

VOLUME 12 ISSUE 12 DECEMBER 2018

Happy Holidays



Holiday blessings to you and yours from all of us at Avalar!



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<u>Since 2006</u>



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R MLS

2 Ranch Record - December 2018

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 - Friday (Closed from 12-1:00pm) 9:00am - 5:00pm
Saturday & SundayCLOSED

STAFF

General Manager Melinda Schoch melinda.schoch@grandmanors.com

Lifestyle and Communication Manager Desirre Ghebremicael....... desirre.ghebremicael@grandmanors.com

Operations Manager

Sarah Dunlap.....sarah.dunlap@grandmanors.com

Architectural and Community Standards Coordinator

Samantha Dominguez	.steiner@ciramail.com
Front Desk Coordinator	
Cami Porter	. steiner@ciramail.com

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COMPLIANCE, ARCHITECTURAL

Compliance/ACC Coordinator...... acc@steinerranchhoa.org

SRMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Email the SRMA BOD board@steinerranchhoa.org



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

911		
512-974-0845		
Travis County ESD No.6/Lake Travis Fire Rescue		
512-266-2533		
512-974-2000		

STEINER RANCH CONTACTS

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

SCHOOLS

Leander ISD	
Vandegrift High School	
Canyon Ridge Middle School	
Laura Welch Bush Elementary	
Steiner Ranch Elementary	
River Ridge Elementary	

UTILITIES

Travis County WCID # 17	512-266-1111
City of Austin Electric	
Texas Gas Service	
Custom Service	1-800-700-2443
Emergencies	
Call Before You Dig	
AT&T	
New Service	1-800-464-7928
Repair	1-800-246-8464
Billing	
Time Warner Cable	
Customer Service	
Repairs	
TDS (Trash & Recycle)	
Austin/Travis County Hazardous Waste	512-974-4343

OTHER NUMBERS

Lake Travis Postal Office	512-263-2458
Coyote Sightings	
Five Star Commercial Community Managemen	t
Scott Selman	@firestarcm.com
Balcones Canyonlands Preserve	
https://www.traviscountytx.gov/tnr/bccp	

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

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From the Association Office



Mark Your Calendars & Hold The Date For Your Favorite HOA Events

- 1/16 Volunteers appreciation dinner
- 1/26 Mother & Son Event
- 2/09 Father Daughter Dance
- 3/01 Scrap A Thon
- 3/09 Camping on the Ranch
- 3/09 Run the Ranch
- 4/04 New Homeowner Social
- 4/06 Community Clean Up Day
- 4/13 Spring Community Garage Sale
- 4/20 Easter Egg Hunt
- 5/18 Shred Day
- 6/07 Children Front Door Concerts
- 7/04 Decorate Your Ride / Independence Day Celebration
- 8/17 Concert In The Park
- 9/14 Fall Community Garage Sale
- 10/3 New Homeowner Social
- 10/13 Pumpkin Patch
- 10/27 Trunk Or Treat
- 11/09 Holiday Shopping Event
- 11/28 Steiner Ranch Turkey Trot
- 12/07 Breakfast With Santa

Events are tentative & subject to change or cancel at any time. Events are planned by the Steiner Ranch Event 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 or visit the Steiner Ranch HOA website at:

www.steinerranchhoa.org

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Cover Photo

Have a photo you would like to see published in the next Ranch Record? For consideration, send pictures to communications@steinerranchhoa.org no later than the 7th 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.





Monthly HOA Community Meetings

STEINER RANCH MASTER ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meets on the second Tuesday of each month at Towne Square Community Center at 6:00pm

STEINER RANCH RESIDENTIAL OWNERS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meets on the last Thursday of each month at Towne Square Community Center at 6:00pm

STEINER RANCH NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at Towne Square Community Center at 7:00pm

TRAIL COMMITTEE

Meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at Bella Mar Community Center at 6:30pm. The committee also holds monthly trail work days on the fourth Sunday of each month. Meet-up location and time varies monthly. If you are interested in lending a hand, visit the Steiner Ranch Trail Committee Facebook page for the most up to date information. You may also join their newsletter by subscribing at: https://groups. google.com/forum/#!forum/steinertrails.

LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE

Meets on 2nd Thursday of each month at Towne Square Community Center at 6:00pm.

EVENT PLANNING COMMITTEE

Meets on the second Tuesday of each month at Cups and Cones at 9:30am.

There are huge benefits to working with a Steiner Ranch Realtor!



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From the Association Office

2019 SRMA budget approved, Enhancement Funds & Resident Survey Results

Dear Residents,

2019 budget was unanimously approved by the SRMA Board on the November 5th, 2018 monthly meeting.

2019 annual assessments will remain as \$808 (same as 2018) and gated communities 2019 assessments will also remain at 2018 levels. About \$550,000 SRMA enhancement funds in 2019 along with current year surplus of another \$500,000 in enhancement funds will be invested in Community improvement / enhancement projects (pools, fields, community centers, safety/security, parks, landscape). The operational efficiencies gained through Onsite Professional Management company GrandManors, and integrated community management systems is helping our Community save significant dollars and is being funneled into the Community enhancement projects.

We have also received results from the Steiner Ranch resident survey conducted by an independent 3rd party in October 2018. About 21% of residents responded. Thank you for taking time to provide feedback.

Below are the key takeaways:

1) Services levels - satisfaction with onsite staff (% below indicate ratings of residents satisfied or higher.... also majority in this section chose to not answer the questions, ie N/A, so it skewed the results.)

- Responsiveness to issues 40%
- Helpful to residents 40%
- ACC 33%
- Community events 70%
- HOA operations & financials 34%

2) Satisfaction rating with current amenities & landscape (% below indicate ratings of residents satisfied or higher. There is some N/A % that may skew results but not much compared to section 1 above)

- Landscape 75%
- Trails 72%
- Pools 62%
- CC 66%
- Fields 50%

3) Level of interest in future amenities (somewhat to highly interested % only included here. No NA %....100% responded)

- Security cameras 75%
- Expanded Townsquare with GYM etc. 67%
- Lake Club renovation 65%
- Hired police 65%
- Sports fields 50%
- Additional heated lap pools 48%
- Dog park 47%
- Running track around Towne Square 45%

Onsite staff will take feedback on section 1) and 2) and continue

to make improvements. Survey results are directional and one of many data points board will compare with other large scale communities competitive information in Central Texas to make appropriate decisions on future amenities investments. Collective Board has the responsibility to not only meet the diverse interests (pools, fields, security, parks, community centers for events etc.) of our Community, but also protect property values, make our Community more desirable in the large scale market and ensure long term success.

Thanks again and looking forward to improving our Community in 2019 and beyond.



Regards, Naren Chilukuri SRMA Board President Cell: 512 897 7297 naren@steinerranchhoa.org board@steinerranchhoa.org



UTGCC Gate News

Submitted by Richard Clark

We wanted to update you on the new gate system for our neighborhood.

As you have noticed, we are in the process of installing our new gates. As this system upgrade is implemented, we are still working out the timing of the new gates. Our goal is to have them timed so that tailgating will be prevented, and security will be tightened. In the meantime, we ask for your patience as we work through the setup process.

We also ask each of you to slow down as you both enter and exit the neighborhood. In the past week, at least 6 motorists have been involved with damage to our brand-new gates. One commercial motorist heavily damaged the exit gates and will be responsible for total repair. The estimated time to replace these will be approximately two weeks. Motorists who damage the gates will be responsible for any costs incurred.

The tentative timeline to have all software and gate upgrades complete is by early 2019.

Thank you for being a part of our great neighborhood. UTGCC

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Holiday Decorations

As you plan your outside decor for the upcoming holidays, please observe the following Steiner Ranch rule regarding holiday decorations on the exterior of your property:

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

Have a wonderful holiday season!



Enjoy the *holidays* in a brand new home!

There's still time to find the perfect home for your holiday celebrations! I would love to represent you and answer any questions you may have.

Give me a call!





From the Association Office

Christmas and New Year Trash Pick-Up Schedule

Trash & recycling pick-up during the week of Christmas and New Year will be as follows:

If your regular trash pick-up day is Monday, then your service will remain unchanged. If your regular trash pick-up day is on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday then your pick-up day will be moved to the following day.



Christmas Tree Recycling



Texas Disposal Systems (TDS), trash provider for Steiner Ranch, will offer curbside Christmas tree pick up from December 26 – January 12. 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 of Quinlan Park Road and Logan's Way. Christmas tree recycling at this location is no longer an option.

Keep Steiner Beautiful

Clean Up Decorated Community Trees By January 1st

Creative, festive, sweet and fun decorations adorn juniper trees along Loop 360 this time of year. It's part of what makes Austin a vibrant and creative City.

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 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 materials 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!





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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. If you have family visiting over the Holiday and must park on the street, please inform the HOA as soon as possible.

- 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.



Don't Ring In 2019 With Fireworks in Steiner Ranch!

FIREWORKS & FIRECRACKERS ARE PROHIBITED

Steiner Ranch Fireworks Policy

Homeowners are reminded that fireworks within Steiner Ranch are prohibited. There are several reasons for this:

1) The use of fireworks places homes at serious risk of fire.

2) The topography and green space of Steiner Ranch is conducive to fires.

3) Federal rules regarding management of the Balcones Canyonlands (which borders Steiner Ranch) impose significant restrictions on activities that may affect wildlife therein. Serious penalties for violation can be imposed by federal officials.

4) Homeowners are entitled to the peaceful enjoyment of their property.

Should you believe a violation is occurring, please contact the Association Office, at (512) 266-7553 as soon as possible or immediately following an occurrence. Physical and/or photographic evidence is helpful in substantiating a violation.

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.

Prune Trees Before February

Residents are reminded to trim trees in need of attention before February, as the risk of oak wilt infection is greatest from February through June. For those who don't know, oak wilt is a destructive fungus affecting oak trees which causes tree mortality. Unfortunately, the fungus has been identified in Steiner Ranch.

Because the risk for oak wilt is low between July and January, now is a good time to trim trees to allow for visibility of pedestrians, traffic and traffic signs. Limbs which extend over sidewalks and roadways pose a potential hazard and should be addressed, too.

Regardless of seasonality, residents are encouraged to follow proper pruning techniques. TexasOakWilt.org recommends the following:

• Always paint fresh wounds on oaks, including pruning cuts and stumps, with wound dressing or latex paint immediately after pruning or live tree removal at all times of the year.

• Clean all pruning tools with 10% bleach solution or Lysol $^{\mbox{\tiny TM}}$ between sites and/or trees.

• Debris from diseased red oaks should be immediately chipped, burned or buried.

• Pruning should be completed before February 1 or after June 30.

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.

The Steiner Ranch Master Association and Steiner Ranch Residential Association each have Oak Wilt Policies in effect. To view each policy in its entirety, visit the HOA website and click the 'Oak Wilt Policy' tab located under the 'FAQ' drop down menu.

Steiner Activities & Events



Steiner Ranch's Breakfast with Santa Event Is Almost Sold Out – Get Your Tickets Today!

Santa and the elves will visit Steiner's Towne Square Community Center on December 8th for a morning of holiday cheer, catered breakfast, crafts, and pictures with Santa.

Three seating options will be offered: 8:00am, 9:30am and 11am. Registration is required. Get your tickets by visiting the Steiner Ranch HOA Events Facebook page or by visiting Eventbrite at the links below:

First seating:

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/breakfast-with-santa-2018-8am-to-915am-first-seating-tickets-51334650321

Second seating: SOLD OUT

Third seating:

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/breakfast-with-santa-2018-1100am-to-1215am-third-seating-tickets-51329118776

The Event Planning Committee looks forward to hosting this jovial event next month!

Ready To Spread Some Holiday Cheer?

ENTER THE STEINER RANCH HOA HOLIDAY HOUSE DECORATING CONTEST

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 Steiner Ranch 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 13th 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!

> Contest categories: Most lights Most cheerful Most unique

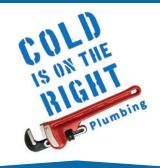


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LN: M39724



for Steiner Ranch Residents (up to \$100)

Residents Started Their Holiday Shopping at the Annual Steiner Ranch Holiday Shopping Event

Many residents got a head start on their holiday shopping last month at the annual Steiner Ranch Holiday Shopping event, organized by the HOA Event Planning Committee. Personalized jewelry, hand poured candles, Italian made clothing, African clothing and accessories, toys, handcrafted holiday cards and homemade bath products were just a few of the items featured at the event. Santa also made a visit and added some holiday cheer. Thank you to the Event Planning Committee for organizing this festive event!









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Wear your ugly Christma sweater!

Come Decorate Cookies With Us!

Saturday December 8th at 10 AM to 2 PM

COOKIE PARTY

Cups and Cones 2900 N Quinlan Park Rd, Austin, TX 78732

Wishing you a Happy Holiday Season!

Rising Stars is located at 4308 N Quinlan Park Rd, Austin, TX 78732 (512) 266-7200

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Mother Son Event Planned for January 26th, 2019!

Calling All Mothers & Sons!

Join us for an evening dedicated to moms and their boys. An evening complete with dinner, a smores bar, entertainment and a ride in a limousine. This warm-hearted event wouldn't be complete without music and dancing, too.

Moms, dress yourself and your little man up and take advantage of this special opportunity to spend one-on-one time with your little man, it is sure to be a night to remember!

For tickets: Visit the Steiner Ranch HOA events Facebook page or visit the Eventbrite link below:

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mother-son-event-2019-tickets-52452149792

On sale now, get yours NOW before the event sells out!









Photo credit: Emily Michelle Photography

Steiner Activities & Events

Hold The Date For Our Popular Father Daughter Dance! Join Us For A Magical Evening At Our Third Annual Father Daughter Royal Ball

This event promises to be a night filled with fun, laughter and dancing. Your ticket to the ball includes dinner, fancy dessert treats, along with music, dancing, a limousine ride and meet and greet with princesses. It is sure to be a night to remember!

Don't delay in purchasing tickets as space is limited and this

event typically sells out within hours.

Registration required. For Tickets, visit the Steiner Ranch HOA events Facebook page or the Eventbrite link below:

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/father-daughter-royal-ball-2019tickets-52654934326





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Winter and Spring Programs

Multiple programs are offered, please stop by the HOA to pick up a program guide or visit the Steiner Ranch HOA website at steinerranchhoa.org to view it online.

Children Programs:

Lonestar Soccer - Neighborhood Sports - Nitro Swimming -Gold Star Swimming – Sportball - Tap-N-Toe – Tennis - Towne & Country Soccer – Zumba - Music Forever Music Together – Water Polo - STEM Camp USA i.e. Robotics - IdeLab.

Adult Programs:

Camp Gladiator – Master's Swim – Tai Chi – Yoga – Zumba – Barre – Carrie Fit Fitness

For more info, contact Desirre Ghebremicael at desirre. ghebremicael@grandmanors.com

Free Activities For Residents

Take advantage of these free activities offered to Steiner residents only:

Community Yoga - Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays (depending on week) at the Towne Square Community Center at 7PM.

Tai Chi – Towne Square Community Center Monday to Friday at 8:15AM.

Yoga by Lake Austin Spa – Towne Square Community Center on Mondays at 6:30PM.

Cycling Group – Cups and Cones Saturday and Sunday mornings at 7:30AM.

Bhangra Workout – Bella Mar Community Center 2nd, 3rd and 4th Mondays of the month at 6:30PM.

Insanity/Piyo Workout – Towne Square Community Center on Fridays at 11AM.

*Offered activities are for adults only.

For more info, contact Desirre Ghebremicael at: desirre.ghebremicael@grandmanors.com



Holiday Camps for Kids



Holiday Camps

The Steiner Ranch HOA has partnered with Idea Lab to offer several camp options during the Thanksgiving and December holiday breaks. Camps will take place at Towne Square Community Center and are designed to give kids the opportunity to have fun and make the most of their holiday break!

Idea Lab Camps - ROCK YOUR GREY MATTER

Idea Lab provides camps ranging from Cooking School, Robotics, 3D Art, Engineering, and Science. Campers learn through inquisitive hands-on activities utilizing Science, Math, Critical thinking skills and a great deal of IMAGINATION! Reach out to Adam Gockley at austin@idealabkids.com to find out more or visit austinidealabkids.com to register.

Looking for that dream vacation? We specialize in: Tours, land resorts & cruise vacations

You have three travel professionals in the Steiner area, including:

Jenelle Hatch—512-382-1357 j.hatch@dreamvacations.com

Ashley Love—512-766-4568 a.love@dreamvacations.com

.....

"I am a **Steiner Area** resident. 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 call us to discuss your vacation options.

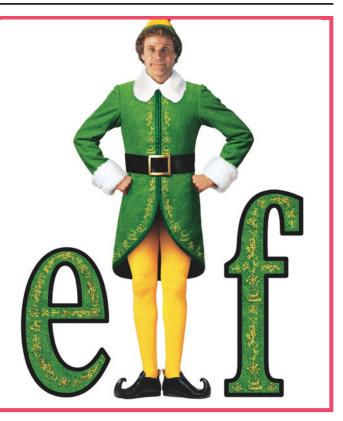


Steiner Activities & Events

Outdoor Holiday Movie Sponsored by Hill Country Bible Church

You are invited to a free showing of 'Elf' on Friday December 7th, 2018 at 7:00PM at Towne Square Park (12550 Country Trails Lane, Austin Texas, 78732).

Bring your own chairs and blankets and enjoy free popcorn and candy!





We'll help you surprise your loved one with the gift of membership!

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

To recognize volunteers who support the Steiner Ranch HOA, the Event Planning Committee will host an appreciation dinner on January 16th, 2019. Community HOA volunteers- please check your email for an invitation. Many thanks for your time, service and support!



EY PERFORMANCE

YOUNG DEART

youngatheartaustin@gmail.com

Young at Heart is an active social group open to Steiner Ranch residents ages 50+. We are purely a social organization wanting to share fun times. Joining us is a great way to make new friends, and get to know people your own age in the neighborhood. If you live in Steiner Ranch, you are invited to join us. To become a member, send your name(s), address, phone number and e-mail address to youngatheartaustin@ gmail.com.

Our most popular activities include evening Canasta as well as ladies Canasta at the UT Golf Club. In addition, we offer numerous activities to meet varied interests such as: Book Club, Euchre, Mah Jongg, Mexican Train, Bunco, Walking, Hiking, Biking, Spanish Conversation, Painting, Card Making, Ladies CLEO Luncheons (Classy Ladies Eating Out), and our popular ROMEO (Retired Old Men Eating Out). We also get together for happy hours, wine socials and dinner groups. We would love to have you join us!

Offering both 1 on 1 and small group (3-5 athletes) wide receiver development training sessions weekly throughout Austin and the surrounding areas.

Mission statement: To take what I've learned from playing at both the collegiate and professional level and bridge the gap between what's being taught at the highest level of play to those even as young as 4th grade.





Steiner Activities & Events

News from the Trails Committee

Submitted by Eric Morton



We all hope that you have been enjoying the (slightly) cooler weather to get out and enjoy our beautiful trails. There's been a lot of rain recently, and it has made some of our trails enjoyable and, well, some of our trails have sections that are basically impassable.

This is a good time to remind our mountain bikers to not ride wet trails. A couple of muddy spots is OK, but if the trail is so wet that you are constantly leaving ruts, then it is too wet to ride.

Since I'm already boring you with rules, let's get down to some other issues that we've dealt with over the last few weeks. First off, please remember that there are no motorized vehicles allowed on the trail. Last month we got a report on Next-door about a grown man and two younger children riding white/red dirt bikes on the trails. To make matters worse, it was right after the rain and many ruts were left. We want to make sure that we can continue to use these trails for all Steiner generations.

While we are at it, let's thank that magic fairy that comes through after dog owners and cleans up their waste. It's hard to believe how we would fare without this magic fairy. OK, I'm just kidding. There is no magic fairy cleaning up their waste - only collecting the plastic bags that people use to pick up the waste and then inexplicably leave out on the trail. Please guys, pick up after your dog and carry it out! Give the magic fairies a break - after all they need to spend all their magic time clipping and trimming the branches around the trail.

Finally, leash requirements are still in effect on the trails. Now I know that this is probably broken more frequently than the speed limit on FM620, but if your dog is not well behaved and you're spending more time apologizing for his behavior than not, it is a good sign that he needs to be on a leash. I ran into one such dog just the other day, it ruins the trail enjoyment for all.

So enough of the rules post. Next month I hope that we can talk about more fun things, like the trail hikes and the enthusiastic volunteers that help keep our trails clean and maintained. In the meantime, see you out and about. A photo of our interactive map is shown - find it on our Facebook page.

'Tis the Season...To Clean Your Roof & Gutters!

From the Steiner Ranch Firewise Committee

Gutters burn during a wildfire. Image provided courtesy of the Austin Wildfire Division.

Austin is one of the few cities in the U.S. to have its own wildfire division. The Austin Wildfire Division was founded to help homeowners to prepare for the inevitability of wildfires in Texas wildlands.



The Steiner Ranch Firewise Committee works with the Austin Wildfire Division to educate homeowners about protecting their homes from wildfires.

Steiner Ranch is what's known as a "Wildland Urban Interface" (WUI), community, which the Austin Wildfire Division defines as, "an area where structures abut the wildland." (In Steiner Ranch, homes abut our beautiful and extensive greenbelts.)

The risk in such areas, where wildlife and dense communities exist side by side, is for homes to ignite each other in the event of a wildfire, as happened during the 2011 Steiner fire when 23 homes burned in total.

What many don't realize, however, is that house-to-house ignition can be prevented through simple planning and preparation.

This month, the Steiner Ranch Firewise Committee asks homeowners to take a first step in protecting their homes by cleaning their gutters.

This simple task can make a world of difference. After the Steiner fire, when nearly an entire cul-de-sac burned to the ground, one house remained standing. Why? Because those homeowners just happened to have cleaned their gutters that morning.

Leaves and other debris on a house's roof and in gutters make perfect kindling for embers that can land on a home during a fire. Eliminating this kindling is a simple way to "harden" your home against fire, and improves your home's chances of surviving a wildfire event.

After all, as the Austin Wildfire Division reminds residents, "fire is naturally occurring within central Texas wildlands." Add to that the fact that fire suppression has meant a buildup of fuel in wild spaces, and that communities continue to encroach deeper into wild spaces, and it can be a recipe for disaster.

Firefighters' first priority is to protect life, then property. Homeowners can do their part to help our brave public servants by doing their part to fire harden their homes through fire mitigation efforts.

The Steiner Firewise Committee can also visit your house and perform an assessment of your home's fire preparedness. To schedule a Firewise assessment, email SRFirewise@gmail.com.

The Wildfire Division reminds residents that fire is, "NOT A MATTER OF IF...BUT WHEN." Do your part to protect your home from the next Steiner wildfire.

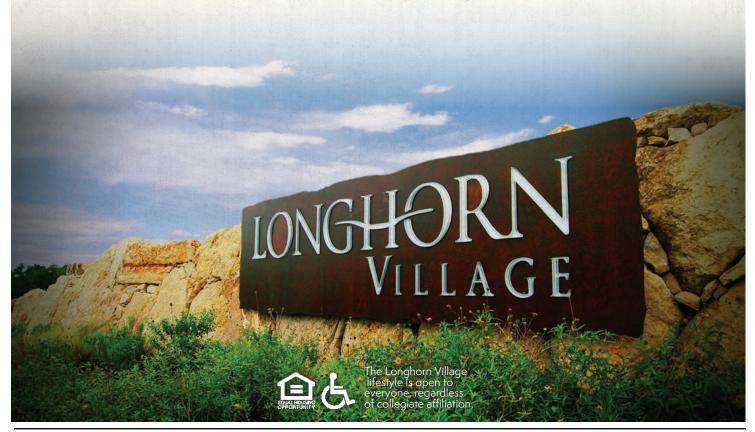
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Steiner Activities & Events STEINER RANCH CYCLING NEWS

The past month a few members from the club supported Livestrong Challenge and raised \$3,683 to benefit cancer survivors! We are preparing for 2019 and SRC kit orders, watch email list for details soon.

SATURDAY RIDES

On Saturdays we have open group rides, currently starting at Cups & Cones at 7:30 AM & 8:00 AM. Our Saturday rides include advanced and intermediate groups.

• The "Show and Go" ride can expect an energetic yet social 60+ mile ride and places an emphasis on training, bike handling, teamwork and riding in a paceline. Average speed is typically 18-20 mph. Please introduce yourself if you are new to this ride.

• Endurance Pace Group leaves at 8:00am paced average between 14-16 mph. Too often we get suckered into taking riding seriously - maybe even a bit too seriously- and that's why this ride is different. The purpose of this group is to have fun and get a good fat burn workout. You can be new to cycling or just looking to get back into it. We are going to do our best to make this a NO DROP ride but you are expected to have some basic level of fitness.

Ride route details are posted each week to our website at http:// www.steinerranchcycling.com, Facebook page http://facebook. com/SteinerRanchCycling and to our email list (sign up on our website). The turnout is typically between 10 - 20 riders and there is no designated sweeper for these rides. Come on out and have some fun, everyone is welcome. Steiner Ranch Cycling is powered by Lakeside's awesome burgers, breakfast tacos and refreshed by their beer. Join us there after the ride on Saturdays mornings to refuel and recover!

SUNDAY COFFEE SHOP RIDE

On Sundays we host a mostly mellow ride to a local coffee shops outside Steiner. (rotating locations)

The group will leave Cups & Cones at 7:30 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 perfect for those looking for an easier and more relaxed alternative to our Saturday rides. Note that you should be able to ride the 38-50 miles at average pace for the whole ride.

SPONSORS

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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 complete a waiver, follow traffic laws and wear a helmet while on our rides.





Swimming News



Red Giants Masters Swim takes place right here in Steiner Ranch for residents 18+ years' old and who want to get more proficient in their swimming. Levels of swimmers range from beginner to advanced. Now through the end of the year, we will be working on FREESTYLE technique. Make your own goals, and we will help you get there. With a combined 55 years of swimming experience, our coaches are excited to work with you.

The swim schedule is as follows at Bella Mar Pool Year-round:

•Wednesdays and Fridays at 5:30 a.m. till 6:45 a.m.

•Sundays 6:30 a.m. till 7:45 a.m.

Cost is \$50 per month for residents and you will need to join U. S. Masters Swimming in order to be eligible to compete in masters' meets, receive the Swimmer magazine, and to satisfy the HOA insurance requirements.

To join, please visit the United States Masters swimming website, http://www.usms.org/reg and join our team Red Giants Masters Swimming under South Texas. Print your card and email a copy to program lead, Hollie Kenney at goldstarsswimming@gmail.com.

Contact Hollie Kenney at goldstarsswimming@gmail.com for any additional info.

This is a great way to meet new friends and be a part of a fun community of swimmers while reaping the long list of health benefits.



Nitro Swimming News

Submitted by Nitro Steiner Ranch Coaches

"Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night," is normally associated with the United States Postal Service. However our Nitro swimmers have adopted that motto as well during this first season at Bella Mar. At the start of the season with temperatures up to the triple digits, to pouring down rain, and cold snaps bringing in 40 degree days the Nitro swimmers have weathered it all.

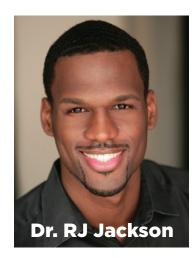
For the past four years Nitro has been awarded a Gold Medal Club status on USA Swimming's Club Excellence List (https:// www.usaswimming.org/resources-home/resource-topic/resourcesubtopic). While this may seem unrelated to the new swimmers at Steiner Ranch we believe that this award just re-iterates the fantastic job the coaching staff does day to day to bring out the best from our athletes. But showing up on those rainy, cold days is half of the equation as well which is why the parents and athletes play such a major role in and can share in this achievement.

Even through the cold, rain, or Texas heat Nitro swimmers give it their all and have a blast doing it. We're excited to see where this season takes us and what major accomplishments our swimmers make whether it be diving off of the blocks head first or making their first TAGS cut. Go Nitro!





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News You Can Use

Fat-Free Wastewater System

How to Prevent Fats, Oils, and Greases from Damaging Your Home and the Environment

Fats, oil, and greases are not just bad for your arteries and your waistline; they are bad for the wastewater system, too. Wastewater overflows and backups can cause health hazards, damage home interiors and threaten the environment. A common cause of overflow is collection pipe blockage by grease. Grease gets into the pipe from household drains as well as from poorly maintained grease traps in restaurants. WCID 17 has a firm grease trap maintenance program for restaurants to follow. This article is for you, our residential customers, to help reduce any grease load you can prevent.

Most everyone knows grease is the byproduct of cooking. Grease is found in such things as:

Meat fats, Lard, Cooking oil, Shortening, Butter & margarine, Food scraps, Baking goods, Sauces, gravies; and Dairy products.

Too often, grease is washed into the plumbing system, usually through the kitchen sink. Grease sticks to the insides of collection pipes (both on your property and in the streets.) Over time, the grease can build up and block the entire pipe.

The myth that home garbage disposals keep grease out of the plumbing system is just that, a myth. These units only shred solid material into smaller pieces and do not prevent grease from going down the drain. Commercial additives, including detergents that claim to dissolve grease, just pass grease on down the line to cause problems there. Some results can be:

-Raw wastewater overflowing in your home or your neighbor's home;

- -An expensive and unpleasant cleanup that you must pay for;
- -Raw wastewater overflowing into yards, streets and parks;
- -Potential contact with disease-causing organisms; and

-Operation and maintenance costs for WCID 17 which could cause higher bills for you.

The easiest way to solve the grease problem and help prevent overflows of raw wastewater is to keep this material out of the system in the first place. If you don't start putting grease in the drains, you won't have to stop!

-Never pour grease down sink drains or into toilets.

-Scrape grease and food scraps from cooking surfaces into the trash for disposal. Hot grease can cool in a can first.

-Do not put grease down garbage disposals. Do not put meat scraps down garbage disposals. Put baskets in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids.

-Speak with your family and neighbors about the problem of grease in the wastewater system and how to keep it out.

GREASE: SCRAPE IT, WIPE IT, AND TRASH IT!

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DON'T BLOCK THAT LINE: HOW TO PREVENT CLOGS, BACKUPS, AND OVERFLOWS

When sewer lines are blocked, the result can be messy, dangerous, and expensive. Fortunately, there are simple steps everyone can take to help keep this from happening.



The answer is not at your disposal

No matter how powerful your garbage disposal may be, it can't prevent grease from draining into your pipes. And detergents that claim to dissolve grease may just pass it along and cause problems down the line.



Simple steps you can take

First, never pour grease, fat, or oil into sinks, toilets or down drains. After cooking, let it cool, use a rubber scraper to remove it from dishes and cookware, put it in a sealed container, and put it in the trash.

The problem: Grease, fat, oil, and so-called flushables

When poured or washed down the drain, these substances and materials can adhere to the insides of pipes that carry wastewater to sewer lines. Over time, this buildup can lead to blockages that cause backups and overflow.



Strain it, don't drain it

To keep food scraps out of pipes, put a basket/strainer in the drain and empty the trapped pieces into the trash.



Let's talk trash

Paper towels, facial tissues and even so-called "flushable" wipes can all cause problems if flushed down the toilet. Throw them in the trash can instead.

Slow the flow

The more water that's discharged into sewer systems, the harder they have to work. You can help by installing high-efficiency washing machines and dishwashers, low-flow toilets, shower heads, and sink aerators. News You Can Use

Tips For A Healthy Holiday

Submitted by: 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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MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM STEINER DENTAL

Locally owned and operated by Steiner Ranch resident, Dr. Meagan Scarborough, we are committed to providing valuebased 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 is a community driven dental practice located in the Steiner Ranch community in Austin, Texas that treats patients of all ages.



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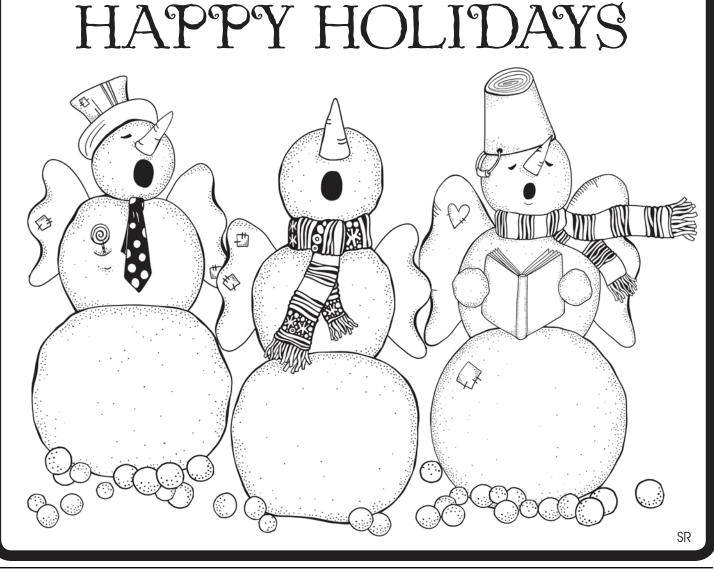
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Attention KIDS: Send Us Your Masterpiece!

Color the drawing below and mail the finished artwork to us at: Peel, Inc. - Kids Club 308 Meadowlark St. Lakeway, TX 78734-4717 We will select the top few and post their artwork on our website at www.peelinc.com/index.php/kids-club DUE: December 31st, 2018 Be sure to include the following so we can let you know!

Name (first name, last initial):

Age:



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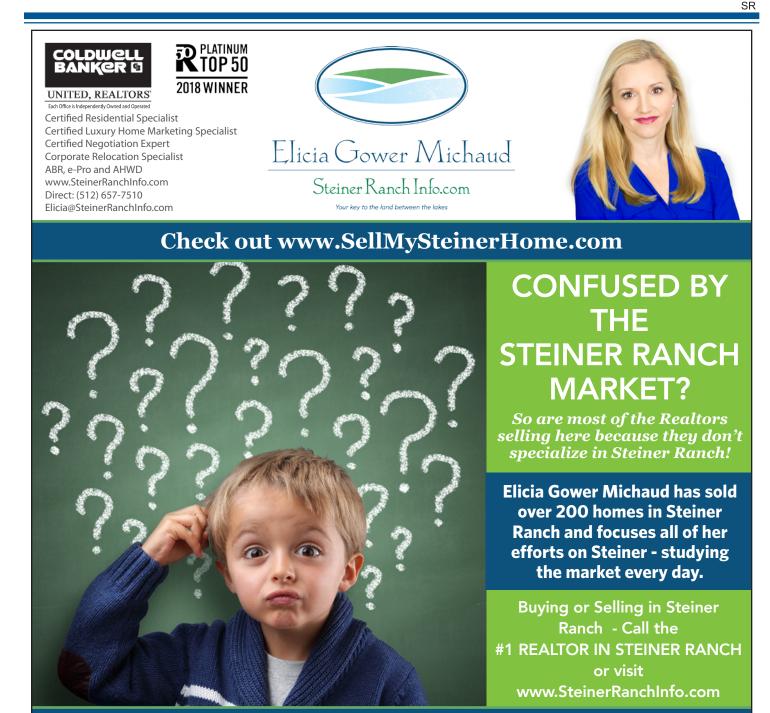
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Steiner Ranch Resident. Have any other coverage needs? Call anytime!



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Elicia is the #1 Realtor in Steiner Ranch based on MLS data, having sold more Steiner homes than any other single agent in the last 5 years.