



VOLUME 14 ISSUE 8  
AUGUST 2020

# RANCH RECORD

*Official Newsletter of The Steiner Ranch HOA*



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## COMMUNITY INFO

### STEINER RANCH

#### COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS OFFICE

12550 Country Trails Lane

Austin, Texas 78732

512-266-7553 – Telephone

512-266-9312 – Facsimile

[www.steinerranchhoa.org](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**

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**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

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# From the Association Office

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## UPCOMING STEINER RANCH HOA EVENTS

**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

This month's cover photo features one of our youngest virtual Community Yoga participants, Amisha Sharma. For details about virtual free activities for Steiner residents, see details in this issue on page 14.

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

Dear Steiner Ranch Residents,

Our community has experienced a spate of vandalism at our common areas and amenities the last several weeks. We have recently spent hundreds of thousands of dollars in upgrading our amenities and the very same are getting vandalized. We are requesting information on the individuals who committed these crimes and any tips leading to prosecution will be rewarded. Please email any leads to [steiner@ciramail.com](mailto:steiner@ciramail.com).

### SEE BELOW FOR A LIST OF THE MOST RECENT UNACCEPTABLE ACTS OF VANDALISM:



- 1 New fixtures and plumbing were destroyed at the newly renovated bathrooms at Towne Square.



- 2 Tennis court net poles, bench and gates were vandalized at Towne Square and Bella Mar.



- 3 Newly installed sod at Towne Square was purposely driven on.



- 4 Boat docks at the Lake Club have been damaged and not reported.



- 5 Residents are using amenity dumpsters for trash and landscape debris causing TDS to refuse to pick up the trash.

As a result, the Association is incurring additional repair costs driving up HOA maintenance costs at an already challenging time. We are currently in the process of installing integrated security system at all our facilities and common areas. Please call 911 or 311 immediately when you see vandalism happening or any suspicious activity and send an email to [steiner@ciramail.com](mailto:steiner@ciramail.com) with information.



Regards,  
Board of Directors, SRMA

# From the Association Office

## News from the SRROA Board of Directors

The Steiner Ranch Residential Owners association (SRROA) Annual Meeting and Election took place on Thursday, May 28, 2020 and two Board members were elected.

### **Congratulations to the newly elected Directors:**

- Teal Rapp
- Wendy Gray

The SRROA Board consists of five board members. The elected members serve a two-year term. The other SRROA Board of Directors are:

- Derrick Jones
- Meredith Hamrick
- Alan Lindroth

The SRROA Board meets once a month on the last Thursday of the month at 6:00pm. SRROA Board meeting agendas are posted to the Ciranet Residents Portal 2 days prior the board meeting and are emailed to all the SRROA homeowners with emails on file with the HOA.

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

The purpose of the Steiner Ranch Residential Owners Association (SRROA) Board is to govern the SRROA community. Topics that may be covered at board meetings include:

- Finances – budget, cash flow, and assessment collection
- Contracts – building maintenance, grounds management, reserve study, facilities usage
- Management – upkeep and repair of the property, staff supervision and services to homeowners
- Legal Responsibilities – rules, regulations, policy enforcement, meetings and elections.

To contact the SRROA BOD, please send an email to [srowners@ciramail.com](mailto:srowners@ciramail.com).

## Oak Pruning Reminder and Guidelines

Although the risk of oak trees being exposed to oak wilt is greatest from January through June, residents are encouraged to follow proper pruning techniques regardless of seasonality. TexasOakWilt.org recommends the following:

- Always paint fresh wounds on oaks, including pruning cuts and stumps, with wound dressing or latex paint immediately after pruning or live tree removal at all times of the year.
- Clean all pruning tools with 10% bleach solution or Lysol™ between sites and/or trees.
- Debris from diseased red oaks should be immediately chipped, burned or buried.
- Pruning should be completed before February 1 or after June 30.

If uncertain about trimming, consult with a Texas oak wilt certified arborist, an oak wilt specialist from a city, county or state government agency such as the Texas Forest Service or Texas AgriLife Extension Service, or visit [texasoakwilt.org](http://texasoakwilt.org).

## Greenbelt Reminders

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.

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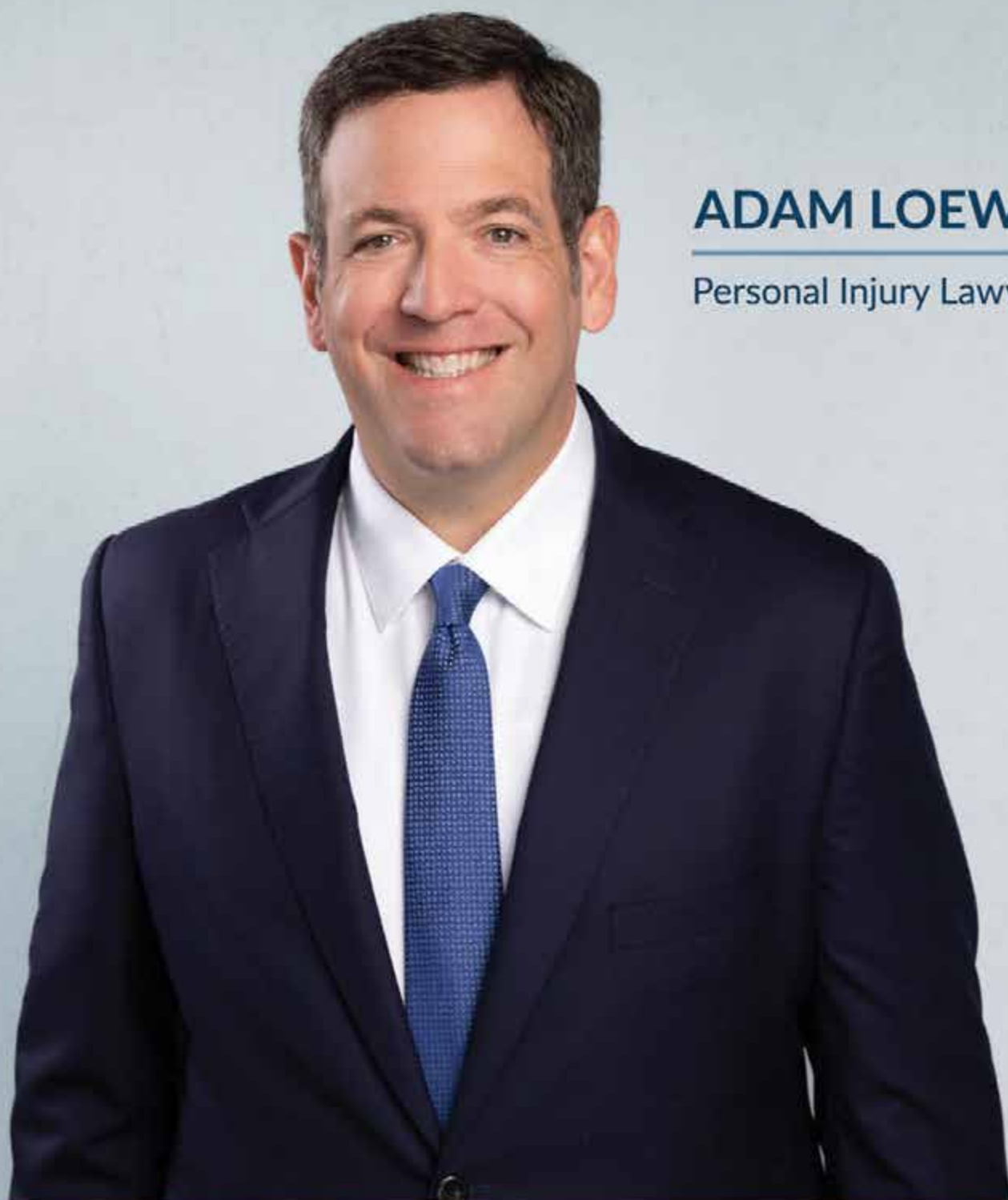


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# From the Association Office

## The Architectural Modification Application is Now Online and the \$500 Deposit has been Wavied!

For the convenience of the Steiner Ranch Homeowners' Association residents, the submission of the Architectural Modification Applications is now available through your CiraNet portal. In addition, the SRMA and the SRROA Board of Directors have 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.

For any questions or concerns, please contact us via email at [steiner@ciramail.com](mailto:steiner@ciramail.com).



The Steiner Ranch Homeowners' Association is currently seeking volunteers to join the various Association's Committees. Openings are for the:

- **Solid Waste/and Recycling Committee.** The purpose of the Committee is to support the Board of Directors in assessing the needs and wants of the community and provide additional feedback and a broader voice from all residents.
- **Architectural Compliance Committee.** The purpose of the Committee is to assist the Board of Directors to review homeowners' architectural submittals.
- **Events Planning Committee.** The purpose of the Committee is to advise and consult with the Association management and Board of Directors on the type, content, planning, implementation and evaluation of recreation events, classes, activities and social functions sponsored by Steiner Ranch Homeowners Association.
- **Landscape Committee.** The purpose of the Committee is to advise and assist the Board of Directors in preserving and enhancing the physical landscape environment of Steiner Ranch and to help ensure an overall coordinated approach to maintaining all of its common areas.

If this is something in which you would like to participate, please contact us by sending an email to [steiner@ciramail.com](mailto:steiner@ciramail.com).

In addition, the **Steiner Ranch Firewise Committee** is also seeking committee volunteer members. The original 8 members Firewise Committee was formed after the Labor Day 2011 Steiner Ranch wildfire that destroyed 23 homes. Unfortunately, at this time the Committee has only three members representing the Savannah and Bella Mar subdivisions and would like to recruit volunteers from each of the other Steiner Ranch subdivisions. For more info, contact them at [SRfirewise@gmail.com](mailto:SRfirewise@gmail.com).



## SAFETY REMINDERS

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

### 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. 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.

### Pet Waste

Pet waste stations are conveniently located throughout the neighborhood and feature waste receptacle, bag dispenser and environmentally friendly degradable bags. Pet waste left on trails, sidewalks, streets, and grassy areas can end up in local waterways, leading to water quality problems. It can also cause pet and human health issues such as roundworms, giardia, salmonella and other viruses and parasites. Please 'scoop the poop' and help keep Steiner Ranch sidewalks, green spaces, and shoes clean.

## 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.

# Steiner Activities & Events

## Ranch Record Front Cover Contest Coming Up!



### Ranch Record Front Cover Contest

Brought to you by the Trails & the Events Planning Committees

Sponsored by:



Because of an increased number of residents are using the Steiner Ranch trails during this time, the Events Planning Committee and the Trails Committee have partnered to bring you a fun Ranch Record Front cover contest.

The Steiner Ranch Trails run for over 20 miles and offer views of beautiful Texas Hill Country, creeks, waterfalls and much more. They are often compared to national parks because of the variety in their flora, fauna and terrain, great for both beginner and experienced hikers and bikers.

Starting with the September Ranch Record edition, the front cover will feature a photo of the Trails. Contestants will need to identify the exact location and correct name of the identified trail or trail feature and send us an email at [communications@steinerranchhoa.org](mailto:communications@steinerranchhoa.org). We will be accepting entries for each featured monthly cover between the 1st and the 7th day of the month. Received entries will be entered in a drawing for a \$50 Tiff's Treat gift card each month to be delivered directly to your inbox. Participants must be Steiner Ranch residents, registered on CiraNet and be in good standing. Vague name and/or description will not be accepted.

If you have not recently biked or hiked the trails, please do so and enjoy them and what better time than now! The Trails Committee has recently installed new trail map signs for your safety and convenience. (please remember that if you take your dog along, they must be on leash.

We would like to thank our sponsor, Tiff's Treats for graciously donating the gift cards. Contest will start in September and end in December. Winners will be announced in the following month Ranch Record and contacted via email.

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# Steiner Activities & Events

## Fall Field Lottery

Are you planning on coaching a team this fall? Need a place to practice? Mark your calendar for the 2020 Fall field lottery to be held on August 24th.

Register your team by sending an email to [desirre.ghbremicael@grandmanors.com](mailto:desirre.ghbremicael@grandmanors.com). Registration must be submitted by 5:00pm on August 17th with the following information:

- Name of coach
- Address
- Phone number
- Organization (CC United, Town & Country, etc.)
- Sport (soccer, baseball, etc.)
- Age group
- 1st, 2nd & 3rd choice of field, time & day.

### FIELD OPTIONS:

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

### TIME OPTIONS:

- One hour weekly beginning at 4:00pm until sunset (daylight savings time ends on Sunday, November 1st)

### DAY OPTIONS:

- Monday – Friday only

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

Assigned practice day(s), time(s), and field(s) will be emailed to you by August 30th. Please note, once you have been awarded a practice day, time and field, changes will not be made until the next fall field lottery.

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

## 2020- 2021 Programs

Due to Covid19, many programs and events were abruptly cancelled, however as we look forward into the Fall, Winter 2020 and the Spring of 2021, the Association would like the Community to know that we are working to bring back those providers to offer their programs in person or virtually.

The Association has put together the 2020-21 Programs Guide with all HOA activity and program offerings in one place. Visit the Steiner Ranch HOA website to view the guide online at:

[http://steinerranchhoa.org/document\\_view.asp?id=1083](http://steinerranchhoa.org/document_view.asp?id=1083)

Featured programs include:

### Children's Programs

- Lonestar Soccer
- Nitro Swimming
- Neighborhood Sports
- Gold Stars Swimming
- Sportball
- Tap-N-Toe
- Tennis

### Adult Programs

- Camp Gladiator
- Master's Swimming
- Tennis
- Yoga
- Bombay Jam
- Water Aerobics

## Free Activities For Residents

As many in-person activities have canceled, we have compiled a list of Steiner focused alternative virtual free options for residents to explore and enjoy.

### **Water Aerobics**

Want to exercise, have a pool in your backyard but can't get motivated? What better time than now when we are all staying home? Perhaps the pavement plays havoc on your knees, legs or hips. Try water aerobics! Ann Sperling-Kennedy, the water aerobics instructor of Steiner Ranch for the past 12 years has compiled multiple videos to share with the Community. To follow and see her latest videos, scan the QR code below:



### **Community Yoga**

Community Yoga is a Steiner Ranch volunteer-based group that formed in June 2017. Classes are led by Senior yoga teacher and Yoga therapist, Hetal Matta, and they are focused on sharing and practicing the ancient eastern wisdom sciences of yoga, pranayama and meditation and touch upon ayurvedic lifestyle choices for the physical strength/immunity and emotional wellness leading to spiritual growth. To learn more and to register to receive the Zoom pro link to the classes, join the group Facebook Page (you will need to be a Steiner Resident). The group Facebook page can be accessed by scanning the QR code below:



### **Bombay Jam**

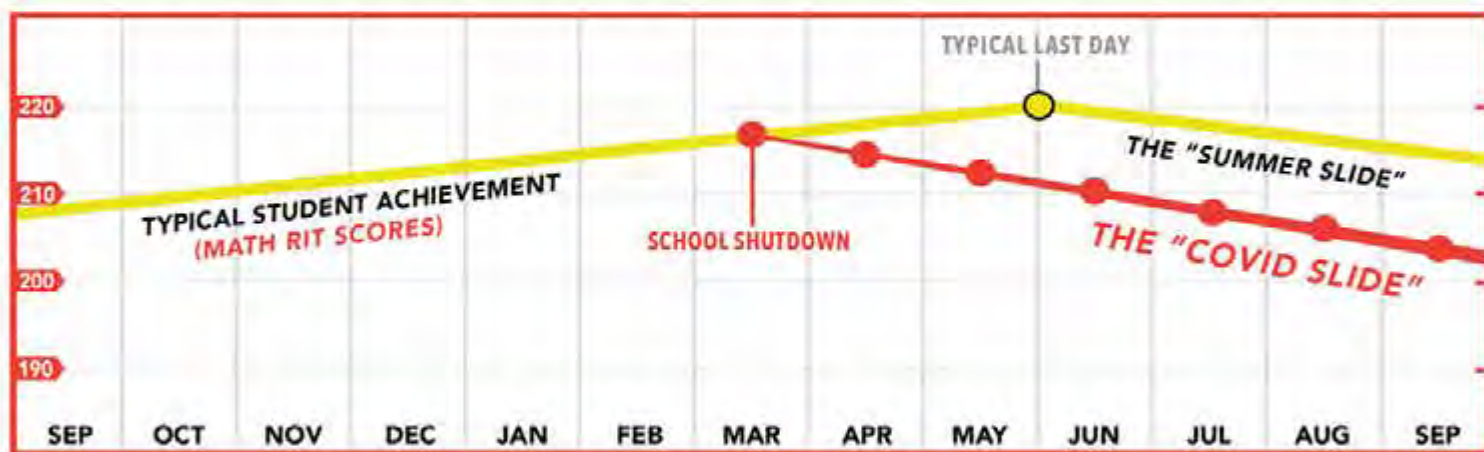
Bombay Jam is a Bollywood fitness classes offered by resident Heera Pillai through Facebook live/Zoom usually on Saturday mornings at 10:30am CST. You will need to join the Facebook group in order to access the live videos and get all the details. The Facebook page can be accessed by scanning the QR code below:







## School Closures Can Leave Students up to a Year Behind in Math



Based on NWEA Research

### *Reverse the effects of school closures with Mathnasium*

Academic experts agree: Children kept out of school lose more comprehension in math than in any other subject. It can take years to make up missed learning. Mathnasium reverses the loss from this "COVID slide" through face-to-face instruction, with custom-built learning plans that get your child back on track and ready to soar ahead. They can learn in our center or with Mathnasium@home, our live online tutoring service.

For over 15 years, we've transformed students' mastery of math. We'll do it for your child, too. Our comprehensive skills assessment will determine if your child is falling behind and will provide a roadmap for recovery and success.

**Call us today to schedule your child's free assessment.**

**Mathnasium of Steiner Ranch**  
(512) 284-9849 • [mathnasium.com/Steinerranch](https://mathnasium.com/Steinerranch)  
5145 N FM 620 RD, Ste B-140, Austin



# Steiner Activities & Events

## News from the Firewise Committee

*Submitted by Bill Hamm Firewise Committee Chairperson*

### Majority of Steiner Residents not signed up for emergency notifications



As we go around and do Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) inspections, we always mention the need to sign up for emergency notifications at WarnCentralTexas.org. Based on the number of puzzled looks and discussions with residents, I decided to check things out as best I could.

What I found, was that fewer than 50% of Steiner Ranch adults are signed up. There has been a lot of hoopla about getting a second egress for an emergency evacuation, but fewer than half of adults are signed up for the service that is designed to notify them that they need to evacuate. Note that these notifications can be for any emergency, and is location specific. It can evidently focus on locations as small as a street.

Words in quotation marks are from the WarnCentralTexas

website.

“WarnCentralTexas is a free emergency alert system that can save lives and protect property during disasters. By registering with WarnCentralTexas, you allow emergency personnel in your local community to directly contact you by phone, text or email during a disaster or public safety event.

Using WarnCentralTexas, emergency response teams can warn residents about dangerous conditions and situations as events unfold. They can quickly give specific directions that affect your neighborhood such as evacuation orders and directions to shelters.”

This is a great step up in technology that allows you to be notified by cell phone no matter where you are.

*Continued on Page 15*





*Continued on Page 14*

“Residents must register cellphone numbers and email addresses to get alerts sent to their mobile devices, but the Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG) has already registered landline phones. Information will only be used for warning notifications.”

It is important to realize that fewer than 40% of homes have landlines according to the Center for Disease Control and that a landline won't be helpful if you are not home.

“Messages may include content such as incident-specific information, recommended protective actions or response directives. They can be delivered to various devices that accept voice, email or SMS text content and to alpha or numeric pagers. The message sender identifies recipients, which could be a single street, a neighborhood, or an entire county; develops the message and determines which types of devices receive the message.

Using WarnCentralTexas.org, residents can receive real-time information about dangerous conditions and situations provided by public safety officials. The website connects users to a host of emergency resources. And it's where you go to sign up for local alerts. It's an easy process, simply create an account, give a physical address and indicate how you wish to receive the messages.

Messages are sent based on a geographical location. It's important

that residents complete the address section of the account with all the requested information.

For example, let's say the National Weather Service has issued a severe thunderstorm warning for a section of our community. If you are registered, and live in that area, you'll receive the alert. If you don't live in that area, even if you're registered, you won't receive the alert. If you're not signed up, regardless of where you live, we can't send you the message.

**The mark of a united community is its ability to communicate effectively. At no time is that more important than in an emergency.**

If we can't reach you, we can't alert you – it's as simple as that.

To register for local alerts through Warn Central Texas, go to [www.warncentraltexas.org](http://www.warncentraltexas.org) and click on the red alert button. Complete the process to start receiving accurate and effective messages during emergencies. If you can't register on the site, call 1-866-939-0911.”

Note that I have been registered for more than two years and have only received three notifications. You shouldn't worry about getting an Amber alert from Dallas.

September is Emergency Preparedness Month.

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# Steiner Activities & Events

## News from the Trails Committee

*Submitted by Eric Morton*

A long time ago, in a galaxy far away, there used to be two bridges on Bear Creek Trail (which ironically is not on Bear Creek but more on that later), and both got flooded out and damaged. The “lower” bridge is slated for replacement by the trail committee volunteers - except that our trail workdays have been suspended because of COVID19. The “higher” bridge was more problematic - a very long span and the last bridge’s fate was to be swept downstream even though it had been chained to trees. It had been a lot of work even to haul out that bridge as it is a good hike up to the nearest exit!

And this is where I call out our wonderful area Scouts. Dillon Kirby led a scout project with troop 441 and they recently replaced the bridge. I recently visited it and it is one of the sturdiest bridges that we have out there. They really did an awesome job. I’d also like to thank Troy Mutter, the adult sponsor for the program and a devoted member of the trail committee (and a volunteer mountain bike coach for the SRMTB).

We depend so much on our volunteers but especially our scout and cub teams around here - they are always helping to clean up the trails and improve them. In addition to the bridges, a scout

project led by Evan Roberts of troop 271 is GPS’ing all of our trail signs for emergency responder purposes. It is wonderful to see the youth of our area take interest in how they can help improve the community. The Bear Creek bridge is not the only bridge in our area to be built and led by area Scouts, so think of them the next time you use our trails.

Speaking of Bear Creek, if you trust Google Maps (and who doesn’t around here for navigation?) - the creek that is actually Bear Creek is further north than our Bear Creek Trail itself. If you are on the Serrulata trail, it is the flat creek crossing that you cross just before the hill (aka “Delicious Hill”) that takes you up to the powerlines. So what should we call the creek that is actually on Bear Creek Trail then? It eventually intersects with Bear Creek further down, so Bear Creek is the proper name for when it passes by Phoenix Pass and then later on at the bottom of Serrulata’s switchbacks. To me, it is just odd that it isn’t the creek that is actually on what the powers to be decided to name Bear Creek Trail a long time ago. This is the creek that also took the life of Travis County Deputy Sheriff Jessica Hollis in 2014 when it was a foot above the low water crossing on Fritz Hughes Road. I visited the memorial that is down there a few weeks ago and am always amazed that this water ever got that high. This is one of the reasons why the bridge building around here is difficult and takes lots of planning. Remember folks, turn around, don’t drown.

Several people have asked about the mulching that is on several of the trails. The power company (LCRA) has access rights to their power lines for maintenance and will occasionally come in and clear out the brush. They mulch up the trees that they cut down. They did this a few months ago, which is why several of the trails (e.g. Outback and Serrulata) have a layer of fresh cedar mulch over several areas of the trail. Not much we can do about it.

We look forward to helping you find that perfect vacation, when you are ready to travel again.



*"I am a Steiner Area resident. I'd love to help you plan your next dream vacation."*

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# Steiner Activities & Events

## STEINER RANCH'S WILD SIDE

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

Central Texas is an amazing place to live for so many reasons. One that often gets overlooked is the uniqueness of the wildlife here. We have species found nowhere else on earth, and a high level of biodiversity (total number of species). Steiner Ranch's extensive trail system, including trails through the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (J-Canyon, Eastridge, and Powerline Hill trails), is the perfect place to start exploring nature.

August can be a difficult time to be outside in Texas, but if you can find some time when it's not too hot, you might see some local characters like green anole lizards and widow skimmer dragonflies. Starting in late August, keep an eye out for the American beautyberry's bright purple berries, which birds love to eat.

Here are some great resources to help you explore the natural world:

### **- Seek:**

this free app helps identify any living thing, whether plant, animal, or fungus. It's surprisingly accurate and easy to use. This is from the same folks who created iNaturalist, which is another great resource, but usually requires more input from the user.

### **-Cornell Lab of Ornithology ([www.allaboutbirds.org](http://www.allaboutbirds.org)):**

if you're ready to dig a little deeper, this website has a wealth of information. It can help you identify and keep track of birds you're seeing or even just hearing. They have an extensive audio library of bird calls, a user-friendly bird-watching site called eBird, and a free app (Merlin) for bird identification.

**- The Wildflower Center ([www.wildflower.org](http://www.wildflower.org)):** if you'd like to see more butterflies and birds in your yard, using native plants can make a big difference, along with avoiding pesticides. The Wildflower Center's site has a database of native plants that you can search to find the right ones for your home. They also have great classes and tips for gardening with native plants.

The Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (BCP) also has a monthly Wild Neighbors webinar series, which kicked off in May with a presentation about Central Texas bats, followed by talks on summer bugs and owls. You can view recordings of the webinars at [traviscountytexas.gov/tnr/nr/videos](http://traviscountytexas.gov/tnr/nr/videos). If you have questions or ideas for future webinar topics, please email us at [BCCP@traviscountytexas.gov](mailto:BCCP@traviscountytexas.gov).

*American beautyberry (*Callicarpa Americana*)  
by Heather Valey*



*Widow skimmer dragonfly (*Libellula luctuosa*)  
by Mikael Behrens*





# Coyote Denning Season

*Submitted by Emery Sadkin - City of Austin Animal Services - Animal Protection Officer- Wildlife*

During this time of the year, coyotes may be more active as they get ready to have pups in the den. Denning season last from April-November. Coyotes are typically most active at dawn and dusk, though they may be seen hunting or traveling during daytime hours. We want to share space with coyotes, but not time. Hazing is a process that helps shape coyote behavior and encourages them to avoid contact with people and pets. It reinforces coyotes' natural wariness without harming them. Please contact 311 to report concerning behavior or to receive more information about how to respond. Below are considerations regarding hazing and pet safety and coyotes:

Hazing should be exaggerated, assertive and consistent:

- Make eye contact, yell and wave your arms. You want the coyote to know the behavior is directed at it. Waving your arms will make you seem bigger.
- Use noisemakers such as whistles, air horns, a "shaker" can full of small rocks (or something similar), or bang something like pots and pans together.
- If the coyote does not leave immediately, throw non-edible objects near it. You can use something like small rocks, sticks or tennis balls. Remember, the goal is not to hurt the coyote, you're trying to get it to leave and associate humans with unpredictable, "scary" behavior.
- Spray the coyote with a water hose, water guns or spray bottles. You can also use a mixture of water and vinegar, pepper spray or bear repellent.
- If the coyote does not leave after escalating hazing efforts, maintain eye contact and back away slowly. Notify 311 immediately.
- Don't haze if a coyote appears sick or injured, is cornered or displaying acceptable coyote behavior. Please call 311 to report sick or injured animals.

Pet safety:

- Keep small pets inside if possible and monitor them when outside (specifically during twilight/night time hours)
- Feed pets indoors.
- Provide secure shelters for poultry or other animals living outside.
- Avoid using extendable leashes; walk dogs on leashes that are 4-6 feet in length.
- Avoid letting dogs explore vegetation that you cannot see through.
- You can influence the behavior of a coyote through a simple process of negative reinforcement called hazing. For more information on hazing, attractants or reliable food sources, and pet safety, visit: <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/coyotes-central-texas>.

Reliable Food Sources

To keep coyotes and other wildlife wild, we can follow a few, simple preventative measures:

- Always keep trash and compost in a secure bin.
- Keep your barbecue grill clean.
- Keep the area under your fruit and nut trees free of droppings. (a coyote's diet can be up to 40% fruit in Texas)
- Avoid feeding pets outdoors (if you must feed pets outside, feed during the daytime and remove the uneaten food as soon as the animal has finished).

• Feeding wildlife and feral cats can attract coyotes. In addition to coyotes eating the food, mice and other animals will be drawn to leftovers, which can subsequently attract predators such as foxes and coyotes.

For immediate assistance, call 311. Visit our website to learn more about coyote ecology, hazing, pet safety, and attractants. <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/coyotes-central-texas>





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## Save Money by Testing Automated Irrigation Systems

*Submitted by Travis County WC & ID 17*

It's never too late to test your irrigation system after you realize your water usage is high. As you turn on your automated systems, 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, continue to 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:

Monday & Thursday	0, 1, 2, 3 (Res)
Tuesday & Friday	4, 5, 6 (Res) and Commercial & HOAs
Wednesday & Saturday	7, 8, 9 (Res)
Sunday	no automated systems allowed

## Steiner Ranch Cycling News

We know many neighborhood cycling enthusiasts are wondering if/when our Saturday/Sunday group rides are back yet. Please look for updates via our email/Facebook/Website as things evolve.

Saturdays we have open group training rides, starting at Cups & Cones at 7:30 AM & 8:00 AM.

Sundays at 7:30 AM we host a 45-50 mile social ride to local coffee shops outside Steiner. (rotating locations)

Ride route details are posted each week to our website at <http://www.steineranchcycling.com>, Facebook page <http://facebook.com/SteinerRanchCycling> and to our email list (sign up on our website).

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







# News from Nitro Swimming

## We're Back in the water!

We would like to inform our Steiner Ranch Families that because the Bella Mar pool is temporary closed (because of the COVID19 Pandemic at the time this publication is printed), we have openings at our two locations for your convenience.

### **We're back in the water at our Bee Cave and Cedar Park locations!**

Not only we are excited to see our loyal Nitro Families returning, we also are looking forward to meet the many new Families who will be discovering us for the first time and making Nitro their swimming home. We've put a lot of care and attention into our operations to help keep our Families safe as we begin the re-opening phase. Some of them will be easily visible the moment you walk in to any of our locations:

- You'll see traffic flow being designated.
- You'll see separate exits for Swim School and our Swim Team groups.
- You'll see less kids in the water, as we've adjusted our schedules and class sizes to lower the risks of any potentially unhealthy scenarios.

Here are a few other things going on behind the scenes to keep our swimmers and coaches safe:

- We're keeping the locker rooms/changing rooms off limits for now except for the use of the toilets.

-We have our Ultraviolet (UV) filtration systems operating 24/7 on all of our pools keeping the water quality impeccable.

-Our nightly cleaning crew is working extremely hard disinfecting every area that has any potential for human contact during the day.

And we've been extremely busy over the quarantine period in order to bring you the highest quality experience that you expect from Nitro. Our amazing Nitro staff deep cleaned, painted, replaced countless air filters and scrubbed all the locker and changing areas of each of our three Nitro Swimming locations. We're ready, willing, and able to deliver Visible Improvement, Delivered with Passion and Joy, Every Day with our professional and friendly team of Admin Pros, Instructors, and Coaches. If you feel more comfortable waiting a little longer before starting back up with us or perhaps starting for the first time, we totally understand.

We want the Steiner Ranch Community to know that we'll be here when you are ready. If you are interested in our program contact us for an evaluation at: <https://www.nitroswim.com/about-nitro/get-in-touch/>

At Nitro Swimming, others "do" lessons, we TEACH Swimming! See you at the pool! -Mike Koleber, and your Neighborhood Nitro Swimming Coaches

# TEENAGE JOB SEEKERS

## ATTENTION TEENAGE JOB SEEKERS

Please submit your information to [communications@steinerranchhoa.org](mailto:communications@steinerranchhoa.org) if you would like to be added to the list.

*Not Available Online*

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## Steiner Ranch Orthodontics

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### WARNING:

In this current "new normal" with Covid-19, Dr. Waters strongly recommends new patients consider fixed braces to reduce the risks of Covid-19 for you and your kids; Taking plastic trays in and out of your mouth with your fingers greatly increases the risks of introducing/transmitting viruses.

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Help us welcome Dr. Traci Simons  
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**Dr. Traci Simons** was born in South Dakota, but has lived most of her life as a Texan growing up in El Paso. She received her Bachelor's of Science from UTEP and her Doctorate of Dental Surgery from Baylor College of Dentistry where she held leadership roles and was an active participant in outreach projects. She developed a passion for children and chose to specialize in pediatric dentistry, completing her two-year pediatric residency through Baylor College of Dentistry/Texas A&M University system in Dallas which included training at Texas Scottish Rite Hospital and Children's Medical Center of Dallas, where she focused on special needs patients and those medically compromised. She completed her Master's of Science in Pediatric Dentistry in 1999, and moved to Austin. Traci volunteered early with Faith in Practice in Guatemala to treat underserved children in their community and has continued to volunteer throughout her 20 year career. 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 not fostering healthy smiles, Dr. Traci spends time with her own five children. She absolutely loves being a mom! She enjoys running on the beautiful trails in Austin 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.

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