the weeds from growing to a stage that they can germinate. Adjust your lawn mower height to the second highest setting. The taller grass will block sunlight from any seeds the weeds spread. A weed and feed product will help control the weeds and encourage your grass to grow. However, most weed killer products only are effective when the weed is just beginning to grow. The advantage to using these products is to create a healthier lawn that is capable of keeping weeds away. Be sure to follow the directions for application. One of the best solutions for attacking the weeds is to pull them by hand. Be sure to pull the root of the weed out of the ground. Throw away the weeds in your trash can. Do not use them as compost or allow them to blow-away, doing so will allow any seeds to re-populate your yard or your neighbors!

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## FORMOSAN TERMITES



There are three main types of termites that can cause problems for homeowners in Central Texas- native subterranean termites, formosan subterranean termites and drywood termites. This article will focus of formosan termites.

Formosan termites are a more voracious type of subterranean termite. These termites have been spread throughout Texas through transport of infested material or soil. Formosan termites build carton nests that allow them to survive above ground without contact with the soil. Nests are often located in hollow spaces, such as wall voids.

Formosan subterranean termite workers and soldiers.

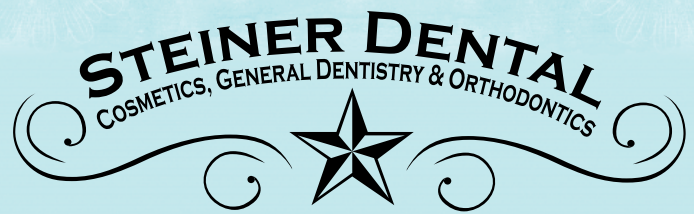
Formosan termites feed on a wider variety of cellulose than other subterranean termites, including live plants, consuming both spring and summer growth wood whereas native subterranean termites feed only on spring growth. Formosan termites have also been known to chew through non-cellulose materials such as soft metals, plaster or plastic.

The type of termite is determined by using soldiers (the group that defends the colony) or alates (winged reproductives) for identification. Formosan termite soldiers have a hardened head capsule that is tear-drop shaped. The alates have two heavy veins on the leading edge of the front wing along with hairs on the wings. If you suspect termites, you can submit sample insects to me for identification. Treatment would need to be carried out by a profession pest management company.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at [www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com](http://www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com)

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