



VOLUME 14 ISSUE 5
MAY 2020

RANCH RECORD

Official Newsletter of The Steiner Ranch HOA



#SteinerInspires
#StrongerTogetherGM

TIPS for Spring CLEANING



A TIP FOR THE CLOSET:

Tuck acid-free tissue paper into the folds of clothing to prevent deep wrinkles and to keep brown spots from setting.

A TIP FOR USING THE VACUUM:

Before heavy vacuuming, clean the machine. Cut away lint and from the rotating beater, replace the motor's belt if stretched and install a new bag.

AVALAR
TEXAS REAL ESTATE

CLEAN REFRIGERATOR AND FREEZER

Unplug and sort through the contents. Discard anything past its prime. Add baking soda to the water to deodorize surfaces.

CLEAN WINDOWS

Use a soft brush to clean off dust, cobwebs, and dirt. Wash windows inside and out with a squeegee and rag to remove excess water. Choose a cloudy day (if possible) – the sun's heat can dry windows too fast, creating streaks. Use warm soapy water to scrub each window screen with a brush.

DUST

Get to all the places that are out of the way or hard to reach. Doorframes, fans, bookshelves (and everything on them). Work from the ceiling down and vacuum the dust that settles to the floor.

RENEW CUSHIONS

Rotate and flip mattresses. Thoroughly vacuum them and the box springs. Sofa and chair cushions should also be flipped if their design and construction allows.

PERFORM A SAFETY CHECK

Check smoke detector batteries frequently; replace every six months. Also check batteries in carbon monoxide detectors and flashlights; inspect pressure gauges on fire extinguishers.

REPLACE FILTERS

Vacuum and clean grates (and coils and condensers, if applicable) on furnaces, refrigerators, stoves, and air conditioners. Remove filters in furnaces and air conditioners, and either clean or replace them.

DEEP-CLEAN RUGS

Start with vacuuming. Many area rugs can be machine-washed. Air others on a clothesline; beat dirt and dust from them with a tennis racket, then shampoo at home or send out to a cleaner.



Rhonda Durrill
512.994.8400

Rhonda@AvalarAustin.com



Erin Bloss
512.264.5889

Erin@AvalarAustin.com



Melissa Van Leeuwen
512.230.4419

Melissa@AvalarAustin.com



Joy Brillante
512.423.4479

Joy@AvalarAustin.com



Marguerite Craig
512.656.8292

MargueriteCraig@austin.rr.com



Steve Craig
512.415.0099

SteveCraig@AvalarAustin.com



Lisa Nauert
512.217.3762

LNauert@AvalarAustin.com



Lisa Westwood
512.785.1886

LisaW@AvalarAustin.com

Avalar Austin Real Estate

2900 Quinlan Park Rd, #220 - Next to Lakeside Pizzeria

512.610.5000 | AvalarAustin.com

Steiner Ranch Real Estate Experts

Since 2006



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 & Sunday **CLOSED**

STAFF

General Manager

Melinda Schoch..... steiner@ciramail.com

Lifestyle and Communication Manager

Desirre Ghebremicael..... steiner@ciramail.com

Operations Manager

Sarah Dunlap..... steiner@ciramail.com

Architectural and Community Standards Coordinator

Samantha Dominguez..... steiner@ciramail.com

Front Desk Coordinator

Cami Porter..... steiner@ciramail.com

Compliance steiner@ciramail.com

COMPLIANCE, ARCHITECTURAL

Compliance/ACC Coordinator..... steiner@ciramail.com

SRMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Email the SRMA BOD..... board@steinerranchhoa.org

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY.....911

Fire.....911

Ambulance.....911

Sheriff – Non-Emergency.....512-974-0845

Travis County ESD No.6/Lake Travis Fire Rescue

Administration Office.....512-266-2533

Travis County Animal Control.....512-974-2000

STEINER RANCH CONTACTS

Steiner Ranch Community Association

Office.....512-266-7553

SCHOOLS

Leander ISD.....512-570-0000

Vandegrift High School.....512-570-2300

Canyon Ridge Middle School.....512-570-3500

Laura Welch Bush Elementary.....512-570-6100

Steiner Ranch Elementary.....512-570-5700

River Ridge Elementary.....512-570-7300

UTILITIES

Travis County WCID # 17.....512-266-1111

City of Austin Electric.....512-494-9400

Texas Gas Service

Custom Service.....1-800-700-2443

Emergencies.....512-370-8609

Call Before You Dig.....1-800-344-8377

AT&T

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

Balcones Canyonlands Preserve.....

.....<https://www.traviscountytx.gov/tnr/nr/bcp>

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

Peel, Inc.....512-263-9181

Advertising.....advertising@peelinc.com

STEVE'S PLUMBING REPAIR

Master License: M-39722

- Water Pressure Problems
- Sewer & Drain Service
- Fiber Optic Drain Line Inspections
- Free Estimates
- Satisfaction Guaranteed

Steve Brougher
512.276.7476



GO GREEN! GO PAPERLESS!

Sign up to receive the Ranch Record directly to your inbox.

Visit PEELinc.com for details.

From the Association Office

FROM THE ASSOCIATION OFFICE

- 4 Key Community Meeting Dates
- 5 Message from the SRMA Board
- 5 Committee Volunteers Needed
- 6 Oak Wilt Disease
- 8 Making Exterior Changes?
- 8 Follow Us on Facebook

STEINER ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

- 10 Chalk Art in Steiner Ranch
- 11 Chalk Art Photos
- 13 Steiner Ranch Easter Scavenger Hunt
- 14 Happy Mother's Day
- 15 News from Your Lake Travis Firefighters
- 16 News from TDS - Your Trash and Recycling Solution Company
- 18 News from TDS - Your Trash and Recycling Solution Company Continued
- 19 News from the Trails Committee
- 20 News from Your Firewise Committee
- 23 News from Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (BCP)
- 25 Storm Drains are Everyone's Responsibility WCID 17

IN EVERY ISSUE

- 26 Teenage Job Seekers
- 26 Classifieds

UPCOMING STEINER RANCH HOA EVENTS

**7/04 - Decorate Your Ride /
Independence Day Celebration**

8/15 - Concert in The Park

9/12 - Fall Community Garage Sale

9/25 - Spring Scrap A Thon

10/25 - Trunk or Treat & Pumpkin Patch

11/14 - Holiday Shopping Event

11/26 - Steiner Ranch Turkey Trot

12/05 - 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: steiner@ciramail.com

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



MONTHLY HOA COMMUNITY MEETINGS

STEINER RANCH MASTER

ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meets on the third 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 second Tuesday of each month at
Towne Square Community Center at 7:00pm.

TRAIL COMMITTEE

Meets on the third 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/steinertails](https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/steinertails)

LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE

Meets on the third Tuesday of each month at
Towne Square HOA office Conference Room.

EVENT PLANNING COMMITTEE

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

COVER PHOTO

This month's cover photo features the Harris girls and their Chalk Art. Many Steiner residents have adorned their driveways or sidewalk with beautiful Chalk art to spread cheer. For more pictures see pages 10-11.

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 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SRMA BOARD

Dear Steiner Ranch Homeowners,

We have been through unprecedented times due to COVID 19 pandemic since March. Our sincere thanks to all residents for adhering to the government orders, CDC guidelines, maintaining social distance, and taking all necessary precautions in minimizing the community spread and help flatten the curve. We are hopeful that there is light at the end of the tunnel.

You all aware our Board of Directors in abundant caution have shut down all the key amenities since mid-March. However, our Association staff & Corporate teams continue to manage remotely various HOA operations including homeowner communications, assessments, conveyances, new homeowner management, utilities, landscape maintenance, pool maintenance, waste and recycling, architectural requests, virtual events, enhancement projects (baseball backstops), trail maintenance, signs and janitorial activities. We have also concluded 2020 annual HOA elections via online voting process. Thank you for your participation and your vote of confidence in all volunteer Board of Directors. Please welcome Chris Langevine, Christina Morales, Jessica Bombra, Josh Yates, Lawrence Spinetta, Naren Chilukuri & Dr Raj Singh to the 2020 Board.

Our vision is to make Steiner Ranch the premier Master Planned Community in Central Texas, maintain property values and provide excellent service to our homeowners. Our Board of Directors and GrandManors HOA Staff are continuing to explore various capital investments along with continued improvements in operational efficiencies and governance.

Looking ahead we are looking at various projects such as:

- Renovate Towne Square (TS2.0) - add levels, additional rooms, gym
- Additional Lap pool and splash pad at Towne Square
- Enhance security including cameras at key junctions
- RADAR Speed alert signs
- Landscape enhancements
- Revamping Steiner Ranch HOA website
- Renovate Lake Club
- TVs & Sound Systems in all Community centers

The SRMA Board extends their sincere appreciation to all the committees, volunteers and staff who are working tirelessly in serving our Community. Looking forward to continued investments and improvements in our Community.

Best Regards



Naren Chilukuri

SRMA Board President

naren@steinerranchhoa.org

board@steinerranchhoa.org

COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

As the Board budgets for future expenditures and contracts renewals as well as current and forecasted needs of the community, will need the help and support of the Committee to successfully assess the needs and wants of the community, provide additional feedback and a broader voice from all residents.

The Committee will consist of five (5) volunteers and it will extend from May to July 2020 only meeting once a month. We are working on creating a committee charter with details on the specific responsibilities, terms, and meeting times, but wanted to begin the process of compiling a list of interested homeowners. If this is something in which you would like to participate, please contact the General Manager, Melinda Schoch, at Melinda.steiner@ciramail.com. We will follow-up with interested homeowners as we finalize the committee charter and as more information becomes available.

We are also seeking volunteers to become involved with the Architectural Compliance Committee. Currently the SRMA is seeking one (1) volunteer and the SRROA is seeking to start a new Architectural Compliance Committee and needs three (3) volunteers. The purpose of the Committee is to assist the Board of Directors to review homeowner architectural submittals. Responsibilities for the Architectural Committee includes:

- Reading and understanding the Steiner Ranch Residential Design Guideline Manual and Supplemental Guidelines for individual neighborhoods.
- The ability to grant or not grant a submittal using the guidelines as reference.
- No decision is to be made in regard to personal preference.

If you are interested in serving the community on a committee, please contact our General Manager, Melinda Schoch, at srowners@ciramail.com.

From the Association Office

Spring is Prime Time for Spread of **DEADLY** Oak Wilt Disease

Texas A&M Forest Service

The big, beautiful live oaks that line your street and shade your home aren't indefensible. There's a silent killer that at this very moment could be creeping down your block, one yard at a time.

Considered an epidemic throughout Central Texas, oak wilt is one of the most destructive tree diseases in the United States. The infectious disease spreads in the spring, killing all trees that share its name, with red oaks and live oaks most susceptible.

"A live oak is a great survivor against everything that gets thrown at it from wind damage to drought to insects and other diseases, but it's a poor survivor with oak wilt," said Texas A&M Forest Service Regional Forest Health Coordinator Jim Houser in Austin.

Oak mortality has been noted since the 1930s, but oak wilt wasn't confirmed as the cause until the late 1970s. It has since been found in 76 counties — principally in Central Texas though it's crept as far as Amarillo and Houston.

An infected oak can spread the disease to surrounding oaks via their interconnected root systems. When that happens, the only way to stop further spread is by digging trenches to break the root connections.

Oak wilt also can be spread from February through June via sap-feeding beetles, which eat spore mats produced by infected red oaks. The disease is spread when those insects fly off to feed on a healthy red oak or live oak with a fresh wound.

Diseased live oaks do not produce the same spores, but they can become infected by them.

"We're talking about trees that have been in the landscape for a century or more. We don't replace those trees overnight," Houser said, adding that the death of such majestic trees can lead to drops in property values. "Preventing oak wilt is the key."

A wound is created any time bark is removed and wood is exposed. That can happen with the simplest of tasks — planting flowers, pruning or even pushing a lawn mower over a bare tree root.

That bare wood produces sap, which attracts the sap-feeding beetles, Houser said, stressing the importance of avoiding wounds in the spring, painting tree wounds year round and destroying diseased red oaks that may harbor spore mats on which sap-feeding beetles may feed and spread the disease.

"You don't want to have to manage oak wilt. That means you have it. You want to prevent it from happening," said Houser, explaining that



Oak Wilt Leaves



Oak Wilt affected Tree

there was no cure for the disease. "An ounce of prevention is worth it to avoid starting oak wilt disease and killing your trees."

For more information about oak wilt and maps detailing which counties are affected, visit www.texasoakwilt.org, Texas A&M Forest Service www.tfsweb.tamu.edu have a tree tested for oak wilt through the Texas A&M Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic & Laboratory at www.plantclinic.tamu.edu. You may also contact your local municipal forester.

Contact

Jim Houser, Regional Forest Health Coordinator in Austin
512-339-4589, jhouser@tfs.tamu.edu

**The Steiner Ranch HOA Oak Wilt Policy Prohibits Pruning Oaks
February 1 – June 30**

Cold is on the Right Plumbing is a service based plumbing provider that is committed to you and your home or business. Whether the job is big or small, residential or commercial, simple or complex; we're here to help!

**GIVE US A
CALL TODAY!**

512.762.8243
coldisontheright.com



High Fives are Free!
LN: M39724



10% Off

for Steiner Ranch Residents (up to \$100)



ADAM LOEWY

Philanthropist • Personal Injury Lawyer • Community Leader

LOEWY LAW FIRM

HELPING INJURED TEXANS



LoewyFirm.com
(512) 280-0800

From the Association Office

Making Exterior Changes? Don't Forget to Obtain Architectural Approval First


Thinking about modifying your deck, adding a pool, or changing the color of your exterior trim? Steiner Ranch governing documents require the submission of plans and specifications for review and approval by the Architectural Committee (AC) before construction or installation begins. Improvements requiring approval include, but are not limited to, playscapes, pools, decks, patios, ponds, new siding or trim colors, planter boxes, arbors, walkways and sheds. Before making exterior changes to your home, please submit a Modification Application, which can be found on the HOA website under the 'Architectural' tab.

Follow Us on Facebook

Events offered by the Steiner Ranch Home Owners' Association are posted on our 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!



Prodigy Mortgage
JOHN CAMPBELL
MANAGING PARTNER

Steiner Ranch Neighbors— It's a Great Time to Refinance Your Mortgage

- If you're current interest rate starts with a 4...
- Let's discuss a Refinance.
- Interest rates are at a 10 year low.
- No cost evaluation - You could be savings thousands a year.
- Fast & Simple process.
- Call or email today!



Address:
12912 Arbor Lake Cove
Austin, Texas 78732

Phone:
(512) 983-4108

Online Application:
www.loansbycampbell.com

Email:
john@loansbyprodigy.com

NMLS#
891346
RMLO - John Campbell
Website:
loansbyprodigy.com



IN PARTNERSHIP
WITH



TRANE

It's Hard To Stop A Trane.



GOOD

XR16

Energy
Star

- Single Stage AC
- Wifi thermostat
- 10 year parts limited warranty
- 3 year labor limited warranty (with maintenance agreement)
- 1 year FREE maintenance

SAVE UP TO **\$1,150**

BETTER

XR17

Energy efficient
comfort

- 2 speed AC
- Wifi thermostat
- Whole air cleaner
- 10 year parts limited warranty
- 3 year labor limited warranty (with maintenance agreement)
- 1 year FREE maintenance

SAVE UP TO **\$1,450**

BEST

XV20

True comfort
variable speed

- Wifi thermostat
- Whole air cleaner
- 10 year parts limited warranty
- 3 year labor limited warranty (with maintenance agreement)
- 1 year FREE maintenance

SAVE UP TO **\$1,750**

**\$69 HVAC
TUNE UP**

**\$50 OFF
ANY HVAC REPAIR**

Commercial and Residential

512.339.7700

Info@ArrowServiceCenter.com

www.ArrowSvcCenter.com



Steiner Activities & Events

Chalk Art in Steiner Ranch Spreading Kindness and Cheer

Steiner sidewalks are artfully adorned with chalk drawings from residents hoping to bring some cheer to our community during shelter-in-place orders.

Because shelter-in-place orders still allow residents to be outside for exercise, more families than usual can be seen out and about these days, walking, biking and taking advantage of the beautiful Spring weather.

Colorful messages of cheer and encouragement can be found on main streets and in neighborhoods in Steiner Ranch. The Steiner Events Committee encourages others to create their own chalk works of art. Being creative is a wonderful way to relieve stress and can be a fun project for the whole family.

Thanks to everyone who has already shared their creativity with the community. Keep them coming! #steinerinspires #strongertogetherGM



Pictures Continued on Page 11

Vista Ridge Dental

Family, Cosmetic & Implant Dentistry



STEINER RANCH'S LOCAL DENTIST

smiles are our speciality

**COMPLIMENTARY
WHITENING FOR LIFE**

With New Patient Exam.
Some conditions may apply

Call for an appointment today!

266-3600

WWW.RWATSONDDS.COM
4300 QUINLAN PARK RD, STE 230
AUSTIN, TX 78732



RISING STARS

Pediatric Dentistry

WELCOMES DR. TRACI SIMONS



Dr. Traci T Simons was born in the Black Hills of South Dakota, but has lived most of her life as a Texan. She spent most of her childhood in El Paso and stayed there to attend the University of Texas at El Paso, majoring in biology. After receiving a Bachelors of Science from UTEP, she continued her education and accepted admission at Baylor College of Dentistry where she received her Doctor of Dental Surgery degree.

During her time in dental school, Dr. Traci held leadership roles and was an active participant in outreach projects. She knew early on that she had a passion for children and wanted to specialize in pediatric dentistry. She went on to complete her 2 year pediatric residency through Baylor College of Dentistry/Texas A&M University System in Dallas. The program included training at Texas Scottish Rite Hospital and Children's Medical Center of Dallas, where she focused on the needs of special needs patients and those medically compromised. She completed her Masters of Science in Pediatric Dentistry in 1999, and moved to Austin. After

a few years in private practice, she was able to volunteer with Faith in Practice to Guatemala to treat underserved children in their community. She has continued to volunteer throughout her 20 year career in various ways to help those in need and less fortunate. She remains active in her church and community and serves on the board of Young Men Service League.

Dr Traci looks forward to building relationships and trust with both her patients and their families. She believes a positive dental experience is an important part of childhood and she is intentional in making this a reality for her patients.

When she is not helping make healthy smiles, Dr. Traci is spending time with her own five children. She absolutely loves being a mom! She enjoys running on the beautiful trails Austin has to offer, and has completed 4 marathons. She likes to travel with her friends and family, spend time at the lake, snow ski, shop and try new restaurants. She is excited to join Rising Stars Pediatric Dentistry in the Steiner Ranch community.



<https://risingstarsdentalsteinerranch.com/>
512-266-7200

Steiner Ranch Office
4308 N Quinlan Park Rd Ste 201
Austin, Texas 78732
Mon-Thurs, 8am-5pm

STEINER RANCH EASTER SCAVENGER HUNT



The Steiner Ranch Event Planning Committee organized an Easter egg themed scavenger hunt in lieu of the annual Steiner Ranch Easter egg hunt. Families displayed homemade Easter egg crafts on their

windows or doors for hunters to find.

Many families went on the hunt, walking or driving around, and submitted their entries to the HOA. Some drove through more than once in order to accomplish their mission!

Many residents expressed gratitude that they were still able to participate in some sort of Easter egg Hunt and to share it with their families.

The HOA received comments like, "My kids are thrilled! Thanks to the HOA for arranging an Easter egg hunt!" And "Thanks for putting this together! Made my son's day Saturday."

Three families received a Tiff's Treats gift card for finding the highest number of eggs and submitting before the deadline: the King family, the Foster family and the Orr family.

Thank you so much to everyone who participated and joined in the fun! Even though circumstances required us to cancel our traditional Easter egg hunt, Easter cheer was alive and well in Steiner Ranch this year.



BRIDGES ACADEMY AUSTIN

in Steiner Ranch, offering:

- Private Elementary & Middle School
- Small, hands-on classes (1:10)
- Dyslexia & Dysgraphia Services (1:1)
- Gifted/Talented and 2e Learners
- Certified Teachers & Specialists
- Summer & Fall Enrollment

K-8 PRIVATE SCHOOL

2900 N. Quinlan Park Rd, Suite 250
Austin, TX 78732 | 512-506-1980

www.BridgesAcademyAustin.com

Steiner Activities & Events

Happy Mother's Day Steiner Ranch Moms!



Success In Math Is Just The Beginning

Kids don't hate math, they hate feeling frustrated.

We teach kids how to truly understand math, eliminating their frustration. Our caring, highly trained instructors assess and teach each child individually, using a customized learning plan. The Mathnasium Method™ builds confidence, develops critical thinking skills, and boosts grades and scores ... for today and for their future.

Teaching math is not just what we do, it's all we do. We're the authority in math education, with over 900 learning centers worldwide. **Start your child's transformation.**

Come see us at our new location at the Quinlan Crossing shopping center, located between Menchie's and Randalls. Mention that you saw this ad in the Ranch Record and we will give you the first month free.

Address:
5145 North FM 620 Road, Suite B-140
Austin, TX 78732
Phone: (512) 284-9849
www.mathnasium.com/steinerranch



Tutoring and Enrichment

SAT/ACT Prep

Homework Help

MATHNASIUM
The Math Learning Center

Changing Lives Through Math™

New from Your Lake Travis Firefighters

Submitted by Braden Frame, President, Lake Travis Firefighters | IAFF Local 4117



For years our community has counted on the Lake Travis Fire Fighters to be there. From major threats like the Steiner Ranch fire or the Memorial Day floods, to more local, everyday emergencies like heart attacks, stroke, and vehicle collisions on our roadways. We have spent years developing a strong bench of talent, with highly qualified, well trained, and committed fire fighters ready to answer the call on your worst day.

We faced the threat of Ebola just a few years ago and we're still here on the front line of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the beginning Lake Travis Fire Fighters have responded, been there at the patient's side, and provided the high level of pre-hospital medicine we're known for around the county, state, and country. While our responses do look different, our service and commitment are unchanged.

Nothing is more important than making sure that when you call 911 that you tell the dispatcher if you or anyone in the home has any symptoms similar to the flu. Fever, coughs, body aches, or other concerns. Even if the reason you're calling is not for

medical assistance. This is especially important if your doctor has suspected COVID-19 and ordered or encouraged you to self isolate. We will always strive to send in fire fighters in a full PPE (personal protective equipment) ensemble that includes goggles, gloves, a N95 or higher level mask, and a gown over their uniform regardless of what we're told, but knowing allows us to prepare the right level of PPE for our backup teams, law enforcement, and our colleagues with Austin EMS.

As everyone is aware the new face covering rules are in effect. We are wearing masks anytime at our fire stations when we're not alone in our rooms. We've been wearing masks on the fire engines for weeks and we are in full compliance with the order. We hope that you and your family will take that order seriously and wear a face covering anytime you're not at home and not by yourself. This includes when you arrive at work if you're an essential employee. And, speaking frankly as essential employees, seeing you in a mask when you're out give us a sense of relief as your mask is a labor of love, you doing all you can to avoid even accidentally getting us or anyone else ill.

Your Lake Travis Fire Fighters have also adopted every social distancing rule that we can, even within our fire stations. We're known for our family meals, group breakfast, and shift to shift chats around the kitchen table every morning. None of that is occurring right now. We have rules on how many people can be in a room or at a table at once. We're strictly enforcing the 6' physical distancing rule as much as we can and we're trying to encourage our fire fighters to spend as much of the day apart from each other as possible, something that is frankly quite foreign to our fire family. But this is what we must do, what we should do, and what we ask you to do. Everyone, must do their part.

Together we're going to get through this and come back together as a community to build each other up when it's all over.

Until then, please follow our Facebook page www.facebook.com/LTfirefighters for daily COVID-19 updates, our report on the system status of available fire fighters to respond to your emergencies, and for timely alerts, facts, and updates.

We're proud to serve this great community and thank you all for your continued support.

We are your #LTfirefighters.

You call. We're there.

News from TDS – Your Trash and Recycling Solution Company



Five Ways to Upcycle Everyday Items

Ever look around your house and wonder how you've accumulated so much stuff? The increased interest in year-round spring cleaning is building a movement of decluttering and compelling a growing wave of individuals getting rid of things. Just because an item doesn't "spark joy" in its current state, however, doesn't mean it can't be transformed into something else useful and/or beautiful.

Upcycling items — or repurposing and reusing them — breathes new life into stuff you no longer want or need. There are objective benefits to upcycling: not only does it emulate the principles of going Zero Waste, but it also saves you the money it would cost to go out and buy even more stuff. Not to mention, repurposing things often results in a much more interesting space, filled with decor and useful items that have a story and personal touch.

There's a common misconception that upcycling requires a ton of creativity, but that's simply not the case. While there are many opportunities to get crafty, there are also plenty of practical ways to reuse items that don't take much time or even a glue gun. In this blog post, we're sharing a list of upcycling projects that range from craft novice to expert, as well as from decorative to staunchly utilitarian.

Upcycling Ideas, Ranging from Super Easy to More Involved
Project Difficulty Scale:

🔧 = easy

🔧🔧 = moderate

🔧🔧🔧 = challenging

1) Organize drawers with toilet paper rolls 🔧



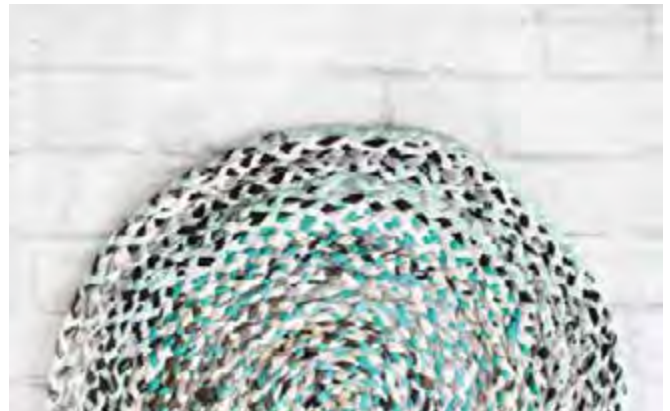
One of the easiest opportunities for repurposing is one of the classics. By standing toilet paper rolls upright in a drawer, you're able to organize items that would otherwise be difficult to sort through. Think of materials like cables and cords, yarn, and sewing supplies, or even socks and underwear. Rolls can also be cut in half to accommodate shorter and smaller items, such as hair ties or jewelry.

2) Plant a garden using egg cartons 🔧



Built a mini garden indoors by sprouting seeds in an egg carton. Sprouting seeds directly in the ground can be difficult due to environmental factors like weeds and bad weather, but with an upcycled "flower bed" your seedlings can begin life in a controlled setting. Once your plant seeds in egg cartons are going, transfer the entire cardboard carton directly to the ground. The roots of the plants will eventually grow through the carton, which itself will eventually compost.

3) Braided T-shirt rugs 🔧🔧



Making braided T-shirt rugs is perfect for when you have several worn out shirts you're no longer wearing. This project does take some time and patience but doesn't require any sewing skills. Click [here](#) for instructions to make a no-sew T-shirt rug.

Continued on Page 18

CALL David & Kelly Thate

512-750-5777

Compass Real Estate

Kelly.Thate@compass.com



Thate Team

COMPASS



3806 LATIMER DRIVE \$490,000



4 Bedroom, 3.5 bathroom, Fully Renovated

Seller has recently installed Anderson Windows with mid-century casing, vinyl-wood and tile flooring, and replaced lighting and fans, as well as replaced all hardy-plank and fascia boards. Kitchen recently upgraded with new oven and induction cooktop, granite countertops and a farmhouse sink. Relax in the spacious master-spa bath! Enjoy the Sunsets on your back deck and the stunning sunrise from your front balcony!



13206 Appaloosa Chase Drive \$639,900



5 Bedroom, 4 Bathroom, Private Greenbelt Lot Located on a Culdesac

Stunning home guest quarters on the main level. Great flow we are all seeking out ways to create more mindfulness and wellness in our lives by improving the feng shui of our homes. Freshly painted interior including ceilings and exterior, recent lighting, appliances, custom cabinets. Professionally landscaped gardens with very private and heavily treed backyard backs to greenbelt and located on a Culdesac!

Steiner Activities & Events

Continued from Page 16

4) Wine bottle chandelier



Whether you want just one light or a whole chandelier, repurposing glass bottles for light fixtures is fairly straightforward. Once you've cleaned the bottle and removed the label, use a glass cutting tool to score the perimeter of the bottle's base. You should then be able to easily create a clean break using a hammer.

Once the bottom of the bottle has been removed, you can add sockets and light bulbs in the bottle, which you can then choose to hang either individually or clustered together.

5) Upcycling furniture



There are many ways to upcycle furniture. Though these types of projects often require more leg work, they also result in completely one-of-a-kind pieces with sentimental value. Here are a few ideas for upcycling furniture:

- Turn pallets into a coffee table
- Use an antique dresser as a bathroom sink stand
- Cut off the end of a bench and mount to a wall for a custom nightstand
- Attach legs to long drawers and stand upright to create shelves
- Repurpose an old dresser to become a bar cart

Opting for Creative Reuse Rather Than the Landfill

Regardless of how you choose to upcycle, shifting your mindset from "what can I get rid of" to "how can I repurpose this" is one major step you and your family can take to reduce the amount of waste you create and send to landfills. These creative projects can be as intensive or as simple as you see fit, and there are endless ideas out there that you can try for yourself.

If you do find yourself coming across things you see absolutely no way to reuse, just be conscious of how you dispose of those items to make sure they're being thrown away or diverted properly.

SERVICE ALERT: TDS service will continue as normal as possible during COVID-19. For more information, visit our page at <https://www.texasdisposal.com/>

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

Your Steiner Area travel team:

Paula Kaisner—512-607-6635
pkaisner@dreamvacations.com

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



Tip of the Month
Thinking about your next vacation?
Please give us a call! We'd love to help you plan it!



Paula Kaisner - Kaisner Travel
Independent Vacation Specialist
512-607-6635 • pkaisner@dreamvacations.com
www.KaisnerTravel.com



**Help Keep Our
Neighborhood
Beautiful
Please Clean Up
After Your Pet**

News from the Trails Committee

Submitted by Eric Morton

As I write this, it is uncertain what things will be like when you are reading this. I have this hopeful dream that you are reading this as you stand in line for the fast-tracked corona virus vaccine because it has been proven to be safe and effective. No matter how this finds you, I hope you are still out enjoying the trails, but most of all being safe and staying healthy.

Due to the stay-at-home order, I have seen a lot more people on the trails. To date, the HOA hasn't had to close the trails but nearby trails have been closed by City Ordinance. Since many of the people that are out there may not have spent very much time on them before, let's just highlight a few items of "trail etiquette" and safety.

While on the Trails, please remember to practice social distancing and to follow best practices as outlined below:

- For social distancing, please step aside and let hikers or bikers pass safely. When passing please maintain social distance.
- No littering, and no dog poop should be left behind.
- Please do not walk or bike on the trails when wet as it ruins them.
- Please do not widen trails. Do not build side trails or bypasses etc. It is the Trails Committee's job to do so. If it is muddy, please do not walk around but through the mud. Please make sure you wear appropriate shoes.
- Please respect the wildlife. You might encounter rattlesnakes, coral snakes, poison ivy/oak (be cautious of the side of a trail), scorpions and tarantulas. They are rare to encounter but they

are out there, and the greenspace is their home. This is an active time for snakes. Please refrain from feeding wildlife.

- Note that dogs must be on leash for their own safety (snake danger) as well as per the Association's guidelines.
- Please note that no hunting, camping, or fires (including smoking) of any kind is permitted.
- No motorized vehicles are permitted.

Thank you all for following the above guidelines and for your help in maintaining our beautiful trails and for your increased community awareness. Please note that the Steiner Ranch trails are intended only for Steiner Ranch residents and their guests and trail use is at your own risk.

The new green signs are up! This will help everyone find their way. Thank you to the HOA and especially Rob Mack, chairman of the Trail Committee for all their work that they have put into this project.

Stay safe and peace to all of you. The attached picture is a beautiful spot on Serrulata. The ironic thing is that I had been by this place dozens of times and just noticed how beautiful it is. Stop and enjoy nature. It is truly spectacular.





Landscape and Irrigation Inc.

LAWN CARE
Residential and Commercial

LANDSCAPING
Design and Installation

SPRINKLER
Installation and Repair

Tree and Shrub Trimming

Power Washing • Stone Work • Fencing

FREE ESTIMATES

texanlandscape@yahoo.com
512.294.8967

News from Your Firewise Committee

Submitted by Bill Hamm



Steiner Ranch Homes Need to be better prepared for wildfires

As is abundantly clear in the current pandemic, preparedness is essential to survive emergencies. There is a reason why the boy scout motto is "Be Prepared". Interestingly in communist countries, there was a similar motto "Always Ready" and, of course, there is the Coast Guard motto Semper Paratus or Always Ready.

Wildfires are emergencies that give little or no time to prepare, so advance preparation is necessary to minimize damage to your home and community. Steiner Ranch is a Firewise community. Lake Travis Fire and Rescue is currently performing a wildfire risk assessment of our community, which is required by the Firewise program and results should be available in a few weeks. There have been two previous assessments, one in 2012, after the Steiner Ranch fires in 2011 and one of the Golf Course Community in 2019. Both concluded that the community was at high risk, and the Fire Department correctly says, it's not if, it's when there will be another wildfire.

Two important parts of preparation are creating shaded fuel breaks at the interface of the greenbelt areas and homeowner's property. Shaded fuel breaks slow down the spread of wildfire, decrease its intensity and allow firefighters access to fight the fires, which, in Central Texas are principally low to the ground. The LTFR assessment will address shaded fuel breaks. The other, very important preparation involves hardening

individual homes and other structures (such as those belonging to the HOA). The principal damage to homes caused by wildfires is by embers (glowing fragments caused by the fire), which, in Central Texas, are quite fine.

To assist homeowners in hardening their homes, Firewise committee members will do a free Home Ignition Zone Assessment (HIZ) to recommend actions to increase resistance to embers. Please send an e mail to SRfirewise@gmail.com to sign up for one.

It is concerning that there have been only a few requests per year. However, at the recent community safety event held at the Towne Center, we got 17 sign ups and several more since then via e mail. We have completed 8, before suspending activities due to the pandemic. Here is some feedback on what we saw and what we heard.

Landscaping is too close to homes and most have wood chip mulch. The obvious remedy is to move plants and not use wood chips. The fire experts have recently changed their recommendation from a 3 foot to a 5 foot separation between the plant and the home. Plants of particular concern are ones under windows and eaves. Homeowners who choose not to move plants can change the mulch, limb up bushes (keep flammable material off the ground) and keep leaves and other debris away from the landscaping.

Debris and other flammable material under porches and decks

Embers can get blown under such structures and ignite a porch or a deck that would otherwise survive an ember storm. Eliminating wood lattice work and placing fine metal screening in appropriate locations is recommended to prevent embers from entering. Often times door mats are flammable and should be replaced or removed if evacuating. Decks were extensively covered in the February 2020 Ranch Record.

Porch furniture and cushions can be flammable. If there is an evacuation order, moving porch furniture inside or outside away from the home is important as is removing propane tanks.

Wood fences were also covered in the February 2020 article. They can act as wicks between houses. Substitution of non-flammable fencing and or creating fire breaks are effective measures. Keep the bases of wood fences free of flammable material.

Leaf and debris accumulation in gutters and elsewhere. It is likely that embers will prefer the same locations. Regularly clean out gutters and watch for leaf accumulations.

Gaps in garage doors should be fixed. A common gap is at the bottom of the door where the side of the door meets the floor of the garage. A simple tactic is to use a copper scouring pad to plug this space.

We also heard complaints about leaves and other materials being dumped in the greenbelt, debris from trail maintenance being left near the trail, and youngsters using the greenbelts for smoking.

Our risk will likely be assessed as high again, and our preparedness is low by what we've seen, not a good combination. Homeowners can take action to harden their homes. They need to involve their neighbors as well. Many houses in Steiner are close together and connected by wooden fences, so if your neighbor's house catches fire, there is a good chance yours will too.

Contact the Firewise committee for a free HIZ assessment at srfirewise@gmail.com today!





It's OK. We're still here.

We know. It's been a strange month. But we've got this. We're here. For you. How were we prepared? We've been doing virtual visits since 2014.



Remote consults. Virtual visits.
Visit our website for more details.
www.TheRanchOrthodontics.com

Pool Maintenance & Repair for Steiner Ranch

Get 5-star service from the only pool company that lives right here in Steiner, and is dedicated to ONLY serving families right here in Steiner.

"We've been using Nikki's Pools for several years, and we have been very happy with their service. Luis is always prompt, has a good depth of knowledge regarding pools, and is incredibly fair in pricing and work. He is far and away the best service I've used, and I would not think of using anyone else."

Keith K. 5.0 ★★★★★

**Mention This Ad
And Get Your
First Filter Clean FREE!**

(A \$150 value. New customers only.)


NIKKI'S POOL
SERVICE & REPAIRS
(512) 767-8839
www.NikkisPool.com



Proud Supporter of.



Owner and Neighbor, Luis Cacho

Licensed & insured • 20+ years experience • Complete satisfaction guaranteed.

Texas Installer Contractor License (TICL) #252. Residential Appliance Installer's License #215970

News from Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (BCP): Damage to Preserve Lands Increasing

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

During this challenging time, we appreciate that people are turning to nature as a place to recreate, relieve stress, and seek solace. Steiner Ranch is one of the few communities that has regular access to nature trails on the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (BCP), and we are pleased to be able to provide that amenity. The Steiner Ranch trails that go through the BCP are J-Canyon, Eastridge Trail, and Powerline Hill Trail.

Unfortunately, we have seen an increase in damage to the BCP, so we thought it might be helpful to revisit a few key rules here. The full list of rules and a comprehensive trails map can be found on the Steiner Ranch HOA website – go to http://www.steinerhoushoa.org/document_view.asp?id=1070.

Trails on the BCP can only be accessed at the approved trailheads, which are marked with green signs installed by the SRMA. Users must stay on the approved trails at all times. Creating additional trails, including those from the back of residents' homes to connect with existing trails, is prohibited. Other prohibited activities include cutting vegetation, dumping any materials such as landscaping trimmings, or building forts or fire pits on the BCP. In fact, any use of fire, including smoking, is strictly forbidden.

In addition to being prohibited, some of these actions can also increase the risk of wildfire. Beyond obvious examples like building campfires and smoking, cutting down trees on the BCP can also increase risk. Removing the tree canopy promotes the growth of grasses, which are more likely to ignite than live trees. Also, dumping piles of branches and leaves over the fence might seem OK because it is all "natural," but that yard waste can dry out and become fuel. It is also illegal to dump materials on someone else's property, regardless of the content or intention. Travis County staff patrols the BCP, and while no one wants it to reach this point, legal action can be taken when the law is broken. If you are aware of anyone dumping, cutting fences, or creating new trails, please report it to Sally Wolfe at Sally.Wolfe@traviscountytexas.gov. In the case of an emergency, such as a fire, please call 911 first.

We appreciate your cooperation and hope to be able to continue offering this amenity for many years to come. If you have questions, feel free to contact bccp@traviscountytexas.gov or check out our website at <https://www.traviscountytexas.gov/tnr/nr>.

REAL ESTATE AND MORTGAGE

- Home Buying and Selling
- Investment Properties, Gas Stations buy/sell
- Property Management
- Apartment Syndication
- Low, low Mortgage Rates
- Free and fast Mortgage Preapproval Letter
- Small Business Loans, Commercial Loans, Insurance
- Merchant services, Construction Loans
- No fee, no minimum, individual and business accounts
- Relationship Banker – full service banking



Hem Ramachandran
Broker, Realtor, Banker
512-970-6336
hem@indusrealty.com
www.indusrealty.com



Join us at Elite University Summer Camps for the best summer experience ever!



JUNE 1ST
THROUGH
AUGUST 7TH
2020
AGES PK 4-12

CAMP ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- MUSIC LESSONS
- WATER SKIING
- COOKING
- MIXED MEDIA ART
- VETERINARY SCIENCE
- MUSICAL THEATRE
- HORSEBACK RIDING
- FISHING
- ARCHERY
- CAMPING
- SWIMMING
- GYMNASTICS
- KAYAKING

For More Information:

Email: contact@elitemusicfinearts.com

Call: 855.931.2586

Visit: www.elitesummercamps.com

5600 Ranch Rd 620 N, Austin, TX 78732

Storm Drains are Everyone's Responsibility

WCID 17



Throughout your neighborhood, storm drains control and divert rain water away from the street through large underground drain pipes to outfalls normally located at the back of properties in green spaces. As water exits the outfall, nature guides the rain water to storm water ponds, then back to our water shed and into Lake Travis or Lake Austin. Lake Travis is the source of WCID 17's drinking water.

If there are contaminants in the water that enters storm drains, then they too will be washed into local waterways. Take note of curbs and gutters near your home or business. If they are present, they likely lead to a storm drain nearby. They will transport anything that is washed

or dumped into them from nearby properties, such as your yard or the street, into a nearby waterway.

It is NOT okay to dump leaves and lawn clippings into storm drains. Storm drains are there to prevent flooding of streets and homes; if drains are clogged with leaves and grass, damage to homes can occur during a rain event. When grass and leaves are dumped into drains, they quickly clump and solidify - especially in dry periods such as we are in now. They will not simply be "washed away." Remember, leaves and trash should be kept out of storm drains.

Take Action! Only Rain in the Drain!

- Don't dump anything down storm drains;
- If you see someone doing this, stop them and explain why;
- Don't plant trees near storm drain outfalls – water seeking roots will infiltrate them quickly and often block the outfall completely;
- Rake It! Leaves and yard trimmings need to be raked and bagged for pick up by the trash company;
- Sweep It! Extra fertilizer, grass clippings, dirt in the driveway – don't hose it into the drain; and
- NEVER dump oil, chemicals, pet waste or any other material into a storm drain.

**MARSHALL
FORD MARINA**
12816 PARK DR,
AUSTIN, TX 78732

**ANDERSON
MILL MARINA**
13993 FM 2769
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78641



(512) 266-1559

Covered and Uncovered Slips Available • Dry Stack Boat Storage • Trailer Storage • Gas Dock • Mechanical Service Department • Boat Detailing • Certified Clean Texas Marina

TEENAGE JOB SEEKERS

ATTENTION TEENAGE JOB SEEKERS

Please submit your information to communications@steinerranchhoa.org if you would like to be added to the list.

Not Available Online

BUSINESS CLASSIFIEDS

LEARN GUITAR...In-Home Guitar Lessons. Great teacher, fun environment. B.A. in Music, Berklee College of Music. Steiner resident. Over 23 years of teaching experience. All ages, styles and skill levels welcome. Proudly serving Steiner Ranch for years. For more info call Charles Couch at 646.704.3092 or visit <http://www.charlescouch.com/> | www.charlescouch.com.

Classified Ads

Business classifieds (offering a service or product line for profit) are \$50, limit 40 words, please contact Peel, Inc. Sales Office @ 512-263-9181 or advertising@PEELinc.com.

* CPR Training + Red Cross Certified ^ First Aid

Did you know that every child should see an Orthodontist by the age of 7?

Dr. RJ is one of the few Orthodontists in Austin that is **BOARD CERTIFIED**.

Our emphasis is on Prevention!



FREE Orthodontic Evaluations!



Dr. RJ Jackson



RJ ORTHODONTICS
Making Austin Smile

512-363-5792 | www.rjorthodontics.com

Located Behind the Walgreens at the Intersection of 620/2222



invisalign

invisalign | *teen*



PEEL, INC.

1405 Brandi Ln
Round Rock, TX 78681

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PEEL, INC.

SR



**PLATINUM
TOP 50
2019 WINNER**

Certified Residential Specialist
Certified Luxury Home Marketing Specialist
Certified Negotiation Expert
Corporate Relocation Specialist
ABR, e-Pro and AHWD
www.SteinerRanchInfo.com
Direct: (512) 657-7510
Elicia@SteinerRanchInfo.com



Elicia Gower Michaud

SteinerRanchInfo.com

Your key to the land between the lakes



Check out www.SteinerExpert.com

If these uncertain times have shown us anything, it's that human connection is everything. We are truly in this together. Many have been impacted and find themselves in need of selling their home. As tough as this situation is, as your Steiner Ranch neighbor, I'm here to help in any way I can. My priority is supporting our community and am offering lower commissions for those affected financially by Covid-19. We are Steiner, we are family. Send me a note or give me a call and let's walk through this together.

