

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 2
FEBRUARY 2017

RANCH RECORD

Official Newsletter of The Steiner Ranch HOA

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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

STAFF

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Compliance Coordinator

Michael Russell michael@steinerranchhoa.org

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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
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>

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

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UPCOMING STEINER RANCH EVENTS

- 2/18 Family Sweetheart Tea**
- 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**
- 7/3 Decorate Your Ride**
- 7/4 Independence Day Celebration**
- 8/19 Concert In The Park**
- 8/5 Movies In The Park**
- 9/16 Fall Community Garage Sale**
- 10/5 New Homeowner Social**
- 10/6 Scrap A Thon**
- 10/15 Pumpkin Patch**
- 10/29 Trunk Or Treat**
- 11/23 Steiner Ranch Turkey Trot**
- 12/2 Holiday Shopping Event**
- 12/9 Breakfast With Santa**

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

Events are tentative & subject to change or cancel at any time. Events are planned by the Steiner Ranch Events Planning Committee, and are for Steiner Ranch residents in good standing with the association, and their guests only. Final approval to participate in any Steiner Ranch program or event is dependent upon HOA approval. For more information, please contact Desirre Ghebremicael at: desirre@steinerranchhoa.org

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

This month's cover photo was taken at John Simpson Park and features one of the many oak trees there. Please remember that pruning or trimming of oak trees should be avoided from February through June.

Oak wilt is a destructive tree disease which kills oak trees at an exponential rate. Please familiarize yourselves with steps you can take to prevent the spread of oak wilt infection.

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.

GO GREEN
GO PAPERLESS



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THE RANCH REPORT

Steiner Ranch Master Association (SRMA) and Steiner Ranch Residential Association (SRROA) board elections will take place in a couple of months. For residents' new to Steiner Ranch, there are two separate homeowner associations in the neighborhood, and five condominium associations, each with their own board of directors. The SRROA was the first association in Steiner Ranch, and was incorporated in April of 1988. Hancock Hill, Plateau, Mesa North, Rocky Ridge, Chaparral, The Valley at Eastridge, and The Summit at Eastridge comprise the SRROA. In August of 1997 the SRMA was incorporated, and as new neighborhoods in Steiner Ranch were constructed, those homes were added to the SRMA association. Condominium associations, (Fairways, Lakeview, The View, The Casitas, and Beverly Ridge Villas) have their own associations and are part of the SRMA. As such, all Steiner Ranch condominium associations pay assessments to the SRMA to help fund the maintenance of common SRMA amenities, landscaping, and management.

To add to the complexity of the Steiner Ranch Community, there is also a Steiner Ranch commercial association. Separate from the homeowner associations, members of the commercial association do not have access to community amenities, however they do pay an assessment to the SRMA.

The Steiner Ranch community associations have much to manage and your help is needed. Please consider volunteering on one of the many committees and association boards in which you live. Steiner Ranch homeowners own a part of the assets of the associations to which they belong. As such, board members, not association management, dictate discussions on what happens in Steiner Ranch.

Spring of 2016 marked the first time the SRMA board was comprised of only Steiner Ranch homeowners. Prior to that, the developer participated on the SRMA board of directors. With transition from the developer complete, this year will mark another first for the new SRMA board that will be seated in April. Please see the article in this issue regarding specific SRMA and SRROA election needs.

I encourage homeowners to take the opportunity to volunteer to lead Steiner Ranch into the future. Thank you to all committee and board members who currently serve. Your time, service and support are important and appreciated.

Randy Schmaltz

Executive Director

Steiner Ranch Home Owners' Association

Message from the SRMA Board of Directors "Transition" is complete!

Transition has been an ongoing activity between the Declarant (Taylor Morrison) and the Steiner Ranch Master Association (SRMA) since 2014. The final transition documents were signed by both parties on December 22, 2016. What does this mean for SRMA residents? The primary result is the residents will be responsible for running their own Association.

Transition, in the simplest of terms, describes the process by which the control/responsibilities of the governing board of the community association are transferred from the Declarant to the residents. It is a multi-stage process with many steps. In 2014, the SRMA Board of Directors (BOD) established a Transition Committee to advise it of the important items to be accomplished before and during transition. The BOD engaged legal counsel in January, 2015 to support its efforts.

Most of the important results of the transition are listed below:

1. The control/responsibility of the governing BOD is now in the hands of the residents.
2. Prior to transition completion, there were many SRMA common areas and amenities that were still in the Declarant's name. Most are now recorded in the SRMA's name.
3. The SRMA is the new owner of the Lake Club. Prior to transition, the Declarant owned the property and leased it to the SRMA.
4. The SRMA Bylaws govern the BOD and how the SRMA should be run on a day-to-day basis. The Bylaws were amended and restated to a) comply with State Law, b) allow each major part (now called Districts 1-5) of the SRMA to elect a member of the BOD and c) specify how the Board operates.
5. The SRMA has one major Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions. Over the years of community development, there

have been 12 Amendments to these Declarations. During Transition, the SRMA negotiated the 13th Amendment which primarily removes the Declarant from all properties and areas within the SRMA that have been built or are no longer needed by the Declarant. Declarant's control is now limited to certain areas they are still developing. The SRMA also established an Architectural Control Committee which is governed solely by the Association and established certain leasing restrictions within the community.

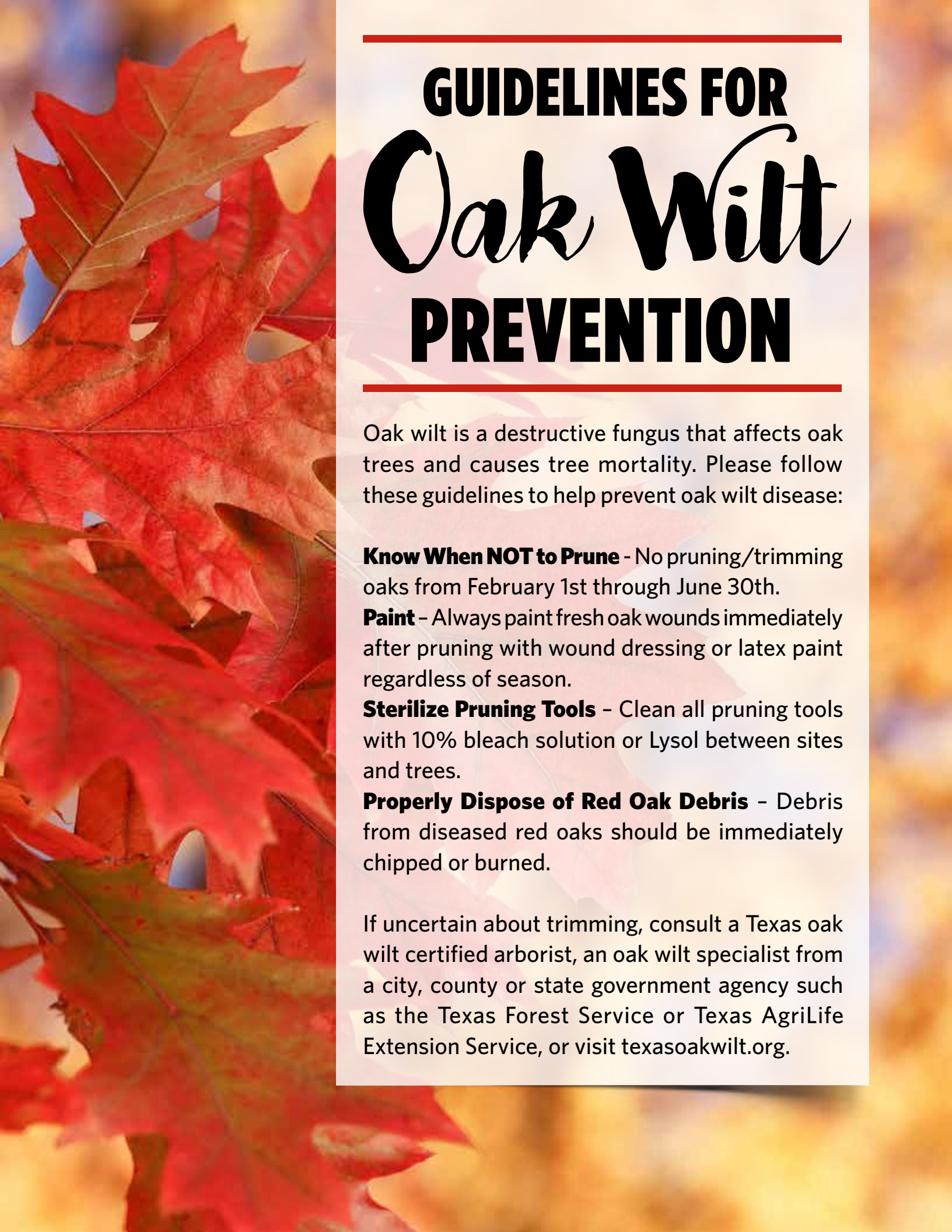
6. The Master Declaration and 12 amendments have caused confusion for homeowners over the years. The Declarant will now combine all of these documents into one amended and restated Master Declaration. This will make it much easier for all of us to understand these Declarations.

7. The Declarant made a substantial cash payment to the SRMA to help with road repairs. In addition, all warranties for road work conducted by Declarant over the past few years have been transferred to the SRMA.

8. The SRMA now has rights to use the name and logo for the Community.

9. The SRMA granted a general release of liability (with certain exceptions) to the Declarant.

We are pleased with this final negotiation. Numerous individuals participated in the transition process over the past 2-3 years including Dottie Thoms, Janine Farnum, Griselda Reyes, Dick Clark, Tara Holleran, Alex Brooks, Doug Messer, Naren Chilukuri, Aden Allen, Randy Schmaltz, Bill Menzies and our attorneys, Marc Markel and Clint Brown. Many thanks to all who contributed their time and effort to reach this important milestone. *Bill Menzies, SRMA President*



GUIDELINES FOR *Oak Wilt* PREVENTION

Oak wilt is a destructive fungus that affects oak trees and causes tree mortality. Please follow these guidelines to help prevent oak wilt disease:

Know When NOT to Prune - No pruning/trimming oaks from February 1st through June 30th.

Paint - Always paint fresh oak wounds immediately after pruning with wound dressing or latex paint regardless of season.

Sterilize Pruning Tools - Clean all pruning tools with 10% bleach solution or Lysol between sites and trees.

Properly Dispose of Red Oak Debris - Debris from diseased red oaks should be immediately chipped or burned.

If uncertain about trimming, consult 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.

From the Association Office

2017 SRMA & SRROA Annual Meetings & Elections

The Steiner Ranch Master Association (SRMA) and The Steiner Ranch Residential Owners' Association (SRROA) will hold their annual meetings and elections this April.

April SRMA Election

The SRMA will be electing members for District 1, District 4, District 5, & 1 At Large seat.

If you are an SRMA homeowner in District 1, 4 or 5 and wish to be considered as a candidate, please email Mack Taylor at mack@steinerranchhoa.org for more information.

Any SRMA homeowner from any district may be considered for the At Large seat. If you wish to be considered as a candidate for this position, please email Mack Taylor at mack@steinerranchhoa.org.

***The District seats are intended to guarantee participation throughout the SRMA community. Once you are on the board you no longer only represent the district, but the community as a whole.

SRMA Neighborhoods/Voting Districts

District 1 – Beverly Ridge, The Casitas, The Fairways, Lakeview, UT Golf Community, The View

District 2 – Bellagio Estates, The Headlands, Longhorn Canyon, Majestic Oaks, The Estates at Westridge, The Hills at Westridge

District 3 – Canyon Glen, Parkside, River Heights Grove, River Heights Overlook, Shire Ridge, Towne Hollow

District 4 – Lakewood Hills, Las Brisas, Summer Vista, Savannah Point, Rio Mesa, Savannah

District 5 – Belcara, The Bluffs, Emerald Ridge, The Grove, Mediterra, Monterey, Palisades, Santaluz, Sierra Vista, Tierra Grande

April SRROA Election

The SRROA will be electing 3 members this election.

SRROA homeowners who wish to be considered as candidates should email Mack Taylor at mack@steinerranchhoa.org for more information.

SRROA neighborhoods include: Chaparral, The Summit at Eastridge, The Valley at Eastridge, Hancock Hill, Mesa North, Plateau, Rocky Ridge

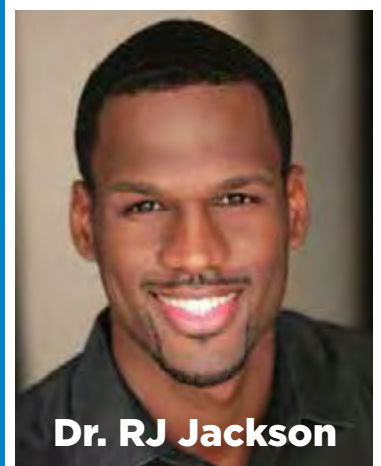
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Steiner Ranch Board Meetings

Residents are encouraged and invited to attend monthly Steiner Ranch board meetings, and may address board members during the resident comments portion of the meetings. See the February and March 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 email addresses on file with the HOA office and are posted to the HOA website.

HOA Semi-Annual Assessments Past Due As Of 1/31/17

Semi-annual assessments were mailed in December to Steiner Ranch homeowners.

Payments received after January 31, 2017 are subject to late fees.

Resident access to pools, facility rental, association programs, and events may be terminated should homeowner association account become delinquent.

Should you have questions about assessments, please contact the HOA office.

Weed Alert! Weed Alert! Weed Alert! Weed Alert!



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✓ Organics and botanicals available for surface insect control, included.	Yes	No
✓ Visible Fire Ant mound treatments, with every service.	Yes	No
✓ Organic bio-stimulants with humic acid for healthier soil.	Yes	No
✓ Noticeable Improvement or service is Free*	Yes	No
✓ Mid-Summer insect control. (Spiders, Scorpions, Roaches, etc...)	Yes	No
✓ Dallisgrass treatment at no extra charge.	Yes	No
✓ Weed Treatments for both broadleaf and grassy weeds.	Yes	Yes
✓ Micro-nutrients and sulfur applied on an ongoing basis.	Yes	No
✓ Always use the least toxic approach to get the job done.	Yes	No
✓ Not a franchise, locally owned by the Naiser family since 1989.	Yes	No

*See Website for details.

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- ✓ Organic bio-stimulants with humic acid for healthier soil.
- ✓ Noticeable Improvement or service is Free*
- ✓ Mid-Summer insect control. (Spiders, Scorpions, Roaches, etc...)
- ✓ Dallisgrass treatment at no extra charge.
- ✓ Weed Treatments for both broadleaf and grassy weeds.
- ✓ Micro-nutrients and sulfur applied on an ongoing basis.
- ✓ Always use the least toxic approach to get the job done.
- ✓ Not a franchise, locally owned by the Naiser family since 1989.

From the Association Office

REMINDER

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.

Association Incurs Costs To Dispose Of Christmas Trees & Holiday Décor

The Steiner Ranch HOA incurred just under \$900 in costs to dispose of Christmas trees left at the Steiner Ranch WCID water treatment plant last month, as well as labor to clean up holiday décor from community trees. Unfortunately, all residents cover these costs as money used to pay for disposal and clean-up comes from resident assessment fees.

Despite the HOA's communication to homeowners about proper Christmas tree disposal and community tree clean up (email blasts, November & December Ranch Record articles, HOA website posts, posted notice at the Steiner Ranch WCID driveway) approximately 75 Christmas trees were left at the WCID water treatment plant and many decorated trees remained for the association to clean up.

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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!

Tips For Dealing With Solicitors

The Steiner Ranch Homeowner's Association has received recent complaints about solicitors in the neighborhood. Although there is a No Soliciting sign posted at the front of Steiner Ranch, Travis County roads and sidewalks are legally open to the public, and therefore enforcement is difficult. This does not pertain to Steiner Ranch gated communities as those roads and sidewalks are private. Regardless of whether your property is in a gated community, no person is legally allowed to be on any homeowner's property unless they have permission. Residents are not obligated to open their door and not doing so sends a strong message to solicitors. In time, if enough residents follow this tip, organizations may realize that soliciting in Steiner Ranch is not viable.

The Travis County Sheriff's Office offers the following advice:

- For your safety, never open your door to someone you do not know.
- You may consider telling the individual (through a closed door) that you do not open your door for solicitors.
- Should a solicitor, or someone posing as a solicitor, knock on your door - make noise, be visible, do something to let that individual know someone is home. Burglars often case homes to determine if a home is vacant.
- If someone is on your property and you feel threatened in any way, call 911.



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Mother & Son

S W E E T N E S S



Photography credit Emily Michelle Photography.

Limo rides, magic show, dinner and dancing – all were enjoyed at January's Steiner Ranch Mother Son event, graciously organized and hosted by the HOA Events Planning Committee. Special thanks to the following Events Planning Committee members: Sarah Doolittle, Amie Harris, Elizabeth Carrero, Kristi Lee-Nordin and Steiner Ranch HOA Lifestyle Coordinator, Desirree Ghebremicael.



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Family Sweetheart Tea Event

Make plans to attend the Steiner Ranch HOA's first Family Sweetheart Tea, brought to you by the Events Planning Committee! Featuring performance by Joe McDermott and more!

WHEN:

Saturday, February 18th, 2017 from 10AM to 12PM

WHERE:

Towne Square Community Center

TICKETS:

Visit the Steiner Ranch HOA events Facebook page for link to tickets

Tea includes iced tea, lemonade, seasonal fresh fruits, petite tea finger sandwiches, cookies, mini cupcakes and cake pops, served in a delightful atmosphere.

There will be games, crafts, AND...Joe McDermott will be at the event to perform! Tickets are on sale now through February 11th, 2017 or until the first 80 tickets are sold. No refunds will be given after February 1st, 2017.

Events are tentative & subject to change or cancel at any time. Events are planned by the Steiner Ranch Events Planning Committee, and are for Steiner Ranch residents in good standing with the association, and their guests only. Final approval to participate in any Steiner Ranch program or event is dependent upon HOA approval. For more information, please contact Desirre Ghebremicael at:

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HOLD THE DATE FOR CAMPING ON THE RANCH MARCH 11TH

Hold the date and register to start Spring Break with a staycation here in the neighborhood with our popular Camping On The Ranch! The Steiner Ranch HOA Events Planning Committee is hosting the family friendly event, just minutes from home but an adventure away.

When: Saturday March 11th starting at 5:00pm

Where: Towne Square Community Fields

The entire family is invited. Pull out your tents and sleeping bags, pack food and beverages and bring a game or two, or perhaps your story telling skills. No activities are scheduled, just a great evening outdoors.

Cups & Cones will be onsite Sunday morning selling kolaches and/or breakfast tacos and the HOA will be giving away doughnuts, hot chocolate, and coffee.

Registration for this event is required—visit the Steiner Ranch events facebook page for registration link.



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

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Tap/Ballet
Gymnastics
Tennis
Soccer
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Music
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ADULT PROGRAMS

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For questions or more information,
please contact :

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

FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 8:15am – Tai Chi (TSCC) 1:30pm – Writer's Group (Cups & Cones) 6:00pm – Facilities CMTE Mtg (TSCC)	2 8:15am – Tai Chi (TSCC)	3 8:15am – Tai Chi (TSCC) 9:30am – Run Lab (JS Park)	4 8:30am – SRC Ride (Cups & Cones)
5 8:30am – SRC Ride (Cups & Cones) 	6 8:15am – Tai Chi (TSCC) 6:30pm – Adult Yoga (TSCC)	7 8:15am – Tai Chi (TSCC) 6:30pm – Trails CMTE Mtg (BMCC) 8:30pm – Aikido (BMCC)	8 8:15am – Tai Chi (TSCC) 6:00pm – Fairways Board Mtg (TSCC) 7:00pm – Steiner Camera Club (BMCC)	9 8:15am – Tai Chi (TSCC) 6:00pm – Long Range Planning CMTE Mtg (BMCC)	10 8:15am – Tai Chi (TSCC) 9:30am – Run Lab (JS Park)	11 8:30am – SRC Ride (Cups & Cones)
12 8:30am – SRC Ride (Cups & Cones)	13 8:15am – Tai Chi (TSCC) 6:30pm – Adult Yoga (TSCC)	Valentine's Day 14 8:15am – Tai Chi (TSCC) 9:00am – Event Planning CMTE Mtg (Cups & Cones) 5:30pm – UT Golf CMTE Mtg (UT Golf Club) 7:00pm – SRNA Mtg (TSCC) 8:30pm – Aikido (BMCC)	15 8:15am – Tai Chi (TSCC) 1:30pm – Writer's Group (Cups & Cones) 7:00pm – Free Health Workshop (TSCC)	16 8:15am – Tai Chi (TSCC)	17 8:15am – Tai Chi (TSCC) 9:30am – Run Lab (JS Park)	18 8:30am – SRC Ride (Cups & Cones) Family Sweetheart Tea Tickets Required See Pg 12 for details
19 8:30am – SRC Ride (Cups & Cones) 	Presidents' Day 20 8:15am – Tai Chi (TSCC) 10:00am – Writer's Group (Cups & Cones) 6:30pm – Adult Yoga (TSCC)	21 8:15am – Tai Chi (TSCC) 8:30pm – Aikido (BMCC)	22 8:15am – Tai Chi	23 8:15am – Tai Chi 6:00pm – SRROA Board Mtg (TSCC)	24 8:15am – Tai Chi (TSCC) 9:30am – Run Lab (JS Park)	25 8:30am – SRC Ride (Cups & Cones)
26 8:30am – SRC Ride (Cups & Cones)	27 8:15am – Tai Chi (TSCC) 6:30pm – Adult Yoga (TSCC)	28 8:15am – Tai Chi (TSCC) 6:00pm – SRMA Board Mtg (TSCC) 8:30pm – Aikido (BMCC)				

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MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 8:15am – Tai Chi (TSCC) 1:30pm – Writer's Group (Cups & Cones) 6:00pm – Facilities CMTE Mtg (TSCC)	2 8:15am – Tai Chi (TSCC)	3 8:15am – Tai Chi (TSCC) 9:30am – Run Lab (JS Park)	4 8:30am – SRC Ride (Cups & Cones)
5  8:30am – SRC Ride (Cups & Cones)	6 8:15am – Tai Chi (TSCC) 6:30pm – Adult Yoga (TSCC)	7 8:15am – Tai Chi (TSCC) 6:30pm – Trails CMTE Mtg (BMCC) 8:30pm – Aikido (BMCC)	8 8:15am – Tai Chi (TSCC) 6:00pm – Fairways Board Mtg (TSCC) 7:00pm – Steiner Camera Club (BMCC)	9 8:15am – Tai Chi (TSCC) 6:00pm – Long Range Planning CMTE Mtg (BMCC)	10 8:15am – Tai Chi (TSCC) 9:30am – Run Lab (JS Park)	11 8:30am – SRC Ride (Cups & Cones) Camping on The Ranch (TS Fields)
12 8:30am – SRC Ride (Cups & Cones)	13 8:15am – Tai Chi (TSCC) 6:30pm – Adult Yoga (TSCC)	14 8:15am – Tai Chi (TSCC) 9:00am – Event Planning CMTE Mtg (Cups & Cones) 7:00pm – SRNA Mtg (TSCC) 5:30pm – UT Golf CMTE Mtg (UT Golf Club) 8:30pm – Aikido (BMCC)	15 8:15am – Tai Chi (TSCC)	16 8:15am – Tai Chi (TSCC)	17 St. Patrick's Day 8:15am – Tai Chi (TSCC) 9:30am – Run Lab (JS Park)	18 8:30am – SRC Ride (Cups & Cones)
19  8:30am – SRC Ride (Cups & Cones)	20 8:15am – Tai Chi (TSCC) 6:30pm – Adult Yoga (TSCC)	21 8:15am – Tai Chi (TSCC) 8:30pm – Aikido (BMCC)	22 8:15am – Tai Chi	23 8:15am – Tai Chi	24 8:15am – Tai Chi (TSCC) 9:30am – Run Lab (JS Park)	25 8:30am – SRC Ride (Cups & Cones)
26 8:30am – SRC Ride (Cups & Cones)	27 8:15am – Tai Chi (TSCC) 6:30pm – Adult Yoga (TSCC)	28 8:15am – Tai Chi (TSCC) 6:00pm – SRMA Board Mtg (TSCC) 8:30pm – Aikido (BMCC)	29 8:15am – Tai Chi	30 8:15am – Tai Chi 6:00pm – SRROA Board Mtg (TSCC)	31 8:15am – Tai Chi (TSCC) 9:30am – Run Lab (JS Park) Scrap A Thon (TSCC) See HOA Events FB page or website to register.	

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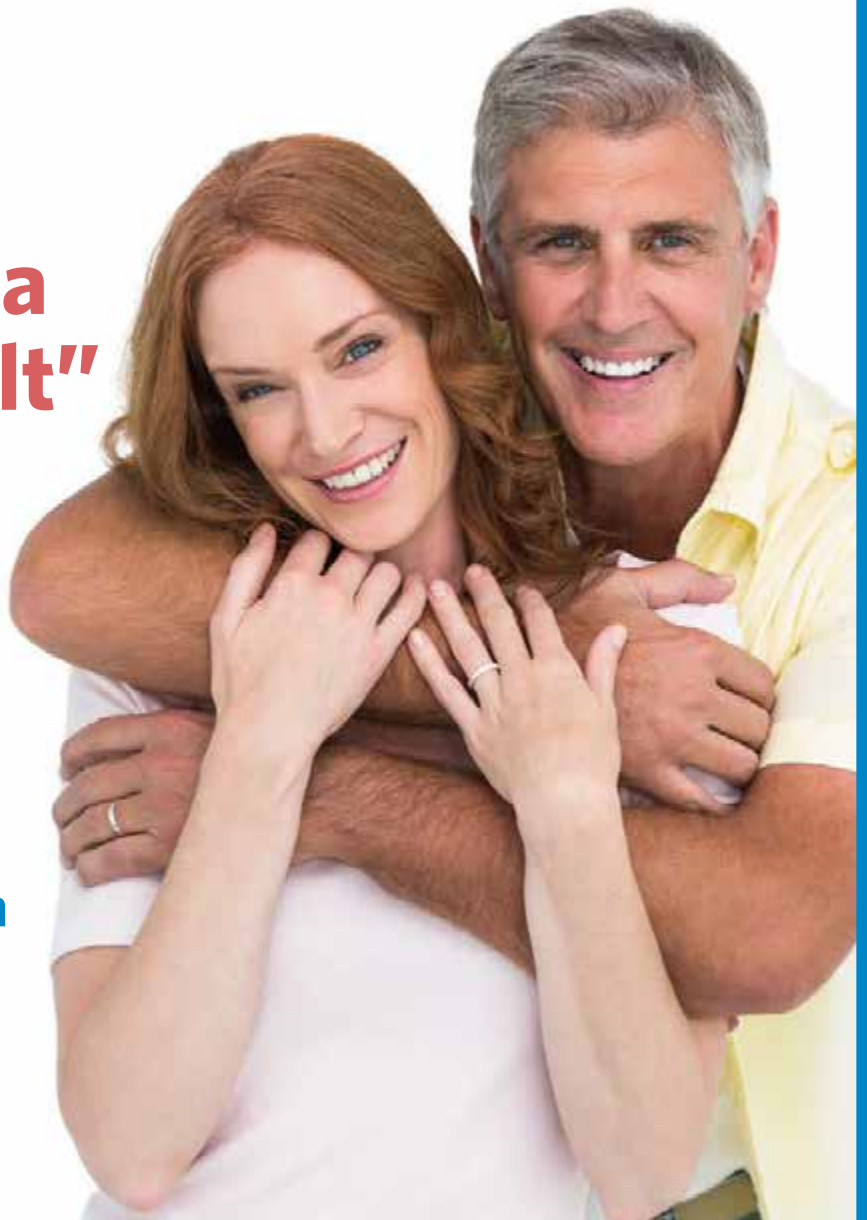
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Free Activities For Residents

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 8:30am

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

***Offered activities are for adults only**



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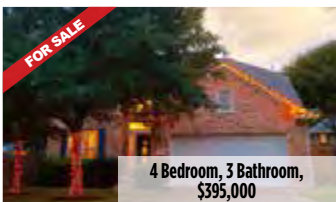
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Tip of the Month

Alaska is a popular destination for Texas summer travelers. Please contact me to discuss land or cruise vacations.



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Steiner Activities & Events

FREE HEART HEALTH WORKSHOP

February is heart health month! To educate residents about risk factors that cause cardiovascular disease, please join Steiner Ranch resident and physician, Dr. Benjamin Rosin, for this important workshop.

February 15th @ 7:00pm,

Towne Square Community Center:

risk factors that cause cardiovascular disease & changes to make for better cardiovascular health.

Field Lottery

REGISTRATION DUE BY FEBRUARY 10TH

Any Steiner Ranch neighborhood team wishing to use John Simpson, Bella Mar or Towne Square fields this spring must participate in the 2017 HOA spring field lottery. Here's what you need to know:

1. Register your team by sending an email to desirre@steinerranchhoa.org.

2. Registration must be received by 5:00pm on Friday, February 10th with the following information:

- Coaches name
- Home Address
- Phone number
- Organization (CC United, Town & Country, etc.)
- Sport (soccer, baseball, etc.)
- Players age group
- 1st, 2nd & 3rd choice of field, day & time. See below for available fields.

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

(Continued on Page 23)

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(Continued from Page 22)

4. Emails containing field assignment(s) will be sent to coaches no later than Monday, February 20th. Please note, once field and time have been assigned, change requests may not be made until the fall field lottery.

Available Fields:

- Towne Square
- Bella Mar (baseball side or tennis court side)
- John Simpson Park
- Westridge (off of Flat Top Ranch Road)

Times To Be Assigned:

- One hour each week beginning at 4:00pm until Sunset (Daylight Savings Time begins March 13th)

Days To Be Assigned:

- Monday – Friday only

For more information, please contact Desirre Ghebremicael at desirre@steinerranchhoa.org.

*Note: If you are with Neighborhood Sports (soccer or flag football), you do not need to register your team for the spring field lottery as representatives from that organization will be attending the lottery on your behalf.

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 8:30 AM. 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. There is no designated sweeper for these rides. 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).

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 Pinthouse Electric Jellyfish 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 8:30 AM 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

(Continued on Page 24)

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TEXAS  **EXES** 

Steiner Activities & Events

(Continued from Page 23)

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 www.steinerranchcycling.com to check out what is going on in the Steiner Ranch cycling community.

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

Steiner Ranch Writer's Group

Residents welcome! Please bring your laptop or notebook to Cups & Cones for any one or all of our upcoming sessions:

Upcoming Dates & Times:

Wednesday, February 1 – 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Wednesday, February 15 – 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Monday, February 20 – 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, March 1 – 1:30-2:30 p.m.

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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.



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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!

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Prevent Oak Wilt – Don't Prune Oaks Feb 1st – June 30th

Submitted by Johanna Arendt, Community Liason, Travis County Transportation & Natural Resources

Oak wilt has claimed the lives of thousands of trees in Central Texas and beyond. Majestic oaks play a large role in this region's beauty and identity; it would be hard to imagine the Hill Country without them. They are an iconic part of many local businesses and neighborhoods, providing shade, beauty, and higher property values. Following simple preventive measures can go a long way towards stopping the spread of this destructive disease.

From February through June, avoid all pruning or cutting of oaks – this is the high season for oak wilt transmission. Any wounds that occur from construction, vehicles, wind, etc., should be painted as soon as they're discovered – ideally within ½ hour of being cut – with commercial tree wound dressing or latex paint. That includes freshly cut stumps and surface roots.

Pruning is least risky during the coldest winter days and extended hot periods in mid to late summer. Any time you prune though, the Texas Forest Service recommends painting all wounds and sanitizing pruning equipment between trees using denatured methyl alcohol (shellac thinner), isopropyl alcohol, or a general purpose household disinfectant such as Lysol, Listerine or Pine-Sol. Household bleach is not recommended.

Red oaks, including Spanish (now Buckley) oak, Shumard oak and blackjack oak, are very susceptible to oak wilt and play a key role in the disease's transmission. Oak wilt is caused by the fungus *Ceratocystis fagacearum*, which spreads its spores from "fungal mats" that form under the tree's bark. These mats have a sweet, fruity smell that attracts insects, especially the sap-sucking nitidulid beetle. After feeding and breeding on the fungal mats, these beetles fly away covered in fungal spores. As they visit other oaks, they spread the fungus through open wounds in the bark. The nitidulid beetle is only about the size of a pinhead, but is capable of flying as far as a mile away. While red oaks are the most susceptible to oak wilt, all oaks can become infected.

Fungal mats usually form on standing trees, but can also develop on logs, stumps and fresh firewood cut from infected oaks. Make sure to remove and either burn or bury infected oaks to prevent mats from forming, and never store unseasoned wood from infected trees near healthy oaks.

The second way oak wilt can be transmitted is through the roots. Live oaks tend to grow together in dense mottes with interconnected roots, so the fungus can be transmitted easily among them. Oak wilt is occasionally transmitted through red oak roots as well, but the movement is slower and occurs over shorter distances than with live oaks. Root transmission can be prevented by cutting trenches four feet deep between infected and healthy trees, but by far the best option is to prevent infection in the first place.

So make sure NOT to prune oaks between February 1 and July 1, and ALWAYS paint wounds on oaks no matter what time of year it is. For more information on preventing and treating oak wilt, please visit

texasoakwilt.org, the website of The Oak Wilt Information Partnership, a project of the Texas A&M Forest Service, the Forest Health Protection branch of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service and the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin.



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Freeze Protection Tips

Submitted by WCID 17

With freezing weather being a possibility this time of year, WCID 17 is reminding customers to protect their property and prevent property damage from uncontrolled water loss due to frozen or broken water pipes by following these tips.

Before Freezing Weather

* Wrap all exposed pipes located outside or in unheated areas of the home.

* Remove garden hoses from outside faucets.

* Cover vents around the foundation of your home.

* Know where your property owner's cut-off valve is located and how to use it. The valve is located adjacent to the water meter box under a 6" metal lid.

In Sub-Freezing Weather

* Drip outside faucets 24 hours a day - 5 drops per minute. This is not necessary unless temperatures are expected to be 28 degrees or below for at least 4 hours. (Be sure to turn off the faucets after the threat of freezing weather.)

* Open cabinet doors under sinks adjacent to outside walls.

* In unheated garages, shut off water to washing machines.

* In sustained sub-freezing weather, let water drip slowly from inside faucets.

* Take extra precautions to protect pipes that have frozen in the past.

If You Are Not Going To Be Home

* Shut water off at the property owner's cut-off valve.

* Drain all outside water faucets if your house will be unoccupied for several days.

* Or, leave home heating system on at a low setting.

* Open cabinet doors under sinks adjacent to outside walls.

WCID 17 encourages all residents to turn off and drain outside irrigation systems during the winter months to help conserve water.

February Is American Heart Month

Since 1963, February has been celebrated as American Heart Month to encourage Americans to join the battle against heart disease. A Texas factoid: Lyndon Baines Johnson is the president who declared February as "American Heart Month" some 53 years ago. A heart attack survivor himself, Johnson valued educating Americans about heart disease and played a significant role in developing an era of fundraising, education and awareness around cardiovascular disease. Since 2004, February has also been the month dedicated to celebrating the American Heart Association's Go Red For Women campaign with the message that heart disease is a disease that affects not just men, but women as well.

Heart disease is the leading cause of death for men and women in the United States with 1 in 4 deaths caused by the disease. The good news is that heart disease can often be prevented and managed by making healthy lifestyle choices and by managing health conditions.

For more information about heart health visit the following websites:

www.theheartfoundation.org or www.heart.org

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YOGA INSTRUCTION AT HOME: – Practice yoga at HOME individually or with family and friends. Increase flexibility and strength while reducing stress. Help rehab injuries. Certified yoga instructor (ERYT-500) with 20 years experience. References available. Contact Paula at paulasyoga@gmail.com or (512) 947-9530

Business classifieds (offering a service or product line for profit) are \$75, limit 40 words, please Peel, Inc. Sales Office at 512-263-9181 or advertising@PEELinc.com.

Help Keep Fire Hydrants & Water Meters Clear

Submitted by WCID 17

CLEAR FIRE HYDRANTS AND METERS ARE IMPORTANT FOR YOUR SAFETY AND OURS



Are the fire hydrants and water meters on or near your property visible and accessible? Ensuring that fire hydrants and water meters are in good working condition are two priorities for the District. WCID 17 has to be able to easily read your meters, and if the fire department needs to use a fire hydrant, every second counts.

Every now and then, our employees find hydrants and water meters that are hidden by surrounding bushes or overgrown shrubs. If you have fire hydrants or water meters on or near your property, WCID 17 asks you to maintain the proper clearance. Water meters

must be clear six feet (6') above the meter box, two feet (2') to each side, and have "free and clear" access, which means our technicians can easily access the meter. Fire hydrants must be visible from the street. All obstructions to a fire hydrant must be trimmed or removed, maintaining three feet (3') behind and five feet (5') to each side. Ground clearance of hydrant ports must be 18 inches (18") to the ground. Never paint a hydrant! Fire hydrants are color coded in accordance with the class of fire flow the hydrant provides for the fire department to quickly identify.

Water Meters Must:

- Be clear six feet above the meter box
- Have two feet of clearance to each side
- Have "free and clear" access, which means our technicians can easily access the meter

Fire Hydrants Must:

- Be visible from the street
- Have a three foot clearance radius all the way around
- Have ground clearance of hydrant ports of 18-inches
- Have all obstructions trimmed or removed
- Never be painted by anyone except WCID 17 staff

Customers are responsible for ensuring safe and efficient access to the meter and shutoff valve at all times and by connection to the service system, the user consents to the right of WCID 17 employees or agents to remove obstructions as necessary to maintain access to the meter. Since hydrant and meter accessibility and visibility is of great importance, WCID 17 asks you to maintain the proper clearance. We know most homeowner's prefer to do landscape adjustments themselves, but if there are still obstructions after proper notification is given, the District must take corrective action.

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