



VOLUME 14 ISSUE 6  
JULY 2020

# RANCH RECORD

*Official Newsletter of The Steiner Ranch HOA*

*Happy  
4th of July*



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# Summer Bucket List



- |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> GO HIKING                  | <input type="checkbox"/> MAKE S'MORES               | <input type="checkbox"/> COMPLETE A DIY PROJECT     | <input type="checkbox"/> Dance in the Rain      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Make Ice Cream             | <input type="checkbox"/> Watch a Baseball Game      | <input type="checkbox"/> Go Paddle Boarding         | <input type="checkbox"/> Watch the Sunset       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visit Somewhere New        | <input type="checkbox"/> Take a Day Trip            | <input type="checkbox"/> Tie-Dye Clothing           | <input type="checkbox"/> WATCH THE SUNRISE      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> See the Ocean              | <input type="checkbox"/> Go on a Summer Hunt        | <input type="checkbox"/> Go Green-Free for a Day    | <input type="checkbox"/> Play Mini-Golf         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HAVE A WATER BALLOON FIGHT | <input type="checkbox"/> WATER FIREWORKS            | <input type="checkbox"/> Catch a Firefly            | <input type="checkbox"/> Pick Wildflowers       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Have a Pajama Party        | <input type="checkbox"/> Paint Pottery              | <input type="checkbox"/> Toss Pennies in a Fountain | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to a Drive-In Movie |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Invent a New Recipe        | <input type="checkbox"/> Walk Barefoot in the Grass | <input type="checkbox"/> Make Lemonade              | <input type="checkbox"/> EAT A BANANA SPLIT     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Make a Summer Scrapbook    | <input type="checkbox"/> Try a New Restaurant       | <input type="checkbox"/> Ride a Rollercoaster       | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to the Aquarium     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SLEEP IN A TENT            | <input type="checkbox"/> VISIT AN OBSCURE LANDMARK  | <input type="checkbox"/> Explore the City           | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to a Music Festival |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Have a Picnic              | <input type="checkbox"/> Go Night Swimming          | <input type="checkbox"/> Start an Herb Garden       | <input type="checkbox"/> GO STARGAZING          |

Contact an Avalar agent for information on buying or selling this summer!



**Rhonda Durrill**  
512.994.8400

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Erin@AvalarAustin.com



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## COMMUNITY INFO

### STEINER RANCH

#### COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS OFFICE

12550 Country Trails Lane

Austin, Texas 78732

512-266-7553 – Telephone

512-266-9312 – Facsimile

[www.steinerranchhoa.org](http://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](mailto:steiner@ciramail.com)

##### **Lifestyle and Communication Manager**

Desirre Ghebremicael..... [steiner@ciramail.com](mailto:steiner@ciramail.com)

##### **Operations Manager**

Sarah Dunlap..... [steiner@ciramail.com](mailto:steiner@ciramail.com)

##### **Architectural and Community Standards Coordinator**

Samantha Dominguez..... [steiner@ciramail.com](mailto:steiner@ciramail.com)

##### **Front Desk Coordinator**

Cami Porter..... [steiner@ciramail.com](mailto:steiner@ciramail.com)

**Compliance** ..... [steiner@ciramail.com](mailto:steiner@ciramail.com)

#### COMPLIANCE, ARCHITECTURAL

Compliance/ACC Coordinator..... [steiner@ciramail.com](mailto:steiner@ciramail.com)

#### SRMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Email the SRMA BOD..... [board@steinerranchhoa.org](mailto: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](mailto:advertising@peelinc.com)

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# From the Association Office

## FROM THE ASSOCIATION OFFICE

- 4 KEY COMMUNITY MEETING DATES
- 5 NEWS FROM THE SRMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
- 5 ASSESSMENTS ARE NOW DUE
- 8 SAFETY REMINDERS
- 9 OVERNIGHT PARKING REMINDERS
- 9 ARCHITECTURAL MODIFICATION APPLICATION
- 10 OAK WILT POLICY
- 10 GREENBELT REMINDERS

## STEINER ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

- 11 JULY 4TH CAR PARADE EVENT POSTER
- 12 STEINER RANCH JULY 4TH CAR PARADE
- 12 EQUIPT AQUATICS
- 13 BALCONES CANYONLANDS PRESERVE
- 14 NEWS FROM THE TRAIL COMMITTEE
- 15 SAVE MONEY ALL SUMMER

## IN EVERY ISSUE

- 18 TEENAGE JOB SEEKERS
- 18 CLASSIFIEDS

## UPCOMING STEINER RANCH HOA EVENTS

**7/04 Independence Day Celebration  
Car Parade**

**9/14 Fall Community Garage Sale**

**09/27 Scrap A Thon**

**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: [steiner@ciramail.com](mailto: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](http://www.steinerranchhoa.org)**



### Monthly HOA Community Meetings Association Board of Directors

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

Residential Owners Board of Directors

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

### 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/steinerrails>

### 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.

**Because of the Covid19 Pandemic and the recommendation to limit  
contact with individuals outside of your home and practice social  
distancing when in public, all meetings are conducted remotely and  
links are sent to your registered email on file.**

## COVER PHOTO

Happy Independence Day, America! This month's cover photo was captured at the Steiner Ranch HOA Fourth of July Celebration last summer. It features a Steiner Ranch Mountain Bike team member leading the parade. This year on July 4th, the Steiner Ranch HOA Event Planning Committee is hosting a Car Parade instead for a morning of celebration and community. For details about the annual Steiner Ranch HOA Fourth of July Parade & Celebration, visit the Steiner Ranch HOA Events on Facebook, or see details in this issue on pages 11-12.

Have a photo you would like to see published in the next Ranch Record? For consideration, send pictures to [communications@steinerranchhoa.org](mailto: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.

## News from the SRMA Board of Directors – Amenity Reopening Update

The SRMA Board of Directors approved to reopen the Steiner Ranch amenities on the June 6th, 2020, under the guidance of legal counsel and medical experts. Please see below for the timeframe in which they were/will be opened:

- All Parks, Fields, and Sport Courts opened on June 12.
- John Simpson and Bella Mar Pools opened for Lap Swimming Only (Phase 1) on June 20.
- Towne Square Pool and Kiddie Pool, Bella Mar Splash Pool and Kiddie Pool opened for Recreational Swimming (Phase 2) on July 1.

Beginning Saturday, May 30th, 2020, the parking lot at the Lake Club was opened exclusively for the use of Steiner Ranch residents. To address vandalism, trespassing and over-night parking, the SRMA Board decided to implement a new parking permit policy. All vehicles are now required to display a Steiner Ranch Lake Club parking permit on their vehicles. The lots will be regularly patrolled by A&A Wrecker and Towing Service as of June 15th, 2020 and will be enforced 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. **Vehicles not displaying a HOA issued parking permit will be removed at the owner's expense.** Residents needing a parking permit can request one through the Ciranet residents' portal or by emailing the HOA office at [steiner@ciramail.com](mailto:steiner@ciramail.com).

Additionally - Lake Club docks can now be accessed through the main gate with your key fob to enable safe loading / unloading of your boats and watercraft.

Please note that if you decide to use the amenities, including the pools, it is important to understand that you are doing so at your own risk. We request that you follow the instructions listed on signage at the facilities, health experts' protocols, and CDC guidelines to ensure the safety of both you and our staff.

Amenities are for residents use only and guests are not allowed at this time. We appreciate your patience as we navigate through the complexities of reopening our amenities while adhering to government capacity and safety recommendations. We want to thank our staff and boards of directors for putting in countless hours in formulating a safe reopening plan for our residents during this pandemic. If you have any concerns or questions, please contact our office via email at [steiner@ciramail.com](mailto:steiner@ciramail.com).

Best Regards,  
The SRMA Board of Directors



For any question or concern, please email the SRMA Board at [board@steinerranchhoa.org](mailto:board@steinerranchhoa.org)

## Assessments Are Due July 1st, 2020

The July semi-annual Association assessments are due July 1st, 2020. We encourage all residents if you have not done so already to take the opportunity to register on the Ciranet portal. Not only can the assessments be paid with ease through the portal, you can also view Associations documents, current/history of your account ledger (starting September 1st, 2018, anything prior to this date contact the HOA office), Association financials and "report a problem" in your Association. While on the portal please verify your contact information such as your mailing address, telephone number and email address.

Semi-annual assessments are due July 1st, 2020 and considered late if received after July 31st, 2020. Statements will be mailed to each homeowner at the mailing address on file. If you do not receive a statement by June 30th, contact the GrandManors Resident Services at 1-855-947-2636.

Residents are encouraged to use one of the following payment methods:

ACH/Auto Debit (\*\*Recommended\*\*) – Sign Up Today!

This is the easiest way to pay! The ACH system automatically debits your account for the correct amount when your assessment is due. You will need your GrandManors Community ID; Account #; and Check Digit ID. For assistance call 1-855-947-2636

eCheck/Credit Card

You can make a one-time payment using eCheck (electronically debited from your checking account), Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover\*. Visit Resident Portal and choose "Make a payment" or call 1-855-947-2636 to pay over the phone. \*The bank charges a \$14.95 convenience fee if you pay via a credit card.

Check

You can write a check payable to your homeowners' association and mail it along to the address listed below. Please write your homeowner account number on the check:

c/o GrandManors  
2633 McKinney Ave #130-502  
Dallas, TX 75204-2581  
Your Bank's Online Bill-Pay

If you pay your assessments through an online bill-pay service, please update the payee information of your HOA to include your new GrandManors Customer ID. The payee address should be set up as shown below:

Payee: Your Association's Name  
Address 1: c/o GrandManors  
Address 2: 2633 McKinney Ave #130-502  
City/State/Zip: Dallas, TX 75204-2581  
Account/Reference #

Late payments will cause aggravation and penalties. Any payments received after July 31st, 2020 are subject to an initial \$25 late fee per association and for each subsequent month that the assessment remains unpaid. Assessment must be received by July 31st not postmarked by July 31st.

# From the Association Office

## Preparing Your Family for a Wildfire Evacuation

*Submitted by Brian Tarr, Firewise*

Living in Steiner Ranch means that during wildfire season our wildfire risk is very high to extremely high. Unlike hurricane season, wildfire season is not limited to a specific time period each year. A fast-moving wildfire can occur anytime there is a lot of easily ignited dry grass or dry brush in combination with low humidity and a strong wind to fan the flames. These conditions are more likely during summer and fall, so now's the time to put together (or refresh) your wildfire evacuation emergency supply kit and keep it easily accessible so you can be ready to evacuate at a moment's notice. (Sign up for emergency evacuation alerts at [www.WarnCentralTexas.org](http://www.WarnCentralTexas.org) so that the authorities will be able to call or text you when your home is being threatened. Alerts can be via cell phone, email, text or mobile app.)

As you think through what items to include, consider the time it may

take you to evacuate far enough to reach a safe place with a much lower wildfire risk (e.g. the home of a relative or friend, a safe hotel/motel, or a Red Cross shelter). Also, plan to be away from your home for up to two weeks; longer if it is damaged. Each person should have their own personal emergency supply kit; backpacks work great for storing personal items and are quick to grab. Storing other needed items in a tub or chest on wheels will make it easier to transport, but keep it light enough to be able to lift it into your vehicle. Consider the space required in your evacuation vehicle(s) for bulkier items like pet crates. To evaluate your preparedness, conduct your own family evacuation practice and see how long it takes to load your vehicle(s) ready to leave. (Aim to be ready to leave within 5 minutes at any time, day or night, and ensure you always keep vehicle fuel levels above ½ full during wildfire season.)

### Items to Consider Including in Your Emergency Supply Kit

- Flashlight and spare batteries
- Snacks and water for evacuation journey
- First aid kit, mylar blankets
- Portable radio and spare batteries (in case local cell towers affected)
- Cash and credit cards
- Pet supplies (crate, food, meds., etc.)
- Personal hygiene and sanitation supplies
- Face masks (preferably N-95 style)
- Infant supplies
- Change of clothes
- Important documents (birth certificates, passports, pet vaccination records, home inventory, insurance policy docs., etc.)
- An extra set of car keys (all vehicles)
- Prescriptions or special medications
- Spare glasses and contacts
- Age appropriate child activities or games
- Easily carried valuables, photo albums, or other irreplaceable items

*Continued on Page 8*



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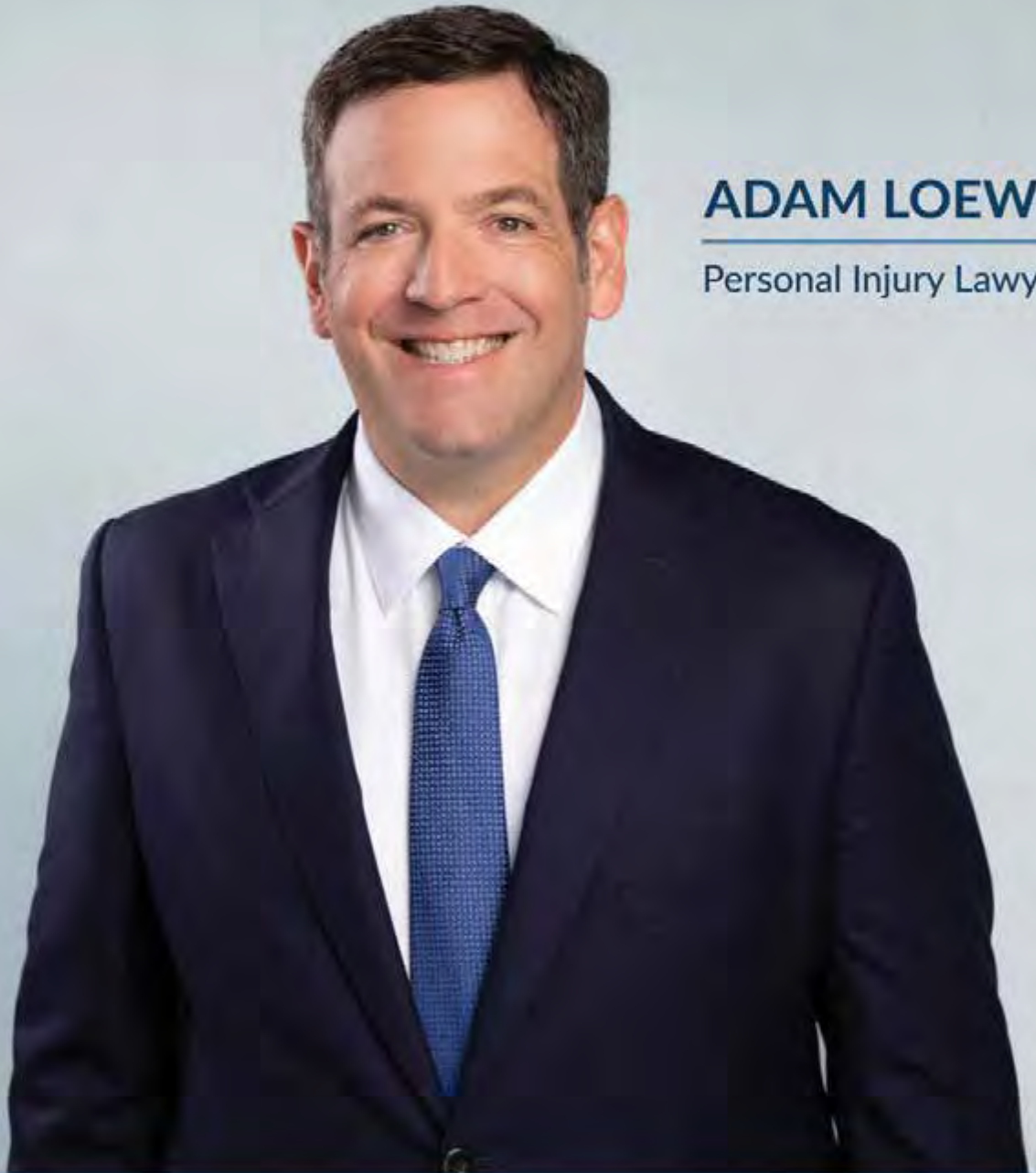
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# From the Association Office

*Continued from Page 6*

Be prepared to collect up your pets and portable electronics (cell phones, laptop computers, portable hard drives and chargers for cell phones, laptops, etc.) when it's time to evacuate.

***Remember, it may take several hours just to collect school children and get out of Steiner Ranch. Also, you may have to temporarily shelter in place at home or move to a suitable neighborhood open space (at a school, community center or golf course). Electricity, gas and water services will likely be interrupted by a serious wildfire, increasing the time it will take to make it safe for you to return home.***

## **Suggested Preparations Around Your Home Before Evacuating due to a Wildfire**

- Gather up flammable items (patio furniture, cushions, toys, door mats, etc.) and bring them inside
- Remove BBQ grill propane tanks and store them at least 30 ft away from the house/patio
- To allow firefighters to put out small spot fires on any part of your property, attach available garden hoses to at least two outside faucets on opposite corners of your house (long enough to reach all corners of the property)
  - Shut off the air conditioning
  - Turn off pilot lights and shut off gas at the meter
  - Leave outside lights on so firefighters can see your house under smoky conditions
  - Shut all house and garage windows and doors, but leave doors unlocked for firefighter access
  - Have a rendezvous spot picked out
  - Finally, call or text a friend or relative (who is in a safe place away from the wildfire risk) with details of your family's immediate evacuation plans.

***Please don't leave water or garden sprinklers running; they can waste critical water pressure.***

If you feel there are other items Steiner Ranch residents should consider included in their emergency supply kit, or in their preparations before evacuating, please email your suggestions to [SRfirewise@gmail.com](mailto:SRfirewise@gmail.com).

Let's all be fully prepared to safely and swiftly evacuate when our homes are threatened by the next wildfire!

## **Steiner Ranch Firewise Committee- Home Inspections for Fire Safety to Resume**

The Firewise committee temporarily suspended house and greenbelt inspections due to Covid19. We will soon be resuming these inspections which teach homeowners what steps they can take to "harden" their homes against the next wildfire.

The Firewise Committee will institute new safety measures to protect the health of members and homeowners. Since inspections are all performed outdoors, these requirements will be easy to meet.

• Homeowners will be requested to supply their own note taking supplies.

- We will maintain at least 6 feet of social distancing.
- We will email all necessary brochures & forms ahead of time
- Homeowners & committee members will wear masks during the inspection

Reminder: Firewise is always looking for new committee members. If you are interested in learning more about wildfire safety and prevention and would like to be of service to your community, contact us at [srfirewise@gmail.com](mailto:srfirewise@gmail.com).

Want emergency services to be able to warn your family in the event of a wildfire event? Visit [warncentraltexas.org](http://warncentraltexas.org) to register your family's contact information.

In the event of a wildfire, Warncentraltexas.org will issue any evacuation instructions. Additionally, the service provides neighborhood-based severe weather alerts. Sign up today!

## **SAFETY REMINDERS**

For resident safety, please adhere to the following association rules and/or state laws:

### Steiner Ranch Fireworks Policy

Residents are reminded that fireworks within Steiner Ranch are PROHIBITED by the Steiner Ranch Master Association and Steiner Ranch Residential Owners Association. 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) Rules regarding management of the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (which borders Steiner Ranch) impose significant restrictions on activities that may affect wildlife therein. Serious penalties for violation can be imposed by Travis County and/or City of Austin 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 visit [ciranet.com](http://ciranet.com) and report it under the Resident Portal or simply send an email to [steiner@ciramail.com](mailto:steiner@ciramail.com) immediately following an occurrence. Physical and/or photographic evidence is helpful in substantiating a violation.

### Fire Safety

Steiner Ranch topography and green space is conducive to fires. Please do not put the community at risk for fire, obey the Association rule which prohibits any type of fire or smoking in the green belt. Rules regarding management of the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve, which borders Steiner Ranch, impose significant restrictions on building fire pits, use of fire and smoking on the Preserve. Serious penalties for violation can be imposed by Travis County and/or the City of Austin.

*Continued on Page 9*

## *Continued from Page 8*

If at any time you see suspicious activity in and/or around trails or greenbelt areas, please call Captain Trubee (512-203-0632) and he will send a crew out to investigate the activity. Please notify LTFR ONLY IF you come across a fire pit, or you are witnessing an active fire in the greenbelts. In case of an emergency, please call 911 immediately.

### Speeding

Please SLOW DOWN and follow posted speed limits. Should you witness speeding, aggressive, or dangerous driving, contact law enforcement.

### Golf Carts

Please ensure family members, including minors, are aware of the below Steiner Ranch Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions. If you witness someone operating a golf cart in a reckless manner, or in a way you believe violates state law, you are encouraged to contact law enforcement.

- Private golf carts must be registered with the association.
- Private golf cart operators must have a valid driver's license.
- The operator and vehicle are subject to Texas law and must observe safe driving principles at all times.
- The number of passengers which may ride in a private golf cart is limited to the number of seats provided in the vehicle.
- Private golf carts may only be operated on paved streets within Steiner Ranch.
- When not in actual use, private golf carts must be stored in the garage of a residence.
- Private golf carts must be properly lighted between the hours of sunset & sunrise.
- All private golf cart passengers must remain seated during golf cart operation.

### Motorized Vehicles

Please DO NOT operate motorized vehicles (including ATV's and golf carts) on neighborhood trails and on basketball and tennis courts, soccer fields and sand volleyball court as those are for the specific sports and not for operating motorized toys, vehicles or bikes. Doing so poses a potential safety hazard to the riders and the other people using the sport courts and the trails. In addition, it damages the courts, soccer fields, parks, and expenses such as these drive HOA costs up, which in turn may cause assessments to increase. It also damages the trails, which the Trails Committee and other community volunteers graciously maintain.

### Pets

According to the Steiner Ranch Rules & Regulations #10 about Animals and Pets, no animals other than domestic household pets may be kept or maintained on the Property. All dogs must be on a leash at all times unless they are on the lot of their owner. Pets may not make excessive noise (in sole judgment of the Board). No animal shall be allowed to run at large, and all animals shall be kept within enclosed areas which must be clean, sanitary, and reasonably free of refuse, insects and waste at all times. The owner shall be responsible for the immediate removal of pet defecation. The Board of Directors may require permanent removal of any pet when the pet or its owner has repeatedly violated these rules, or the pet has become objectionable in the opinion of the Board.

## Overnight Parking, Boats & Watercraft Storage Reminders

Per Steiner Ranch governing documents, no automobile or other vehicle may be parked overnight on any roadway within the community. Boats and watercraft must be stored in an enclosed space at all times. Storing watercraft in driveways or on the street is not allowed.

To report overnight street parking or watercraft violations, visit [ciranet.com](http://ciranet.com) under the Resident Portal or simply send an email to [steiner@ciramail.com](mailto:steiner@ciramail.com).

Thank you for helping the association uphold Steiner Ranch rules which serve to protect and maintain the appearance and safety of the neighborhood.

## Architectural Modification Application is Now Online!

For the convenience of Steiner Ranch residents, the submission of Architectural Modification Applications is now available through your CiraNet portal. In addition, the SRMA Board of Directors has approved the removal of the \$500 deposit policy from the application process.

### **How to submit a Modification Application in CiraNet portal:**

1. Log in to your CiraNet account.
2. Click on Architectural Application tab
3. Download and complete out appropriate applications (please make sure to only fill out the appropriate addendums/variance if needed).
4. Click on Add New Improvement Request
5. Select Category
6. Enter in description of requested modification
7. Attach all necessary documents for full review.
8. Check box that you have read and understand the agreements.
9. Click submit once all items are attached and filled out.

**Please note:** The Architectural Committee has up to 30 days to review a completed application. This committee is made up of resident volunteers from Steiner Ranch.

If additional items are requested for review, the 30 days starts over again once those items are received.

You can monitor the status of your application in your CiraNet account. Please refrain from emailing or calling the HOA staff for an update on the status of your application before your 30 days is up.

The application can be filled out using tools in Adobe Reader or by printing the application out to fill it by hand.

# From the Association Office

## Oak Wilt Policy

Please remember to NOT prune, trim or wound oak trees through the month of June. Doing so puts oak trees at high risk for oak wilt infection, a destructive fungus that affects oaks and causes tree mortality.

The association may impose fines for violations of the Steiner Ranch Master Association Oak Wilt Policy.

To view the approved Oak Wilt Policy in its entirety, visit the HOA website and click the 'FAQS' menu drop down.

## Greenbelt Reminders

Please remember and share with all family members the following:

- **GREENBELT CUTTING & CONSTRUCTION IS PROHIBITED**

Greenbelts in Steiner Ranch are private property of the HOA. Cutting trees, constructing forts or fire pits, and any other activity which damages greenbelts is prohibited and may result in fines and penalties.

- **FIRES ARE PROHIBITED**

Fires are absolutely prohibited in Steiner Ranch greenbelts.

- **MOTORIZED VEHICLES ARE PROHIBITED**

Motorized vehicles are not allowed in greenbelt areas or trails as they pose a safety hazard to walkers and bikers. They also damage the trails, which the Trails Committee and other volunteers graciously maintain.

Should you observe anyone vandalizing the greenbelts or operating a motorized vehicle on the trails, please immediately contact the Travis County Sheriff's Department.

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**STEINER RANCH  
JULY 4TH  
CAR PARADE**

**9:30AM - LINE UP  
10:00AM - PARADE**

**SCAN HERE  
TO REGISTER:**



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ROUTE MAP:**



# Steiner Activities & Events

## Steiner Ranch July 4th Car Parade



This year with the limits on gatherings and the need for social distancing we are adjusting the 4th of July parade and celebration; instead we will be hosting a Car Parade along Quinlan Park Road.

The Steiner Ranch Event Planning Committee is seeking entries for the 2020 July 4th Car Parade, which will take place on Saturday, July 4, 2020.

The parade will begin in the lower Randall's parking lot, to the Longhorn Village via Steiner Ranch Boulevard, and conclude in the Randall's parking lot. Civic groups, youth organizations, community groups, local businesses, families and others are encouraged to participate in the parade. No entry fee is required!

Pre-registration is encouraged so that we have an exact number of cars that will be participating for traffic control and safety along the parade route.

For the health and safety of our residents, everyone will disperse at the conclusion of the parade.

The official Parade will start exactly at 10am and leave the parking promptly. Cars should start lining up by 9:30am.

We're looking for patriotic themed and decorated floats, cars, golf carts, trailed boats etc..

### Prizes are awarded to our top entries:

1st Place - \$100.00 Tiff's Treats gift card

2nd Place - \$50.00 Tiff's Treats gift card

3rd Place - \$25.00 Tiff's Treats gift card

Winners will be chosen and notified at the beginning of the parade. Gift cards will be given to the winning entries before the start of the parade.

Join your friends and neighbors for a little friendly competition – Steiner Ranch's Patriotism on Parade! It won't be the usual celebration this year, but we can still celebrate and show our patriotic spirit and sense of Community!

## Steiner Ranch Lifeguards Needed – Join the Team TODAY!



Dear Steiner Ranch Residents,

We are looking for LIFEGUARD applicants, ages 15 and up, to join our Equipt Aquatics team! Work at the Bella Mar, John Simpson, Towne Square, and UT Golf Club pools right here in Steiner Ranch. We offer the Red Cross lifeguard certification class and have several opportunities for you to join one of our classes over the coming weeks. Our soonest class is starting June 22nd at the Bella Mar pool. We are needing to bring on several dozen additional lifeguards to our staff this year in order to keep up with our new Covid-19 schedules.

We will provide you with a Red Cross certification, training, and a fun summer job by the pool. Check us out on Facebook or Instagram @equiptaquatics. All interested applicants should apply online at [equiptaquatics.com](http://equiptaquatics.com).



# SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF SUMMER ON THE BALCONES CANYONLANDS PRESERVE

*Submitted by Johanna Arendt and Jeremy Hull, Travis County Transportation & Natural Resources*

July is here with its long, hot summer days. If you're feeling cooped up inside, there are still plenty of plants and wildlife to see along the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (BCP) trails at Steiner Ranch. Just remember to bring plenty of water!

For many of us, the soundtrack of summer is the cicada's buzzing call. They make a tremendous amount of noise for such a small creature. Unlike crickets, which make their chirps by rubbing their legs and wings together, cicadas have special membrane-like structures (tymbals) on their abdomen that they vibrate to make noise. You can actually identify the different species of cicada by their calls, and so can other cicadas. What you're hearing is the mating call that males sing to attract females from the same species. To explore the different kinds of cicadas found in Texas, check out [http://texasento.net/Cicada\\_TX.htm](http://texasento.net/Cicada_TX.htm).



*Superb dog-day cicada (Neotibicen superbus).  
Photo by Robert Webster (CC BY-SA 4.0 license).*



*Mountain pink (Centaurium beyrichii).  
Photo by Tom Hausler.*

hummingbirds, and their small red fruit are enjoyed by birds and some mammals. Many parts of the plant have also been traditionally eaten by people and used for medicinal purposes. In fact, one of the Spanish common names for the plant, Manzanita, translates to "little apple," referring to the bright red fruit that appear in late summer, which do taste a bit like apples.

To learn more about the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve at Steiner Ranch and beyond, follow us on Instagram @bcp\_traviscounty, Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/traviscountymbcp/>) and our website ([www.traviscountytexas.gov/tnr/nr/bcp](http://www.traviscountytexas.gov/tnr/nr/bcp)).

If you can hear them above the din of the cicadas, crickets actually have a story to tell – their chirps let you know just how hot it is out there. They chirp more frequently the hotter it gets, and they're remarkably predictable. Try counting the number of chirps you hear in 14 seconds, then add 40. Try it two more times, and if the numbers come out pretty close together, average them to get the approximate outdoor temperature.

Several native wildflowers and flowering plants can also be seen in the hotter months on the BCP. One example is the mountain pink, which has small, showy bright-pink blooms that look like a little bouquet sprouting right out of the ground. It likes dry, gravelly hills, so is often encountered growing on BCP trails from May through August.

Another native flowering plant that can be found regularly on the BCP is Turk's cap. This plant is a type of mallow, and is related to hibiscus, okra, and cotton. It has become a popular landscape plant in Central Texas due to its pretty red flowers, drought tolerance, and deer resistance. The flowers are also great for attracting butterflies and



*Turk's cap (Malvaviscus arboreus).  
Photo by Jeremy Hull.*

# News from the Trails Committee

*Submitted by Eric Morton*

The trail committee members put an incredible amount of effort and time into the trails. We clear downed trees from the trails, build bridges, drag out trash, and do general maintenance and clipping. I would like to thank all of our volunteers for this. Recently, several of us spent a few hours staining all of the green signs so that they are actually all green! I feel like that has really improved them and will help their longevity.

One thing we do not do is to remove the natural challenges that are on our trail. We recognize that hiking and biking Steiner trails is demanding in many areas, but there are plenty of people (myself included) that can hike or ride every single part of the trails. It has been awesome to see the increase in ridership and hikers that are using our trail network due to the pandemic, but it has also led to the case where there are a lot of “new” riders on our trails that may not know trail etiquette.

Please:

- Do not make trail modifications of any kind. Do not move large rocks, stumps, etc. If you are a mountain biker, please walk or session any of these challenges until you are able to safely ride them.

- Stop building cut throughs and bypasses. We put tremendous effort into the signage after getting feedback from our residents on how easy it is to navigate the trails. While it may be tempting to connect two trails that run close to each other, doing so can be confusing to residents and degrades the experience. Some of the trails run fairly close to each other but you wouldn't always know that. We do try to avoid creating a “tangle” of trails that, in our experience of other parks in the area, leads to disorientation and also some relatively risky situations as people cross trails that intersect.

- Stop removing the blockage that we put up on these unauthorized cut throughs and bypasses.

- But most of all - do not build rogue trails.

The trail committee is the sole entity to approve and plan any trail modifications or new trails. Everything else violates HOA rules on the management of our green belts. Improper trail modifications or trail building can increase erosion and may even make the trail more dangerous.

If you are interested in making a new trail or a modification, then come to the committee meetings - they are announced on the HOA calendar. Have a plan of what you want to build and why. You may even find people to pitch in and help.

If you come across any section of the trail that you believe needs to be maintained, contact the trail committee through our Facebook page or through the HOA reports. We do rely on resident's reports - with 20+ miles of trails, clearly we don't get to them all the time; especially some of the exits to neighborhoods.

And while we are at it, let's talk about fire pits in the greenbelt area. I'm sure this is probably covered elsewhere in this Ranch Record, but as someone that was living in Steiner during the 2011 wildfires that were in the exact area that a recently found fire pit, it disturbs me that anyone would put the community at risk. No smoking or fires of any kind in the greenbelt. This is just not worth the risk.

Now that I'm done with my rant, please enjoy this picture of an area of Bear Creek on Phoenix Pass.



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# Save Money All Summer by Testing Automated Irrigation Systems

*Submitted by Travis County WC & ID 17*

Now is a good time to spruce up your irrigation system after it has been dormant all winter. As you turn on your automated systems this month, you will want to run zone tests, or have your irrigation contractor do so, to check for misdirected or leaking heads which may need to be repaired, as well as mainline breaks. Check each zone for optimal watering time, and be familiar with approximately how much water your irrigation system uses each time it runs a cycle. When it comes to a home's irrigation system, a little maintenance goes a long way. You can use the following as guide when performing your system review: <https://www.rainbird.com/homeowners/spring-sprinkler-tune>

Once your system is operational and set to the correct schedule for your address, routinely check the water usage on your monthly statement. Should your water usage be unusually high, you may want to shorten the time for each run cycle. Also, one can request an irrigation system audit from the Lower Colorado River Authority called "Water My Yard."

During the water audit, an inspector analyzes the amount of water that is being applied and the rate of application; points out areas that are receiving too much water; and points out areas

that are not receiving enough water. A fix can be as simple as adjustments to your system run time per zone; realignment or adding an additional head where needed; or changing out older style heads to pressure regulating heads. Knowing your irrigation system and making little changes can add up to a lot, and that can mean savings in water dollars and water conservation.

Thank you for continuing to conserve water in Lake Travis. Please visit [www.wcid17.org](http://www.wcid17.org) for the complete Stage 1 Mandatory Outdoor Watering Schedule that began May 1. As we have been reminding everyone monthly, the watering schedule remains:

**12:01 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. only on your two days**

## Addresses ending number:

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## Keep Steiner Ranch Beautiful

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# TEENAGE JOB SEEKERS

## ATTENTION TEENAGE JOB SEEKERS

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