

RANCH RECORD

Official Newsletter for the Steiner Ranch HOA

VOLUME 10 ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2016



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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

OFFICE HOURS

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

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

STEINER RANCH CONTACTS

Steiner Ranch Community Association Office 512-266-7553

SCHOOLS

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

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
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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) 512-329-1752
Austin/Travis County Hazardous Waste 512-974-4343

OTHER NUMBERS

Lake Travis Postal Office 512-263-2458
Coyote Sightings 311
Five Star Commercial Community Management
Scott Selman 512-337-6535 or sselman@freestarcm.com
Balcones Canyonlands Preserve
<https://www.traviscountytx.gov/tnr/bccp>

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UPCOMING STEINER RANCH EVENTS

- 1/14** Mother Son Event
- 2/11** Valentine's Family Sweetheart Tea
- 3/4** Run The Ranch
- 3/11** Camping On The Ranch
- 3/31** Scrap A Thon
- 4/6** New Homeowner Social
- 4/8** Spring Community Garage Sale
- 4/15** Easter Egg Hunt
- 5/20** Shred Day
- 5/20** Movies In The Park
- 7/4** Independence Day Celebration
- 8/5** Movies In The Park
- 8/12** Concert In The Park
- 9/23** Father Daughter Dance
- 9/23** Fall Community Garage Sale
- 10/5** New Homeowner Social
- 10/6** Scrap A Thon
- 10/15** Pumpkin Patch
- 10/29** Trunk Or Treat
- 11/11** Holiday Shopping Event
- 11/23** Steiner Ranch Turkey Trot
- 12/7** Volunteer Appreciation Dinner
- 12/9** Breakfast With Santa

Want to get involved? Join the Event Planning Committee! The Committee meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 9:00am at Cups & Cones.

Contact Desirre Ghebremicael, Steiner Ranch Lifestyle Coordinator at desirre@steinerranchhoa.org for more information.

All Events are tentative and subject to change or cancel. For the most up to date information, follow us at: [Facebook.com/SteinerRanchHOAevents](https://www.facebook.com/SteinerRanchHOAevents) or visit the Steiner Ranch HOA website at www.steinerranchhoa.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 communications@steinerranchhoa.org. The deadline is the 8th of the month prior to the issue.

COVER PHOTO

Jemma, Jennifer and Piper Gama are pictured on this month's cover, sharing happy times at the Steiner Ranch Breakfast with Santa event. Thank you for sharing your photo with the community. Happy Holidays!

Have a photo you would like to see published in the next Ranch Record? Send pictures to communications@steinerranchhoa.org for consideration no later than the 8th of the month prior to publication. Your photo might just be next month's cover!

By submitting your photo you agree to allow your photo to be published in future issues of the Ranch Record and/or other Steiner Ranch communications.



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GO **PAPERLESS**



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Table of Contents

FROM THE ASSOCIATION OFFICE

- 4 Steiner Ranch Events
- 6 The Ranch Report
- 7 Assessments Due
- 7 Keep Steiner Beautiful
- 7 Holiday Decoration Rule
- 7 Holiday Trash Schedule
- 7 Green Waste Pick Up
- 7 Christmas Tree Pick Up
- 8 Trim Low Hanging Trees
- 8 Complicance Reminders
- 8 Steiner Ranch Board Meetings
- 9 2017 Events Announced
- 9 Stay Informed about HOA News
- 9 Holiday Crime Prevention Tips
- 9 Follow Us on Facebook

STEINER ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

- 10 Camera Club Exhibit
- 11 Holiday House Decorating Contest
- 12 Mother & Son Event
- 13 Holiday Shopping Event
- 14-15 Trunk or Treat
- 16 Pumpkin Patch
- 17 Free Activities for Residents
- 18 Steiner Ranch Camera Club
- 23 Program Schedule
- 24 Free Tai Chi
- 24 Young at Heart
- 25 Steiner Ranch Cycling News
- 25 Adult Swimming Program

AROUND STEINER

- 26 Girl Scout Troop 2417
- 26 Mathnasium Trimathlon Competition

NEWS YOU CAN USE

- 28 Plan While You Can- Don't Drink And Drive
- 29 Responsible Ride
- 29 Trail of Lights
- 30 Tips for a Healthy Holiday Season
- 32 Poinsettia Facts
- 32 LCRA News
- 33 Lake Austin Spa Recipe
- 34 Travel Tips For Your Pet

IN EVERY ISSUE

- 4 Cover Photo
- 20 Calendar
- 36 Business Classifieds
- 38 Teenage Job Seekers



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THE RANCH REPORT

Happy holidays! As we come to the end of 2016, I thought it relevant to share and reflect on successes achieved by the Steiner Ranch Home Owners' Association and HOA boards. To be sure, this year has been one of change and progress- much has been accomplished. Following are highlights:

ALL RESIDENT GOVERNED BOARDS

2016 marked the first time that Steiner Ranch has been governed solely by resident boards. The Steiner Ranch Master's Association (SRMA) was previously chaired by 2 developer representatives, and 4 SRMA homeowners. The HOA successfully held the first all homeowner SRMA board election last spring, where residents elected 7 homeowners to the SRMA board.

EVENTS

HOA Lifestyle Coordinator, Desirre Ghebremicael, and the Event Planning Committee, successfully hosted many popular community events and added new ones in 2016. This year marked the first Mother & Son event, as well as an increase in ticket offerings to the popular Breakfast With Santa and Father Daughter Dance events. Thus, more homeowners participated in these family focused and much anticipated events. In addition to the annual Steiner Ranch Independence Day parade, our 2016 Fourth of July celebration included water slides, carnival games, a kiddie train, bungee jumping, carnival swing, balloons, face painting, and music. The community truly embraced the event, and I expect it to continue to evolve in 2017. Stay tuned.

POOLS

Community pools are the association's biggest asset, and largest liability. As such, management elected to not renew pool maintenance contracts due to continued on-going issues. Instead HOA management opted to maintain pools through the association by adding an additional person to the HOA maintenance team. The results have been extremely positive. I have received numerous emails and comments from residents and swim team coaches about improved water quality and general pool maintenance improvements. HOA personnel is now onsite for upkeep and daily pool cleanings 7 days a week.

OAK WILT POLICY

The SRMA board is in the process of reviewing an oak wilt policy which will be discussed, voted on and put in place prior to proposed no cut/trim months: February through June. The policy has also been shared with the SRROA board. Because oak wilt is an important issue which the boards take seriously, board members are deliberately taking time to consider and review aspects of the policy put before them. Board decisions relating to oak wilt will be reported in coming Ranch Record updates and posted on the HOA website.

2017 BUDGET

The board of directors work hard to operate the association as efficiently as possible. 2017 budgets focus on enhancing and maintaining Steiner Ranch facilities, as they are important assets of Steiner Ranch homeowners.

Finally, I want to thank all Steiner Ranch community volunteers. You are appreciated. I look forward to another successful year serving Steiner Ranch residents, and I wish you a happy holiday season, filled with family, community and meaning.

Randy Schmalz

Executive Director

Steiner Ranch Home Owners' Association



Happy Holidays

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Association Assessment Payments Due January 1st

Semi-annual assessments for January – July are due on January 1, 2017. Statements will be mailed to each homeowner at the mailing address on file at the beginning of December. If you do not receive a statement, please contact the Community Association Office at 512-266-7553. Homeowners are not exempt from paying assessments or late fees in the event a statement is not received. Payments received after January 31, 2016 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. Assessment must be received by January 31st, not postmarked by January 31st. Your escrow account does not pay your assessments.

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

Payments may be mailed to the address listed on the statement, or may be brought to the Association office at 12550 Country Trails Lane to avoid an on-line fee.

****Please note, resident access to pools, facility rental, and attendance at or registration for social functions and programs, may be terminated if association account becomes delinquent.****

Keep Steiner Beautiful Clean Up Decorated Community Trees By January 1st

Zany, sweet, unexpected and unusual decorations adorn juniper trees along Loop 360 this time of year. It's part of what makes Austin, well, Austin. It's also an Austin holiday tradition which has been adopted in Steiner Ranch. After Thanksgiving, decorated trees magically appear along Quinlan Park Road, Bella Mar Trail, Flat Top Ranch Road, and other parts of the neighborhood.

If you plan on decorating a tree this year, please do your part to keep Austin, and Steiner, beautiful by removing decorations by January 1st. Keep your tree maintained throughout the season, as the HOA will not maintain decorated trees, and consider using biodegradable decorations. Whatever your décor, be sure to fasten decorations securely in place. No advertising or marketing paraphernalia allowed for tree decorating purposes.

Decorations not removed by the 1st will be recycled or disposed of by HOA staff. Should the HOA have to devote excessive resources to holiday tree décor clean up, this tradition may be in jeopardy. Keep the tradition alive and remove your decorations!

Holiday Decoration Rule

Deck the halls, trim those trees, hang the lights and remember to observe the following Steiner Ranch rule regarding holiday decorations on the exterior of your property:

Christmas decorations may be put out beginning November 1st and must be removed by January 15th.

Have a wonderful holiday season!

Holiday Trash & Recycling Pick-Up

There will be no interruption or change in trash & recycling pick-up during the week of Christmas. Service will take place as normally scheduled.

Green Waste Pick-Up December 12th-16th

Texas Disposal Systems will provide Steiner Ranch residents with a seasonal green waste collection pick-up during the week of December 12th.

Each resident may place up to 20 thirty gallon paper bags of green waste at their curb on their designated trash pick-up day during the week of December 12th.

****Please note:** This will be the only green waste pick up this season. Residents may schedule bulky waste, and bundle pick-ups twice per year by calling TDS. Bundle pick-ups include tree, shrub, and brush trimmings securely tied together, not exceeding 4 feet in length or 40 pounds. Call TDS at 512-329-1752 to schedule individual pick-ups.

Reminder: Aside from scheduled green waste pick-ups and individually scheduled bundle pick-ups, TDS will not pick up items/bags left outside of trash containers, unless bags are tagged with TDS trash tags. Tags are available for purchase, by check, at the HOA office for \$2.50 per bag. Additional trash/recycle carts may be ordered directly from TDS.

Christmas Tree Pick Up

Texas Disposal Systems (TDS), trash provider for Steiner Ranch, will offer curbside Christmas tree pick up from December 26 – January 13. Leave trees at the curb on your regular trash service day. Trees must be free of décor and must be 4 feet in length for pick up. Any cut tree pieces must be bundled with rope or twine.

Do not drop trees at the entrance of the WCID Water Treatment driveway off Quinlan Park Road & Logan's Way. Christmas tree recycling at this location is no longer available.

From the Association Office

Trim Low Hanging Tree Limbs Now

Residents are reminded to trim branches in need of attention prior to February through June. Doing so helps prevent oak wilt disease transmission. Trees should be trimmed to allow for visibility of pedestrians, traffic and traffic signs. Limbs which extend over sidewalks, and roadways pose a potential hazard to pedestrians – please take a look around your property and take care to address any limbs in need of attention now.

Regardless of the season, paint all pruned or wounded oaks to attempt to avoid oak wilt disease, and always ensure that trimming equipment has been properly disinfected. Dispose of diseased red oaks immediately. If uncertain about trimming, consult with a Texas oak wilt certified arborist, an oak wilt specialist from a city, county or state government agency such as the Texas Forest Service or Texas AgriLife Extension Service, or visit texasoakwilt.org. A link to information about oak wilt may be found on the HOA website on the resident announcements page.

Community Compliance Reminders

The HOA office would like to remind residents of the following Steiner Ranch rules:

- Trash containers are to be stored out of sight and should not be visible from the street.
- Parking on the street overnight is not allowed.
- Items should not be left in driveways. This includes mulch bags, garden hoses, and sports equipment.
- Any alterations to the exterior of your property (front, back and sides) must be submitted to the HOA office for review and approval.

Thank you for abiding by these rules, which are part of Steiner Ranch governing documents.

Steiner Ranch Board Meetings

Residents are encouraged and invited to attend Steiner Ranch board meetings, and may address board members during the resident comments portion of the meetings. See the December and January calendars within this publication for upcoming meetings, or visit the HOA website calendar at www.steinerranchhoa.org.

Agendas for all Steiner Ranch board meetings are emailed in advance to residents with emails on file with the HOA office. Board meeting agendas are also posted to the HOA website and at resident mailbox kiosks.

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Event Planning Committee Announces 2017 Events

The Event Planning Committee has planned another fun filled year of events for Steiner Ranch residents. See page 4 for dates. Popular Steiner Ranch events like Concert In The Park, Camping On The Ranch, Breakfast With Santa, Trunk Or Treat, the annual Easter Egg Hunt, Father Daughter Dance, and more, are back. The committee is excited to announce two new events for 2017 – a Valentine's Family Sweetheart Tea, and a Steiner Ranch Community Turkey Trot. Both events should prove to be lots of fun!

The first Steiner Ranch community event planned for 2017 is the Mother & Son event, which will take place on January 14th. For details, visit the Steiner Ranch HOA events page on Facebook or logon to the community website. Tickets are on sale through January 1, 2017.

Stay Informed About HOA News

The HOA offers several communication tools to keep residents informed. Want to know about upcoming community events? Wondering when the next board meeting will be held? Need information about facilities availability or pool schedules? We've got you covered.

Facebook: Stay in the know about community events by following the official Steiner Ranch HOA Events Facebook page- the only Facebook page affiliated with the HOA. Search Steiner Ranch HOA Events Facebook page and like our page. After liking our page, hover your mouse over the button that says 'Liked.' You'll see a dropdown menu open. Click the option that says 'See First' and our posts will then appear in your feed.

Email Alerts: Receive HOA activity and safety alerts, and stay in the know about what's going on in Steiner Ranch. You must register to receive alerts. To do so, visit the HOA website www.steinerranchhoa.org and click on login. If you've never requested a login before, click the login request form link. Once logged in, follow these steps:

1. Click on the menu item "My Profile".
2. Then click "Subscriptions".
3. Click email alerts you'd like to receive. It's that simple!

While you are in "my profile", go to "user profile" and update your information.

Website: The HOA website enables residents to access homeowner documents, view facilities availability, report a problem, view events, as well as board and committee meetings, and more.

Ranch Record: The community newsletter is mailed to homeowners monthly. If you are not receiving the newsletter and would like to, visit peelinc.com and follow the prompts to sign up for delivery via mail or email.

Mailbox Kiosks & Community Marquee: Board meeting agendas are posted monthly at mailbox kiosks. Board meeting dates/times are posted to the community marquee, as are HOA events and committee meetings.

Holiday Crime Prevention Tips

The holidays are prime time for burglary, theft and vandalism. Take steps to protect your home and vehicles this holiday season. Following are some safety tips to help keep you, your family, and your home safe:

- **Don't broadcast your absence.** Never leave a post on social media saying, "I'm away on vacation."

- **Improve lighting.** Motion lights or dusk to dawn detector lights, and timers are all good ideas.

- **Trim shrubbery.** Trimming shrubbery eliminates hiding places for would be intruders.

- **Make your address clearly visible.** Doing so makes it easier for emergency personnel to find your home in the event of an emergency.

- **Stop all deliveries.** Nothing says "I'm not home" like accumulated newspapers or packages at the door.

- **Adjust blinds.** Leave blinds and curtains in normal positions wherever possible, taking care not to leave expensive belongings visible through windows.

- **Set the alarm.** Activate your alarm system.

- **Lock up.** Ensure all windows and doors are securely locked before you leave. Close and lock your garage door when you are not nearby.

- **Ask a trusted neighbor to keep an eye on your home while you're away.** Neighbors watching out for one another is a good way to deter crime.



Want to be in the know about Steiner Ranch events? Follow us on Facebook! Events offered by the Steiner Ranch Home Owners' Association are posted on our events Facebook page – the only official Facebook page of the Steiner Ranch HOA. Search Steiner Ranch HOA events to find us. To see our posts in your news feed, do the following:

1. Like our page.
2. After liking our page, hover your mouse over the button that says 'Liked.' You'll see a dropdown menu open. Click the option that says 'See First' and our posts will then appear in your feed. Because we are a business, simply liking our page will not necessarily result in our posts appearing in your feed.

THANK YOU FOR FOLLOWING US!

Steiner Activities & Events

Why I Love Steiner Photography Exhibit On Display At Towne Square

The Steiner Ranch Camera Club recently donated multiple photographs to the HOA which depict what members of the club love about living in Steiner. According to Jeff Wagner, founder of the Camera Club, each photograph gives a different perspective of the Steiner community. The HOA sends a heartfelt thank you to Jeff and members of the Camera Club for their generous gift. Please stop by to enjoy the exhibit starting December 7th at Towne Square Community Center.



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Holiday House Decorating Contest

Have you driven through the story of "Twas The Night Before Christmas" at the Summit at Eastridge? Or seen Santa in the window at a home in Rio Mesa? Remember Buddy the Elf, who made his home in a yard in Hancock Hills last December?

Many Steiner Ranch residents share the spirit of the season by decorating their homes with lights, Santa's, snowflakes, and more. To help residents find these fabulous decked out homes, send us pictures of your favorite holiday themed Steiner Ranch home, and we'll post it to the HOA events Facebook page. If you are the home owner, send us your address and we will share it on our page.

Send photos & address information no later than December 11th to: communications@steinerranchhoa.org

The HOA Event Planning Committee will judge submitted homes and will award 3 winners with yard displays for their efforts!

Winners will be announced on our FB page in December. Good luck!

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Steiner Activities & Events

Mother & Son Event

Planned For January 14th!

The Event Planning Committee has planned an evening dedicated to moms and their boys; an evening complete with dinner, a magic show and a ride in a Hummer limousine. Tickets also include entertainment by Austin's own John Maverick, magician extraordinaire. This warm hearted event wouldn't be complete without music and dancing, too.

So moms, dress yourself and your little man up and join us for a special night out with dinner, magic, limo rides and dancing. It's sure to be a night to remember!

Date: January 14th, 2016

Location: Canyon Ridge Middle School - 12601 Country Trails Ln, Austin, TX 78732

Time: 6:30pm to 9:30pm

Ages: 5 & up

Tickets: Visit the Steiner Ranch HOA events Facebook page for tickets, on sale now through January 1st, 2017 or until the first 220 tickets are sold.



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RESIDENTS GOT HOLIDAY SHOPPING STARTED EARLY AT STEINER'S HOLIDAY SHOPPING EVENT

Many residents got a head start on their holiday shopping last month without leaving the neighborhood, thanks to the Steiner Ranch Holiday Shopping event, organized by the HOA Event Planning Committee. Tutus, jewelry, art, and homemade bath products were just a few of the items featured at this year's event. Santa also made a visit and added some holiday cheer, thanks to the support of Cups & Cones. Thank you to the Event Planning Committee for organizing this fun holiday event!



Trunk Or Treat Fun

Hundreds of Steiner Ranch children, parents, grandparents, and friends came out for an afternoon of treats, face painting, activities and fun. Organized by the Steiner Ranch Mom's and Tots group, and sponsored by the Steiner Ranch HOA, Trunk or Treat 2016 did not disappoint. Much thanks to community sponsors who supported this event!



(Continued on Page 15)

(Continued from Page 14)

Trunk Or Treat Photos



Steiner Activities & Events



Pumpkin Patch



Over \$9k Donated To Dell Children's Medical Center Foundation From Steiner Pumpkin Patch Sales

Much thanks to Brandy and Stewart Finnessey for organizing the Steiner Ranch Pumpkin Patch 4 years in a row, benefiting the Dell Children's Medical Center Foundation of Central Texas. The Finnessey's raised \$9,120 at this year's event, all of which was donated directly to the foundation. "In 4 years we have raised almost \$30,000, something we are so proud and excited to be a part of, and to be able to raise money for a need which is so great in Central Texas," Brandy said.

For those wondering what happens to unsold pumpkins, Brandy informed us that each year, School In The Hills sells them at their school. Money is then donated, along with funds earned from the event, to the Dell Children's Medical Center Foundation of Central Texas. This ensures no pumpkin goes to waste, and every pumpkin is an opportunity to raise another dollar to be used to help a child or family.

The Finnessey's say the event would not be successful without the generosity of their sponsors. They also want to give a shout out to the Vandegrift National Honors Society, who for 3 years in a row, have supported the Pumpkin Patch event by providing over 60 volunteers each year.

A heartfelt thank you to Brandy and Stewart Finnessey for organizing Steiner's annual Pumpkin Patch, and for supporting the Dell Children's Medical Center Foundation of Central Texas. Big thanks to the below sponsors, and to the VHS National Honor Society:

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Free Activities For Residents

The following activities are offered to Steiner Ranch residents at no charge:

Aikido Meets at Bella Mar Community Center
Tuesday evenings at 8:30pm

Cycling Group Meets at Cups & Cones Saturday &
Sunday Mornings at 7:30am

Run Lab Coach-led run meets at John Simpson Park
Friday mornings at 9:30am

Tai Chi Meets at Towne Square Community Center
Monday through Friday at 8:15am

Yoga Provided by Lake Austin Spa instructor. Meets at
Towne Square Mondays at 6:30pm

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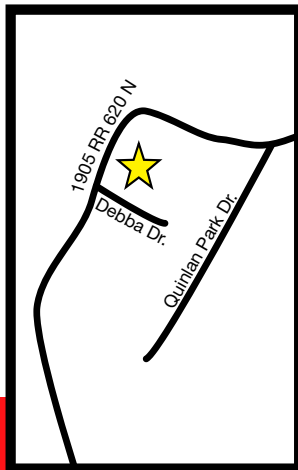
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Steiner Activities & Events

Steiner Ranch Camera Club

Are you a shutterbug at heart? Then you should come out and join fellow photographers and neighbors at the Steiner Ranch Camera Club!

The Steiner Ranch Camera Club provides an informal, friendly, and supportive environment for photographers at all levels of experience, and with interests in all genres of photography. The club meets on the second Wednesday of each month, from 7:00pm to 8:30pm. To get involved, "Join" us on "Facebook" at "Steiner Ranch Camera Club". There, you can chat with other club members, post pics, ask technical questions, and keep up with our meeting/event schedule.

Currently, the club is finalizing our first annual end of year photo exhibit. Our theme for this year is, "Why I Love Steiner Ranch". Photos will be donated to the HOA, to be displayed throughout our community centers. You can see the exhibit, in the Town Center Community building beginning the second week of December.

If you have questions, contact Jeff Wagner at jeffamy3@mac.com, Tim Babiak of Exquisite Photography, at tim@exquisite.photo or Vicki Leonardo, vicki@davinciimages.com. You can also reach us on Facebook at the "Steiner Ranch Camera Club" group page.



CCOA-STEINER RANCH
4308 N. Quinlan Park Rd.
Suite 100
Austin, TX 78732
512.266.6130

CCOA NORTHWEST AUSTIN
6507 Jester Boulevard
Building 2
Austin, TX 78750
512.795.8300

CCOA-WESTLAKE
8100 Bee Caves Rd
Austin, TX 78746
512.329.6633

Does Invisalign work as advertised?

Mean accuracy of tooth movement: 41%

Range of accuracy from 18% to 47.1%

Accuracy in extruding teeth: 18.3% to 29.6%

Accuracy of Mesial-distal tipping of canines: 26.9% (j.ajodo.2007.05.018; www.ajodo.org)



Passing Rate of cases treated Invisalign v. Braces: 27% lower

"Deficient in its ability to correct overjet & occlusal contacts" (j.ajodo.2005.06.002; www.ajodo.org)

Mean percentage of simple tooth movement goal (30 patients moving one incisor a single 1mm) only 57% (j.ajodo.2103.10.022; www.ajodo.org)

Minimal Improvement in occlusal score based on Board standards from 47 to 36.4 (0 is ideal)

"Negative change (2.5x worse after treatment) in posterior occlusal contacts with Invisalign"

"Treatment with Invisalign aligners had adverse effects on posterior occlusal contacts"

(j.ajodo.2004.07.016; www.ajodo.org)

"According to the OGS, Invisalign did not treat malocclusions as well as braces...

Invisalign was especially deficient in its ability to correct large anteroposterior discrepancies and occlusal contacts." (j.ajodo.2004.05.002; www.ajodo.org)

Will you accept a meager 41% or less "success" result for your family?
Are you being offered what is best for you or your family?

*All studies and articles referenced can be found in The American Journal of Orthodontics & Dentofacial Orthopedics (AJO-DO), a publication of the American Association of Orthodontists (AAO).



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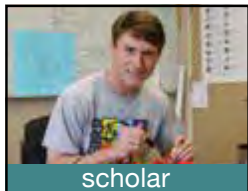
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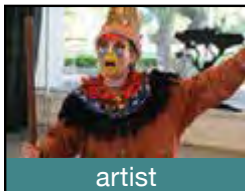


DECEMBER

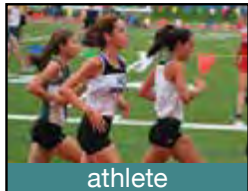
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 8:15am –Tai Chi (TSCC) 6:00pm – SRROA Board Mtg (TSCC)	2 8:15am –Tai Chi (TSCC) 9:30am - Run Lab (JS Park)	3 7:30am – SRC Ride (Cups & Cones)
4 7:30am – SRC Ride (Cups & Cones)	5 8:15am –Tai Chi (TSCC) 6:30pm – Adult Yoga (TSCC)	6 8:15am –Tai Chi (TSCC) 6:00pm – Lakeview Board Mtg (TSCC) 6:30pm – Trails CMTE Mtg (BMCC) 8:30pm –Aikido (BMCC)	7 8:15am Tai Chi (TSCC) 6:00pm – Facilities CMTE Mtg (TSCC)	8 8:15am –Tai Chi (TSCC) 5:00pm – Long Range Planning CMTE Mtg (BMCC) 6:30pm – Volunteer Appreciation Dinner (By Invitation- TSCC)	9 8:15am –Tai Chi (TSCC) 9:30am - Run Lab (JS Park)	10 7:30am – SRC Ride (Cups & Cones) 8:00am & 10:30am - Breakfast With Santa Tickets Required (TSCC)
 11 7:30am – SRC Ride (Cups & Cones) Last day to submit photos for Holiday House Decorating contest. See page 11 for details.	12 8:15am – Tai Chi (TSCC) 6:30pm – Adult Yoga (TSCC)	13 8:15am – Tai Chi (TSCC) 9:00am – Event Planning CMTE Mtg (Cups & Cones) 7:00pm - SRNA Mtg (TSCC) 8:30pm – Aikido (BMCC)	14 HOA Office Closed 8:15am –Tai Chi (TSCC) 6:00pm – Fairways Board Mtg (TSCC) 7:00pm – Steiner Camera Club (BMCC)	15 8:15am –Tai Chi (TSCC)	16 8:15am –Tai Chi (TSCC) 9:30am - Run Lab (JS Park)	17 7:30am – SRC Ride (Cups & Cones)
GREEN WASTE PICK UP. SEE PAGE 7 FOR DETAILS.						
18 7:30am – SRC Ride (Cups & Cones)	19 8:15am – Tai Chi (TSCC) 6:30pm – Adult Yoga (TSCC)	20 8:15am – Tai Chi (TSCC) 8:30pm –Aikido (BMCC)	21 8:15am –Tai Chi (TSCC)	22 8:15am –Tai Chi (TSCC)	23 HOA Office Closed 8:15am – Tai Chi (TSCC) 9:30am – Run Lab (JS Park)	24 Christmas Eve 7:30am – SRC Ride (Cups & Cones)
 25 Christmas Day	26 HOA Office Closed	27 8:15am – Tai Chi (TSCC) 8:30pm –Aikido (BMCC)	28 8:15am –Tai Chi (TSCC)	29 8:15am –Tai Chi (TSCC)	30 8:15am – Tai Chi (TSCC) 9:30am – Run Lab (JS Park)	31 New Year's Eve 7:30am – SRC Ride (Cups & Cones)
TDS CURBSIDE CHRISTMAS TREE PICK UP. SEE PAGE 7 FOR DETAILS.						



scholar



artist



athlete



servant

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Lower/Middle School: 1112 W. 31st St.

Upper School: 5901 Southwest Pkwy.

 Follow us! [facebook/sasaustin.org](https://facebook.com/sasaustin.org)



ST. ANDREW'S
EPISCOPAL SCHOOL K-12

JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Happy New Year!!!! 7:30am – SRC Ride (Cups & Cones)	2 8:15am –Tai Chi (TSCC) 6:30pm – Adult Yoga (TSCC)	3 8:15am –Tai Chi (TSCC) 6:00pm SRMA Board Mtg (TSCC) 6:30pm – Trails CMTE Mtg (BMCC) 8:30pm –Aikido (BMCC)	4 8:15am –Tai Chi (TSCC) 6:00pm – Facilities CMTE Mtg (TSCC)	5 8:15am Tai Chi (TSCC) 6:00pm – SRROA Board Mtg (TSCC)	6 8:15am –Tai Chi (TSCC) 9:30am - Run Lab (JS Park)	7 7:30am – SRC Ride (Cups & Cones)
TDS CURBSIDE CHRISTMAS TREE PICK UP. SEE PAGE 7 FOR DETAILS.						
 8 7:30am – SRC Ride (Cups & Cones)	9 8:15am –Tai Chi (TSCC) 6:30pm – Adult Yoga (TSCC)	10 8:15am –Tai Chi (TSCC) 9:00am – Event Planning CMTE Mtg (Cups & Cones) 7:00pm – SRNA Mtg (TSCC) 8:30pm –Aikido (BMCC)	11 8:15am Tai Chi (TSCC) 6:00pm – Fairways Board Mtg (TSCC) 7:00pm – Steiner Camera Club (BMCC)	12 8:15am –Tai Chi (TSCC) 5:00pm – Long Range Planning CMTE Mtg (BMCC)	13 8:15am –Tai Chi (TSCC) 9:30am - Run Lab (JS Park)	14 7:30am – SRC Ride (Cups & Cones) 6:30pm – Mother & Son Event (CRMS) Tickets required.
TDS CURBSIDE CHRISTMAS TREE PICK UP						
15 7:30am – SRC Ride (Cups & Cones)	16 8:15am –Tai Chi (TSCC) 6:30pm – Adult Yoga (TSCC)	17 8:15am –Tai Chi (TSCC) 8:30pm –Aikido (BMCC)	18 8:15am –Tai Chi (TSCC)	19 8:15am –Tai Chi (TSCC)	20 8:15am –Tai Chi (TSCC) 9:30am - Run Lab (JS Park)	21 7:30am – SRC Ride (Cups & Cones)
 22 7:30am – SRC Ride (Cups & Cones)	23 8:15am –Tai Chi (TSCC) 6:30pm – Adult Yoga (TSCC)	24 8:15am –Tai Chi (TSCC) 8:30pm –Aikido (BMCC)	25 8:15am –Tai Chi (TSCC)	26 8:15am Tai Chi (TSCC) 6:00pm – SRROA Board Mtg (TSCC)	27 8:15am –Tai Chi (TSCC) 9:30am - Run Lab (JS Park)	28 7:30am – SRC Ride (Cups & Cones)
29 7:30am – SRC Ride (Cups & Cones)	30 8:15am –Tai Chi (TSCC) 6:30pm – Adult Yoga (TSCC)	31 8:15am –Tai Chi (TSCC) 6:00pm – SRMA Board Mtg (TSCC) 8:30pm –Aikido (BMCC)				

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STEINER RANCH PROGRAM GUIDE

Stop by the Association office for a hard copy of the fall-spring program guide or download it at:

www.steinerranchhoa.org

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Sportball
Tap/Ballet
Gymnastics
Tennis
Soccer
Flag Football
Music
Zumba Kids
Swimming

TEEN/ADULT PROGRAMS

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Tai Chi
Tennis
Hula
Fit4Mom
Running
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Zumba
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Fit4Mom
Camp Gladiator

For questions or more information,
please contact :

Desiree Ghebremicael, Lifestyle Coordinator, at
desirre@steinerranchhoa.org.

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Steiner Activities & Events



FREE TAI CHI

Monday - Friday 8:15 am - 9 am
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Come learn and practice basic forms of
Chen 83 and Yang 24 Tai Chi
(10 min. warmup, 15-20 min. Chen style,
10 min Yang style)
Benefits of Tai Chi :

- Relieve Stress on the body and mind
- Improve Health and Physical Fitness
- Enhance Self Defense capability

Questions : contact 512-470-6978
or rosaliachiu@gmail.com

YOUNG @ HEART

youngatheartaustin@gmail.com

Young at Heart gives Steiner Ranch residents- mostly in the 50+ age group- opportunities to meet other people with similar interests. Our organized activities are planned to give everyone a chance to get to know each other in casual social settings. Many friendships have been formed while playing cards and games, walking, hiking and participating in more than a dozen other interest groups. If you live in Steiner Ranch full time or part time, you are welcome to join us. To become a member, just send your contact information including name(s), address, phone number and e-mail address to youngatheartaustin@gmail.com.

Among our many activities are Book Club, Canasta, Euchre, Mah Jongg, Mexican Train (Dominoes), Bunco, Walking, Hiking, Biking, Spanish Conversation, Technology, Painting, Card Making (creating unique greeting cards), and Ladies CLEO Luncheons (Classy Ladies Eating Out). We also get together for happy hours, wine socials, International Dining, dinner groups, and our very popular ROMEO (Retired Old Men Eating Out). New groups are added when there is interest.

Looking for that dream vacation?

I specialize in:

- *Individual cruise planning*
- *Land resort vacations*
- *Guided vacation tours*
- *Group cruises (reunions, club trips, church groups, etc)*

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



"I live in the Steiner Ranch area. I'd love to help you plan your next dream vacation."

Tip of the Month

Shake off the winter blues with a warm Caribbean cruise.
Please contact me to discuss land or cruise vacations.



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STEINER RANCH



CYCLING NEWS

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. You probably see us riding around the neighborhood in our Steiner Ranch-themed red white and blue kits. Give us a wave but please don't honk!

SATURDAY RIDES

On Saturdays we host an open group ride, currently starting at Cups & Cones at 7:30 AM, but we will soon change to a later start as the weather gets cooler. Our Saturday rides include advanced and intermediate groups.

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 with a typical distance ranging from 50 up to 70+ miles. The turnout is typically between 10 – 20 riders depending on weather. Come on out and have some fun, everyone is welcome. Ride details are posted each week to our website at <http://www.steinerranchcycling.com>, on our Facebook page <http://facebook.com/SteinerRanchCycling>, and to our email list (sign up on our website).

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

Steiner Ranch Cycling is powered by Lakeside's awesome burgers (such as their Bacon Avocado Burger) and refreshed by their beer (we prefer Austin's own Independence Brewing Stash IPA which is on tap now). Join us there after the ride on Saturdays to refuel and recover!

SUNDAY COFFEE SHOP RIDE

On Sundays we host a mostly mellow ride to a local coffee shop outside Steiner.

The group will leave Cups & Cones at 7:30 AM (again, this will change when its gets cooler), and will target some not-too-far coffee shop for some espresso, pastries, and socializing. The ride will average around 17 mph and should be perfect for those looking for an easier and more relaxed alternative to our Saturday rides. Our destination is typically Red Horn Coffee House and Brewing Company at 1431 and Parmer which is 20 miles from Cups & Cones. Although this is technically a 'drop ride', we will make great efforts to keep the group together. Note that you should be able to ride the 38-50 miles at a 17 mph average pace for the whole ride.

Please visit our website at <http://www.steinerranchcycling.com> to check out what is going on in the Steiner Ranch cycling community.

SPONSORS: Austin City Living, Patten Law Firm, Dream Smiles Dental, Cyclist Law, Lakeside Pizza & Grill.

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 require that all participants follow traffic laws and wear a helmet while on our rides.

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.
- \$55 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!

GIRL RISING

**Local Girl Scouts Inspired By Movie,
Share It With Community**

December 10, 2016 At Moviehouse and Eatery

Submitted by Girl Scout Troop 2417

Girl Scout Troop 2417 will show the PG-13 movie, "Girl Rising" on December 10th from 7:00 - 8:45 pm at Moviehouse and Eatery. Tickets cost \$8 and can be purchased at <http://girlrisingmovie.weebly.com>. "Girl Rising" tells the unforgettable stories of nine girls living in developing countries who overcome great obstacles to obtain an education and change their fate.

Five sophomores at Vandegrift High School make up Girl Scout Troop 2417. They chose to showcase this movie to bring attention to the lack of education of girls in the developing world and how this can result in denied opportunity and oppression, an incomprehensible situation to girls in the Four Points community who are encouraged and expected to attend school and pursue higher education.

"We hope this film not only informs but also inspires," said Andy Hahn, Troop 2417 member. "The stories are meant to bridge the gap between girls like us and girls who live in circumstances that we cannot understand. We all learned about the issues these girls face in Human Geography last year and this film gives us a real understanding of the life struggles facing girls even today."

"Girl Rising" is the culmination of six years of work by a team of former ABC News journalists. They set out to investigate how to end global poverty and discover that educating girls is the single highest return on investment in breaking the poverty cycle. Interestingly, they also discover that poverty can be reversed in only one generation because "educated girls stand up for their rights, marry and have children later, educate their own children, and their families and communities thrive." These journalists' desire to spread this information led them to produce the film about real girls and the barriers they face to achieve their dreams.

"By watching this film, we believe that you have made an investment in a girl," said Logan Foust, another Troop 2417 member. "And just like those who made this film, we hope that others will take action, possibly through fundraising work, volunteering or like us, continuing to spread the word."

To learn more, visit <http://girlrisingmovie.weebly.com>.



STUDENTS WIN MATHNASIUM 2016 TRIMATHLON MATH COMPETITION

*Submitted by Lakshmi Kondubhatla,
Mathnasium Steiner Ranch*

Students in grades 2 to 5 put their math skills on display last weekend, earning money for local schools and winning prizes for themselves in the Mathnasium of Steiner Ranch 2016 TriMathlon math competition. By participating in the event, Mathnasium TriMathlon contestants in North Austin and Steiner Ranch area raised a total of \$1080 to benefit the area schools.

The top three Mathnasium of Steiner Ranch winners in each grade represented are listed below.

- **Grade 5:** Aashir Khawaja, Laura Bush Elementary, 1st Place; Tanvi Anugu, Steiner Ranch Elementary, 2nd Place; Patrick McCabe, 3rd Place

- **Grade 4:** Myreen Malik, River Ridge Elementary, 1st Place; Tyler Kwan, River Place Elementary, 2nd Place; Andrew Oriti, River Ridge Elementary, 3rd Place

- **Grade 3:** Marshall Linenberger, River Ridge Elementary, 1st Place; Sophia Zhang, Laurel Mountain Elementary, 2nd Place; Alexander Killmar, Steiner Ranch Elementary, 3rd Place

- **Grade 2:** Saania Khawaja, Laura Bush Elementary, 1st Place; MJ Bruck, River Ridge Elementary, 2nd Place; Michelle Aleman, River Ridge Elementary, 3rd Place

This year's TriMathlon competition was a big success, encouraging kids to showcase their mathematical abilities and demonstrating how much fun math can be! As enthusiastic supporters of schools and education initiatives at large, we're especially excited that the kids were able to raise money for local schools just for participating, adding a level of community service to the contest. We are so proud of all TriMathlon contestants for what they've accomplished for their schools, their community, and themselves.

The nation's top TriMathlon scorers are gearing up to compete in the National Grand Prize TriMathlon the weekend of November 19 and 20. Grand Prize winners will be recognized with plaques commemorating their accomplishments along with Mathnasium scholarships.

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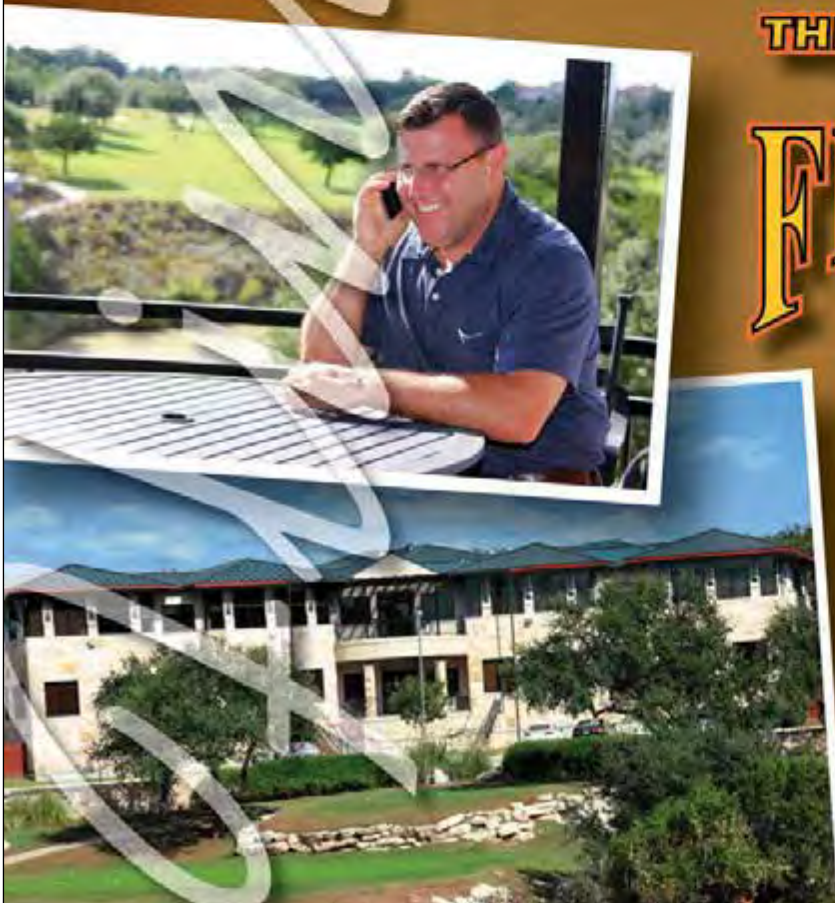
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Plan While You Can: Don't Drink and Drive

TxDOT

This Holiday Season, TxDOT is focusing on the issue of impaired driving by encouraging people to save a life by making a plan to get home safely before the holiday festivities begin. The "Plan While You Can" impaired driving campaign encourages drivers to line up a sober ride before enjoying festivities where drinking may occur. The campaign will run through January 1, 2016 and coincides with an enforcement period in which DWI patrols will be at increased capacity and out in full force looking for drunk drivers on Texas roadways.

Too often a designated driver is chosen during the evening and is often considered the "least drunk" person in the group. The designated driver should be a sober driver. Unfortunately, in many of our Texas towns and cities, mass transit and/or taxi availability is limited – another important reason this campaign message is about planning ahead and reminding our fellow Texans to "Plan While You Can."

TEXAS STATISTICS

During the 2014-2015 Christmas Holiday Season (Dec. 1, 2014 to Jan. 1, 2015), there were 2,411 alcohol-related traffic crashes in Texas, resulting in 190 serious injuries and 110 fatalities. During the 2013/2014 holiday season (Dec. 1, 2013 to Jan. 1, 2014) there were

2,408 alcohol-related traffic crashes in Texas, resulting in 233 serious injuries and 102 fatalities. Comparing the 2013/2014 holiday season with the 2014/2015 holiday season there was a 0.1 percent increase in alcohol-related crashes and a 7.8 percent increase in alcohol-related traffic fatalities in Texas.

During the 2014-2015 New Year's holiday (Dec. 31, 2014 to Jan. 3, 2015), there were 409 alcohol-related traffic crashes in Texas resulting in 34 serious injuries and 16 fatalities. During the 2013/2014 New Year's holiday reporting period (Dec. 31, 2013 to Jan. 3, 2014), there were 337 alcohol-related traffic crashes in Texas, resulting in 37 serious injuries and 15 fatalities. Comparing the 2013/2014 New Year's holiday reporting period with the 2014/2015 New Year's holiday reporting period, there was a 21 percent increase in alcohol-related traffic crashes and a 7 percent increase in alcohol-related traffic fatalities in Texas.

Texans can help make the holidays merry and bright all season long by remembering to make a plan to get home safely before the festivities begin. Remember, it's the most wonderful time of the year, but one poor decision to drink and drive could bring a devastating end to holiday celebrations.



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The Longhorn Village lifestyle is open to everyone, regardless of collegiate affiliation. Direct admission to our healthcare service specializations is available without entrance fee requirements.

TEXAS EXES





Responsible Ride
Austin's Transport Connection

Make Plans For A Responsible Ride This Holiday Season

Greg Falcone, Steiner Ranch resident and owner of Responsible Ride, offers ride services to parties, concerts, the airport, weddings, wine tours, sporting events, business events and more. His company offers 14 person vans and executive services which utilize Explorers and Suburbans. In keeping with TXDOT's driving campaign, "Plan While You Can," schedule a responsible ride before going to holiday parties and events. Find out more about Responsible Ride at www.responsibleride.biz. Or email responsibleride@gmail.com or call 512-953-3313. Have a safe holiday season.



An Austin Community Celebration *Trail Of Lights Foundation*

What began as a small gathering in 1965 known as the "Yule Fest," a gift to the city of Austin from Austin Parks and Recreation Department, has now grown to be a community-wide celebration of the unique spirit and people that make Austin the place we love to call home. In the 52 years since the first Yule Log was lit, the Trail of Lights has expanded to more than 40 displays, 2 million lights and holiday activities that create countless memories. Each new display, community performance and lighted tunnel has added a new layer to the holiday tradition and brought us together more as a community. Today, the Trail of Lights is one of the three largest events in Austin and receives national accolades while remaining a deeply cherished local tradition. Visit the following link for ticket information.

<http://austintrailoflights.org/celebrate/calendar-tickets>

NEW FACE, SAME PLACE



Dr. Meagan Scarborough

Steiner Dental is a community driven dental practice located in the Steiner Ranch community in Austin, Texas that treats patients of all ages.

Locally owned and operated by Steiner Ranch resident, Dr. Meagan Scarborough, we are committed to providing value-based dental care for the whole family. As a local dentist, Dr. Meagan Scarborough strives to build life-long relationships with her patients and to create an environment focused on transparency, comfort, and excellence.



STEINER DENTAL

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2900 N. Quinlan Park Road #160

Tips For A Healthy Holiday

Center's For Disease Control and Prevention

The holidays are a good time to reflect on the gift of health. Following are some tips from the Centers For Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to keep in mind for a healthy and safe holiday season.

WASH YOUR HANDS OFTEN

Keeping hands clean is one of the most important steps you can take to avoid getting sick and spreading germs to others. Wash your hands with soap and clean running water, and rub them together for at least 20 seconds. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. If you don't have tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve or elbow, not your hands.

STAY WARM

Cold temperatures can cause serious health problems, especially in infants and older adults. Stay dry, and dress warmly in several layers.

MANAGE STRESS

The holidays don't need to take a toll on your health and pocketbook. Keep your commitments and spending in check. Balance work, home, and play. Get support from family and friends. Keep a relaxed and positive outlook. Make sure to get proper sleep.

TRAVEL SAFELY

Whether you're traveling across town or around the world, help ensure your trip is safe. Don't drink and drive, and don't let someone else drink and drive. Wear a seat belt every time you drive or ride in a motor vehicle. Always buckle your child in the car using a child safety seat, booster seat, or seat belt appropriate for his/her height, weight, and age.

BE SMOKE-FREE

Avoid smoking and breathing other people's smoke. If you smoke, quit today! Call 1-800-QUIT-NOW or talk to your health care provider for help.

GET CHECK-UPS AND VACCINATIONS.

Exams and screenings can help find potential problems early, when the chances for treatment and cure are often better. Vaccinations help prevent diseases and save lives. Schedule a visit with your health care provider for needed exams and screenings. Ask what vaccinations and tests you should get based on your age, lifestyle, travel plans, medical history, and family health history.

WATCH THE KIDS

Children are at high risk for injuries. Keep a watchful eye on your kids when they're eating and playing. Keep potentially dangerous toys, food, drinks, household items, choking hazards (like coins and hard candy), and other objects out of kids' reach. Learn how to provide early treatment for children who are choking. Make sure toys are used properly. Develop rules about acceptable and safe behaviors, including using electronic media.

PREVENT INJURIES

Injuries can happen anywhere, and some often occur around the holidays. Use step stools instead of climbing on furniture when hanging decorations. Leave the fireworks to the professionals. Wear a helmet when riding a bicycle or skateboarding to help prevent head injuries. Keep vaccinations up to date.



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POINSETTIA FACTS

Poinsettias are a popular holiday plant which many pet owners and parents avoid due to their believed potential to cause death if ingested. According to Pet MD, this is actually an unlikely occurrence. Poinsettia (*Euphorbia pulcherrima*) plants contain a milky white sap containing chemicals called diterpenoid euphorbol esters and saponin-like detergents. When ingested, symptoms of vomiting, drooling, or diarrhea may be seen, but it would take large amounts of the plant to be ingested to cause poisoning, and most animals and children will likely not eat such amounts of the plant because of the irritating taste and feel from the sap. If the milky sap is exposed to skin, skin irritation may develop. Eye exposure may result in mild conjunctivitis or pink eye. Signs are self-limiting and generally don't require medical treatment unless severe, according to an online Pet Poison Helpline site.

LCRA To Lower Lake LBJ & Lake Austin Next Month

DRAWDOWN WILL ALLOW MAINTENANCE, HELP FIGHT AQUATIC VEGETATION

The Lower Colorado River Authority will lower lakes LBJ and Austin for about six weeks in early 2017 to give lakeside property owners an opportunity to repair and maintain docks, retaining walls and other shoreline property. The drawdown also will aid in curbing the growth of nuisance aquatic vegetation such as hydrilla and Eurasian watermilfoil.

"It's been years since we've lowered any of the Highland Lakes," said John Hofmann, LCRA executive vice president of Water. "Property owners need to maintain their boat docks and perform other maintenance, and I'm pleased our water supplies have been replenished enough that a drawdown is possible. Our lakes are nearly full, and conditions in the basin are better than they have been in several years."

Lake LBJ: LCRA will lower Lake LBJ about 4 feet from about Jan. 2, 2017, to Feb. 13, 2017. The drawdown will take three to four days. Water released from Lake LBJ for the drawdown will be captured and held downstream in Lake Travis until it is needed by customers.

To refill Lake LBJ, water will be moved downstream from Lake Buchanan beginning about Feb. 10, 2017. The water to refill Lake LBJ is equivalent to about 1.07 feet in Lake Buchanan, but the impact on Lake Buchanan could be reduced by rainfall or additional inflows to lakes LBJ or Buchanan.

A permit is not needed for dock repairs performed on Lake LBJ during the drawdown, but all work must comply with LCRA's Safety Standards for Residential Docks on the Highland Lakes. Maintenance dredging, debris removal and repair work on existing retaining walls during the drawdown can be done under LCRA's permit with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, but the work must be registered with LCRA. Registration forms are available:

Online at lcra.org/lakelowerings.

By calling LCRA Water Quality Protection at 512-578-2324.

In person at the LCRA Western Maintenance Facility, 2643 Wirtz Dam Road, Marble Falls, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Burning debris in the lakebed is not allowed.

For more information on work allowed on Lake LBJ during the drawdown, visit lcra.org/lakelowerings or contact LCRA Water Quality Protection at 512-578-2324.

Lake Austin: At the City of Austin's request, LCRA will lower Lake Austin about 10 feet during that same time period. Lowering Lake Austin may take two to three weeks, depending on conditions.

LCRA will not actively lower Lake Austin, but instead will allow

(Continued on Page 34)

FACT:
It takes four weeks to go from egg, larva, pupa to adult.



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Balanced Learning

Spicy Bison Meatballs with Quinoa, Jicama, and Tomato Sauce

Submitted by Lake Austin Spa

Finally, cooler temperatures are here, calling for robust, yet healthy meals. Serve these Bison Meatballs as an entree or appetizer at your party and you're sure to wow your family and friends. Double or even triple the ingredients to make a big batch - some for now, some for later! Executive Chef Stephane Beaucamp from Lake Austin Spa Resort says "don't be afraid of all the ingredients, a little work in the kitchen preparing goes a long way."

Ingredients:

- 3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1/2 medium onion, finely chopped
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 teaspoons tomato paste
- 8 ounces ground bison
- 4 ounces ground turkey
- 3 eggs, lightly beaten
- 1/4 cup panko (Japanese breadcrumbs)
- 1 1/2 teaspoon fresh oregano, chopped
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon ground chili powder
- 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon finely grated orange zest
- 1/8 teaspoon red pepper flakes
- 2 dashes Tabasco (or other hot sauce)

4 tablespoons grapeseed oil, divided

Quinoa, Jicama, and Tomato Broth

- 2 tablespoons grapeseed oil
- 1/4 teaspoon annatto seeds (optional)

- 1 carrot, diced
- 1 large onion, diced
- 1 small zucchini, diced
- 1 cup peeled and diced jicama
- 3 tablespoons tomato paste
- 4 1/2 cups chicken stock
- 1/2 cup quinoa
- 28-ounce can tomato puree (preferably organic)
- 1 tablespoon chili powder
- 2 teaspoons ground cumin
- 2 teaspoons dried oregano
- 1 tablespoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon finely grated orange zest

Fresh chopped cilantro, for garnish
Grated Parmesan cheese, for garnish



Directions:

Heat the olive oil in a 12-inch skillet over medium-high heat. Add the onion and garlic and sauté for 3-4 minutes, until fragrant. Stir in the tomato paste and continue to cook, stirring, for another minute until combined. Transfer the mixture to a large bowl and cool. Add the ground bison, turkey, eggs, panko, oregano, salt, cumin, chili powder, black pepper, orange zest, red pepper flakes and Tabasco and use your hands to gently combine (do not over mix). Use a soup spoon to shape the meatballs into 2-inch rounds (each meatball should be about 2 ounces). Refrigerate the meatballs for at least 30 minutes before cooking.

While the meatballs chill, make the Quinoa, Jicama, and Tomato Sauce. First, make the annatto oil; heat 2 tablespoons of grapeseed oil and annatto seeds in a small skillet over medium heat just until the seeds begin to sizzle. Remove from heat, allow the seeds to steep 20 minutes, and then strain the annatto oil into a large Dutch oven. (You can also skip this step and simply sauté in grapeseed oil). Heat the annatto oil over medium-high heat. Add the carrots and sauté for about 2 minutes. Add the onion and sauté for an additional 2 minutes, and then add the zucchini and jicama and cook, stirring, for 2 more minutes. Add the tomato paste and cook, stirring to coat the vegetables, for two minutes, and then add the chicken stock, quinoa, tomato puree, chili powder, cumin, oregano and salt. Bring the mixture to a boil, reduce heat to low and simmer for 20 minutes. Stir in the orange zest, taste and adjust seasonings as desired. Remove from heat and cover to keep warm.

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Heat the remaining 2 tablespoons grapeseed oil over medium-high heat in a large, deep skillet. When the pan is very hot, add the meatballs (in batches to avoid over crowding) and brown evenly on all sides. Transfer the meatballs to a rimmed baking sheet and bake for 20 minutes.

Serve the meatballs in warm, shallow bowls over a generous amount of the Quinoa, Jicama, and Tomato Sauce. Garnish with chopped fresh cilantro or grated Parmesan cheese, if desired. Serves 2 as an entrée or 4 as an appetizer.

News You Can Use

(Continued from Page 32)

levels to gradually fall by not sending water downstream from Lake Travis to replace water used by customers that draw water from Lake Austin or downstream, or water released to meet environmental flow requirements in the lower river or Matagorda Bay.

To refill Lake Austin, water will be moved downstream from Lake Travis beginning about Feb. 9, 2017. The water to refill Lake Austin is equivalent to about 8 inches of water in Lake Travis, but the impact on Lake Travis could be reduced by rainfall or additional inflows into lakes Austin or Travis.

In the City of Austin's request to LCRA, the city said the drawdown would provide an opportunity to stay ahead of nuisance vegetation growth on Lake Austin, allow property owners to assess and repair bulkheads and boat docks, and allow a City of Austin fire station to maintain its boat ramp.

Property owners must secure authorization from the City of Austin to perform work on structures in or along Lake Austin during the drawdown:

For minor repairs of existing docks, removing sediment beneath the footprint of existing docks or repairing up to 25 percent of an existing bulkhead, contact the City of Austin Development Assistance Center at One Texas Center, 505 Barton Springs Road, Austin, or 512-974-6370.

For new dock construction, or to add, change or replace structural components such as load bearing beams, piers or pilings, an approved site plan signed and sealed by a licensed professional engineer is required. For more information, including the application requirements, contact the City of Austin Development Assistance

Center at One Texas Center, 505 Barton Springs Road, Austin, or 512-974-6370; or Liz Johnston, Watershed Protection Division, 512-974-2619.

The drawdown on Lake Austin in early 2017 is expected to be the last opportunity for a lowering on Lake Austin for several years because of an upcoming LCRA project to strengthen and modernize floodgates on Tom Miller Dam. The lake will remain within its normal operating range during the gate rehabilitation project for safety and accessibility, and to minimize delays during the anticipated five-year project.

Unforeseen circumstances, such as floods or power emergencies, could prompt LCRA to change or cancel the scheduled drawdowns if necessary to pass water through the Highland Lakes and protect public safety. Equipment and tools should not be left in the lakebed overnight and should be removed from the shoreline when not in use.

LCRA last lowered Lake LBJ in 2008, Lake Marble Falls in 2009, and lakes Inks and Austin in 2011. No drawdowns occurred in 2012-2016 because of the drought.

About LCRA

The Lower Colorado River Authority serves customers and communities throughout Texas by managing the lower Colorado River; generating and transmitting electric power; ensuring a clean, reliable water supply; and offering access to nature at more than 40 parks, recreation areas and river access sites along the Texas Colorado River, from the Hill Country to the Gulf Coast. LCRA and its employees are committed to enhancing the lives of Texans through water stewardship, energy and community services. LCRA was created by the Texas Legislature in 1934.

Twelve Top Travel Tips When Traveling with Your Pet



Traveling with your pet can be fun and rewarding – especially when you're prepared. In addition to the pet travel "basics" (safely restraining your pet, allowing adequate time for potty breaks, bringing comforting items from home, and so on), several additional simple practices can help make every trip easier and more pleasant for both you and your pet.

1. Schedule a veterinarian visit to insure overall health and current vaccinations. Ask for a health certificate and vaccination records, especially if you're traveling out of state.

2. Make sure your pet's identification tags are up-to-date and legible. Also, be sure his rabies tag and vaccinations are current.

3. Include your destination address and/or phone number on your pet's tags and cage/crate (if applicable).

4. Remember to pack water to prevent dehydration. To help insure convenient feedings bring along a collapsible food bowl.

5. Pack all medications and supplements to avoid missed doses.

6. Pack a first aid kit to insure readiness in the event of an injury or medical emergency.

7. Exercise your pet prior to departure. A tired pet is typically much more amenable to travel. Also, bring a lead or harness to allow exercise during pit stops.

8. Feed your pet at least four hours prior to departure to prevent car sickness. If the trip is long, feed a smaller amount that normal at least two hours before you leave.

9. Use a travel remedy, if necessary. If your pet is extremely anxious about travel, try a soothing non-prescription calming product.

10. Trim toenails to prevent snags and injury, especially if your pet will travel in a cage or crate.

11. Cover your car seats to keep them clean and free of hair shed on your trip.

12. Know your travel rules and restrictions, especially if you will travel on an airplane.

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