

VOLUME 14 ISSUE 9
SEPTEMBER 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

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

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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

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From the Association Office

FROM THE ASSOCIATION OFFICE

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UPCOMING STEINER RANCH HOA EVENTS

9/01 – SR Schools PPE Drive

10/23-10/31 Steiner Ranch

Spook-tacular Home Parade

12/05 Holiday House Decorating Contest Kickoff and Santa Visit

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/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 local order to limit gatherings to 10 people only, all Association meetings are conducted remotely. Meetings links are sent to residents' email addresses on file at least 72 hours before the meeting.



COVER PHOTO INFORMATION & CONTEST

Starting with this current edition, the front cover features a photo of the Steiner Ranch Trails. Contestants need to identify the exact location and correct name of the pictured trail or trail feature and send an email to communications@steinerranchhoa.org.

For more information about the contest, please see page 13.

News from the SRMA Board of Directors



Steiner Ranch



GrandManors

Dear Steiner Ranch Residents

September 1, 2020 will mark two-years anniversary since the Steiner Ranch Homeowners Association have transitioned from self-managed to a professional management company: GrandManors.

The SRMA Board of Directors led the professional management company initiative in 2017 and transitioned the HOA management to GrandManors on September 1, 2018 with a broad set of objectives to improve:

1. Overall services to residents
2. Investments in enhancement projects to improve property values
3. Financial Management Operational efficiencies through integrated software systems
4. Governance & Process Controls

The SRMA Board of Directors vision for our Community is to be recognized as a Premier Master Planned Community in Central Texas. Because of aging amenities and growth in the last ten years, it is paramount to continuously invest in amenities with the goal to improve and maintain property values and become the Premier and Sought-after Master Planned Community in Central Texas.

The SRMA Board of Directors together with GrandManors have made significant strides with the said objectives in the past 2 years. Below are some of the key accomplishments:

Community Centers & Pavilions

- Towne Square, Bella Mar, Westridge and John Simpson were renovated to include top-to-bottom refurbishment with new floors, tiles, lighting, counters, benches, showers and fixtures/appliances.

- The Bella Mar Community Center kitchen and bathroom have been painted, new floors were installed, and the kitchen updated with new appliances. Bella Mar pavilion fans have been replaced and all shade structures over the pools, decks and sport courts have either being replaced or repaired. Bella Mar received a refresh of the landscaping with new plantings and decomposed granite.

- A media center has been installed at the Towne Square Community Center

- The Lake Club dock has been repaired, landscaping and signage updated and improved, and stained the pavilion.

- Installed new fencing at the Lake Club to ensure that only residents use the parking lot.

Safety and Security

- Speed RADARs have been installed at strategic locations to mitigate traffic on main roads and high traffic streets.

- A private network has been installed at all Steiner Ranch Amenities for improved gates access control and security cameras monitoring.

- New CCTV cameras have been installed at the Lake Club, Westridge Park, Towne Square and Bella Mar amenities.

- Led the project with Travis County and Meritage Apartments to design a ground water capture system and prevented from water flowing into Quinlan road.

Fields & Courts

- Installed LED field lights at Towne Square Park. Residents can use the park after dusk.

- Baseball cage net have been installed at all fields.

- New soccer nets and goals installed at all soccer fields before soccer season. Sod replaced in distressed areas of field.

- Installed new nets, windscreens, bulbs, scorekeepers and waste bins on tennis courts and repaired court cracks and gates.

Playscapes and common areas

- Drinking fountains were replaced at 8 parks to double water fountains that included pet drinking fountains.

- The playground at Towne Square had the pea gravel regraded and additional pea gravel has been added for a refreshed look.

- Drainage at the Westridge Park play area has been installed along with additional pea gravel added under the swing set.

ACC (Architectural Modifications) Management Automation

- Architectural Modification application submission and status is fully online. Residents can submit ACC applications online via Ciranet resident portal, and also know the status through the website. Board has also removed \$500 deposit fee for ACC applications.

Assessments

- HOA Assessments (paid every six months) have been maintained at \$808 since 2018.

Events and Communications

- Continue to innovate events and free programs that connect the homeowners throughout the year.

- Communications to residents have been dramatically improved.

Trails

- New Trail Maps and signs implemented across all trail heads.

- Repaired many trails across our Steiner Ranch.

Landscape Improvements

- Steiner Ranch entrances (both Quinlan & Steiner Ranch Blvd) monuments' landscaping, signage and landscape lighting were upgraded.

- Perennials were planted at all the Community monuments and focal points.

Financial Management

- HOA has a healthy reserves (>\$one million) for repairs and replacements. Also,

- over \$1.25 million funds earmarked for key amenities projects (see list of projects at the end of this message).

- Monthly financial reports are generated and posted online.

- Operational savings are invested back into the community through enhancement projects.

Operational Infrastructure Improvements

- Installed latest web-based software on all vehicle gates so it is centrally managed.

- New Irrigation Control system was installed across SRMA landscaped area.

Continued on Page 6

From the Association Office

Continued from Page 5

- Updated the IT technology to improve network connectivity at each amenity and within the Association office.

Policies

- Updated bylaws to ensure there is no hung Board (3/3) via automatic elections within 60 days if Board cannot appoint vacant seat (created either by resignation or removal).

- Implemented Board Code of Conduct to improve Board governance and management.

- Developed Committee Charters to provide guidelines and also ensure operational governance, and adherence to Community bylaws by all Committees.

- Email action policy implemented to accelerate decision making process between board meetings.

The SRMA Board of Directors along with GrandManors management continue to evaluate and implement various initiatives to improve resident service levels and property values. Some of the key projects that are under evaluation are:

1. The renovation of Towne Square (TS2.0) - add levels, additional rooms, gym
2. Another lap pool and splash area at Towne Square
3. Permanent fence and gates with ID readers delineating the parking lot at the Lake Club
4. Renovate Lake Club along with creating a beach area
5. Automated amenities reservation systems
6. New website

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

(email: naren@steinerranchhoa.org)

SRMA Board of Directors (email: board@steinerranchhoa.org)



New baseball cages, soccer nets and goals all soccer fields and sod replaced in distressed areas



Double water fountains that included pet drinking fountains.



Speed RADARs installed at strategic locations to mitigate traffic on main roads and high traffic areas



Perennials planted at all focal points

Continued on Page 8

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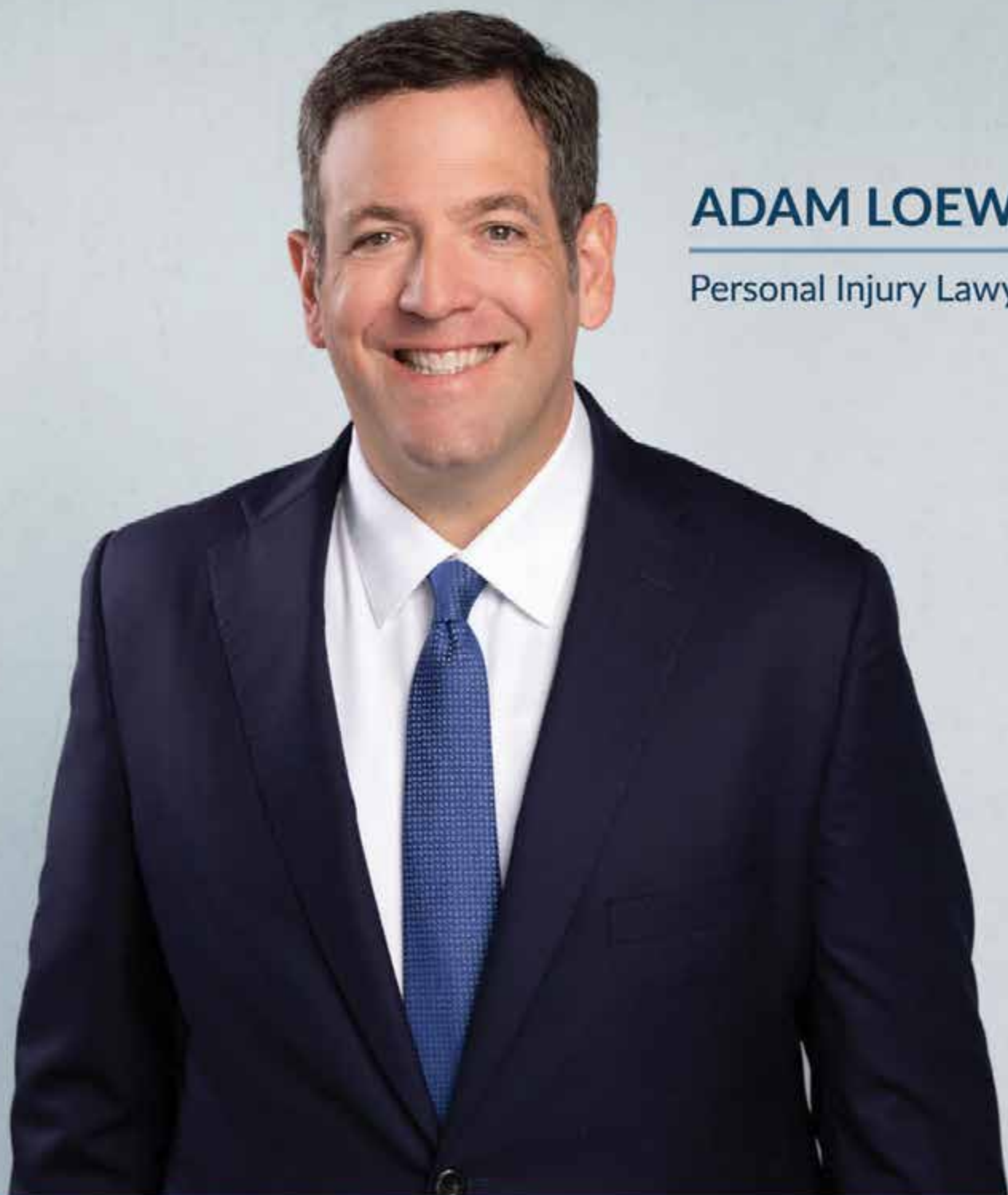
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From the Association Office

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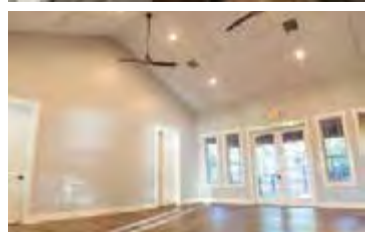
New ground water capture system that prevents water from flowing into Quinlan road



Bella Mar renovated bathroom and showers



New drainage system installed at the Westridge Park



The Bella Mar Community Center updated kitchen, bathroom and indoor meeting room



Landscaping and signage updated, stained the pavilion, installed new fencing and repaired the dock at the Lake Club



< - New Irrigation Control system across all SRMA landscaped area



CCTV cameras installed at Steiner Ranch amenities



Both Steiner Ranch entrances on Quinlan & Steiner Ranch Blvd monuments' updated landscaping, signage and lighting

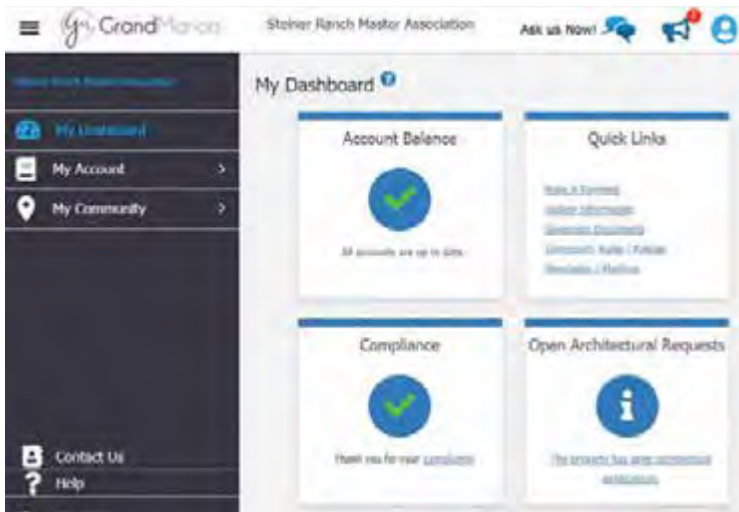
Continued on Page 9

Ranch Record

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Media Center at the Towne Square Community center



One-stop Residents Portal with UpToDate Community information (financial reports, Board action, meeting minutes, online assessments payments, Architectural Modification application online and much more)



New Trail Map



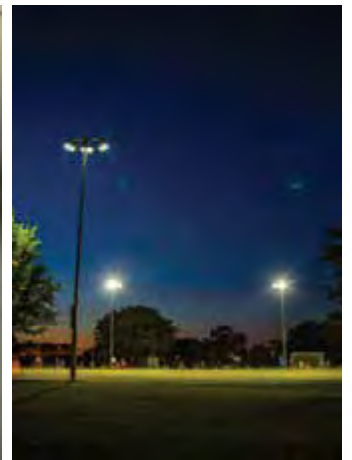
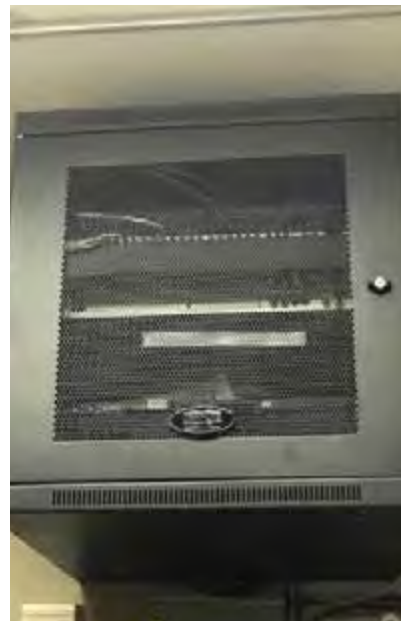
New signs implemented across all trail heads



[Before/After] One of the repaired trails



Pea gravel has been regraded and additional pea gravel has been added to playscapes



New LED field lights at Towne Square Park

< - Private Network installed at all Steiner Ranch amenities

From the Association Office

Architectural Review Committee Volunteers Needed

The Steiner Ranch Master Association is currently seeking volunteers to join the Architectural Compliance Committee. 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 Master Association 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 SRMA community and volunteer as a committee member, please contact the HOA by sending an email to steiner@ciramail.com.

Fall is a Good Time to Trim Trees

If you have oak trees with branches over-hanging the street, please contact a professional tree trimming company now so that this can be remedied as soon possible. Residents are reminded to trim trees before February, as the risk of oak wilt infection is greatest from February through June.

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

- Always paint fresh wounds on oaks, including pruning cuts and stumps, with wound dressing or latex paint immediately after pruning or live tree removal at all times of the year.
- Clean all pruning tools with 10% bleach solution or Lysol™ 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.

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From the Association Office

Firewise News – Preventing an Attic Fire Caused by Wind-Blown Wildfire Embers

Submitted by Brian Tarr, Firewise Committee

Wind-blown embers that ignite spot fires are responsible for the destruction of up to 85-90% of the homes lost to wildfires in the United States. If you store anything that can be easily ignited in your home's attic, then keeping embers from getting into the attic space is an important part of hardening your home against the very real threat posed by wind-blown embers.

If you are not prepared to install any additional screening needed to prevent wind-blown embers from getting into your attic during a wildfire, the alternative approach is to remove all stored items from your attic.

Embers are unlikely to ignite the wood structure or the boron treated cellulose blown insulation typically used in your home's attic, but embers that get into the attic can ignite stored items like paper, cardboard, clothing, soft furnishings, etc. Possible entry points for wind-blown embers to get into your attic include: Roof ridge vents, Off-ridge roof vents, Gable vents and Soffit vents.

Ideally air enters the attic space through the soffit vents and exits through either roof ridge vents, or off-ridge vents installed near the ridge. This air flow pattern prevents moisture build-up in winter and cools the attic in summer. According to Owens Corning, the recommended open flow area for attic venting is calculated as a fraction of the attic footprint and should be in the range 1/150 to 1/300; with the calculated air flow area equally split between the inlet vents and the outlet vents. A simple attic venting calculator is available at: www.owenscorning.com/roofing/components/vent-calculator.

The following recommendations are based on results of full scale wind-blown ember testing of roof vents, done by the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety (see the full report at <https://ibhs.org/wildfire/ember-entry-vents/>), and an inspection of my home's roof vents.



Roof ridge vents – No additional screening required for Miami-Dade wind-driven-rain-compliant type.

My home in Steiner Ranch has this style of Miami-Dade wind-driven-rain-compliant roof ridge vents (left).

Testing demonstrated they are always air outlet vents that effectively resist ember entry. However, my inspection revealed they were poorly installed, leaving openings at each end of the plastic vent sections; big enough to allow birds or rodents to enter the attic space. I plugged the openings with copper wool (right). To prevent embers from igniting the plastic vent material, it is important to periodically remove any accumulated flammable debris (like tree fuzz) from this style of vent.



Off-ridge roof vents – Addition of 1/16" metal screening required, unless turbine type.

My home has multiple metal box style (left) off-ridge roof vents. Testing

determined that, depending on wind direction and strength, fine embers can be blown into the attic through similar off-ridge roof vents. Therefore, 1/16" metal screens should be installed across the attic openings below these vents. Testing of turbine style vents (right) showed no tendency for ember intrusion. However, regular inspection is recommended to ensure the turbine spins freely.



NOTE: My roof has both ridge and off-ridge vents, but, from venting calculations, there is no need for the off-ridge vents!



Gable vents – Addition of 1/16" metal screening required.

Testing showed that gable vents (left) are the most likely attic entry point for wind-blown embers during a wildfire. The typical screen installed on gable vents is easily breached by birds or rodents seeking an entry point into the attic. Therefore, installing a rugged metal mesh screen with 1/16" openings

behind any gable vent is critical. However, like my home, many homes in Steiner Ranch have decorative gable features that look like gable vents, but there is no opening behind them into the attic.



Soffit vents – Addition of 1/16" metal screening maybe required.

There are two main types of soffit vent systems, discrete vents (left) and continuous vents (right). 1/16" metal

mesh screening can be added over the outside of either type. Testing indicated that, in general, soffit vents were less vulnerable to entry of wind-blown embers due to their location under the roof overhang.

My home has discrete vents installed every 8 ft along the soffits. Many of the homes in my neighborhood were built with continuous soffit vents and venting calculations indicate that my home should have been fitted with continuous soffit vents!



Stay Safe!



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LAKE CLUB PARKING PASSES

Please note that the issuance of permanent parking permits stickers has been suspended because the SRMA Board of Directors is exploring options to install permanent fencing and gates with ID readers. However, until the new system is installed, please keep using the temporary permits or stickers in order to avoid being towed when parking at the facility. Please make sure to clearly display the permit on the inside of your front windshield. If you have misplaced your permit, please scan the QR code below to download a new one to print at home.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email us at steiner@ciramail.com.



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Ranch Record Front Cover Contest Starts TODAY!



Ranch Record Front Cover Contest

Brought to you by the Trails & the Events Planning Committees

Sponsored by:



Starting with this 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 an email to communications@steinerranchhoa.org.

RULES

1. Entries will be accepted for each featured monthly cover between the

1st and the 7th day of each month.

2. 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.

3. Participants must be Steiner Ranch residents, registered on CiraNet and be in good standing. Vague name and/or description will not be accepted.

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.

If you have not recently biked or hiked the trails, please do so and enjoy them and what better time than now! This contest is brought to you by the Event Planning and the Trails Committees. In addition, for your safety and convenience, the Trails Committee has recently installed new trail map signs (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 starts in September and end in December. Winners will be announced in the following month Ranch Record and contacted via email.

Stay Healthy, Stay Safe and Stay Connected!

Steiner Activities & Events

Steiner Ranch Halloween Spook-tacular House Parade

After much deliberation, brainstorming, and with a heavy heart, the Event Planning Committee has decided to cancel Trunk or Treat for this year as we are not able to host an event that promotes any type of gathering above 10 people until December 15, 2020.

HOWEVER, we are hopeful that with your help we can still have some Neighborhood Spook-tacular Halloween Fun!

The plan is to have residents decorate their homes/front yards for

a week or even two! As you plan your outside decor, please observe the following Steiner Ranch rule regarding holiday decorations on the exterior of your property:

'Holiday decorations (excluding Christmas) may be put out up to fourteen (14) days in advance of the holiday in question. Decorations must be removed no later than seven (7) days after the holiday.'

Then residents can choose their own self-guided Halloween Spook-tacular House Parade Route to drive, bike or walk by.

So please consider pulling out all the Halloween decor you have and decorate the exterior of your property to have some neighborhood Halloween FUN!

If you plan to participate in decorating, please send an email to communications@steinerranchhoa.org with your address or scan the QR code below to fill out the online form. *(next page)*

The map and the link to voting will be posted on the HOA website, the Steiner Ranch HOA Events Facebook Page and also sent via email Community by October 23rd, 2020.

Continued on Page 15



Continued on Page 14



Winners will be announced on the HOA Facebook Page on October 31st and receive a Spook-tacular Halloween themed basket sponsored by local businesses. Categories are:

Most Spooky, Most Fun, Most Creative & Community Favorite.

Thanks for helping us make this year the best Halloween celebration COVID19 will allow!

Questions? Please contact Desirre Ghebremicael at desirre.ghebremicael@grandmanors.com

Have a happy & spook-tacular Halloween!

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? 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 qrcode below:



Continued on Page 16



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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:



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

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

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Tip of the Month

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SEP

M T W T F S

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In Quinlan Crossing
Across from Randall's

News from the Trails Committee

Submitted by Eric Morton

I wanted to remind everyone that while we have some beautiful trails that are mostly to ourselves, we still share the area with the wildlife. While in the trails, please be cautious of coyotes, copperheads (pictured here - I saw this one running on Serrulata Trail a few months ago), rattlesnakes and coral snakes. I've also seen two tarantulas, but they are mostly harmless even though they have a pretty bad rap.

For coral snakes, there is no need to try to remember the "red touches yellow, kill a fellow, red touches black, venom lack" lines, which I can never remember! The easiest thing to remember is that the other snake doesn't live around here!!! If you see a red, yellow, and black snake on Texas nature trails, you'd best treat it as a coral snake. Now I've been told that coral snakes aren't very dangerous to humans. I've seen two so far on the trails, and I'm still going to give them a lot of leeway.

As for rattlesnakes, I've never seen one on Steiner trails (but know plenty of people who will tell you they have). Well, I might have just this morning. There was a little (probably less than 18 inches) snake swimming in what is a pretty popular hole just off Westridge Canyon. It disappeared before I could get close enough to see. It was probably either a rattlesnake or a copperhead, but I still can't be sure. I am somewhat amazed that I haven't yet seen a rattler - I am on the trails a lot!!!

Venomous snakes are one of the best reasons for making sure you keep your dogs on a leash while you are wandering the trails. You would not want Rover to run up on an aggressive rattlesnake because they will defend their territory. There are plenty of other good reasons to keep your dog on a leash including the fact that this is a requirement of our trail system and Travis County.

As well as animals, the other natural predator on the trails is poison ivy. I almost feel like the ivy has gotten worse recently. If you don't know what poison ivy looks for, stop and google (or 'duck-duck-go') "What does poison Ivy look like?".

I've been meeting a lot of new people on the trails these days. It is wonderful to see so many people out enjoying the ~25 miles of trails. They still aren't anywhere near "crowded", so I still feel like this is a great way to escape the "real world". With over 25 miles, trail committee members can't be everywhere so please report areas that need maintenance through the Ciranet Resident portal, by clicking on Contact Us and Common area.

Thanks for listening to me and stay safe out there!!!



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.steinerranchcycling.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.



ADD LIFE TO YOUR YARD WITH NATIVE PLANTS

Submitted by Johanna Arendt and Jeremy Hull, Travis County Balcones Canyonlands Preserve

*Pipevine swallowtail on a flowering cenizo
Photo by Heather Valey*



The end is in sight, fall is almost here! As we look forward to cooler days, this is a great time to plan fall additions to your gardens. If you like butterflies and birds (and saving time, money, and water), you may want to consider using some native plants.

Because they evolved here in Texas, native plants are well adapted to our climate and require less water, fertilizer, pesticides, and maintenance than non-natives. But the benefits don't stop at just saving water and reducing your work load. Native plants also help local wildlife like birds, bats, butterflies and other pollinating insects. They are a good source of food, (seeds, nectar, insects, and fruit), and also provide cover and places to nest.

They are beautiful too, as you can see from the photos. In addition to the ones you see here, you can find many more online:

- The Wildflower Center: <https://www.wildflower.org/>
- National Audubon Society: <https://www.audubon.org/PLANTSFORBIRDS>

- City of Austin's Grow Green Program: <https://austintexas.gov/departments/grow-green/plant-guide>

-Using native plants is especially beneficial when you live next to natural areas like the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve and Steiner Ranch Greenbelt. Unfortunately, wildlife populations are steadily declining in North America and worldwide. Nature preserves do a lot to sustain the ecosystem, but they need help. By adding native plants, you extend existing habitat, providing a lot of the resources that birds, bats, and other wildlife need.

Here are a few other ways you can help:

- **Avoid non-native invasive plants:** Invasives spread aggressively, crowding out native plants that wildlife relies on. Invaded areas typically have fewer species of birds, pollinators, and other wildlife. Some invasive plants can also harm wildlife directly. The berries of heavenly bamboo (*Nandina domestica*), for example, contain cyanide and can poison birds, especially ones that eat a lot at once like cedar waxwings (*Bombus cedrorum*). It is important to note that the majority of non-native plants

are not invasive, though in general they provide fewer benefits to wildlife than native plants. The Steiner Ranch HOA has a list of prohibited non-native invasive plants, which can be found on their website in the Residential Design Guideline Manual.

- **Don't use pesticides, herbicides, or rodenticides:** These chemicals hurt and often kill wildlife, including raptors like owls that would normally help keep pest populations in check. There are also less toxic ways to achieve pest-control goals.

- **Provide water:** Especially in the heat of the summer and early fall, wildlife needs reliable sources of water. Consider putting out bird baths and puddling stations for butterflies. Just remember to re-fill them every day or two to keep the water clean and prevent mosquitoes from breeding.

Once you start making your landscaping more wildlife-friendly, you'll likely notice more fireflies, birds, and all different types of butterflies. And usually the more you add, the more you'll see!

For more information about the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve, please visit our website: <https://www.traviscountytx.gov/tnr/nr/bcp/> and follow us on Instagram @bcp_traviscounty. You can also always contact us at BCCP@traviscountytx.gov.

*Rose pavonia
Photo by Kaitlin Lopez*



*Green-eyed bee on Mexican hat
Photo by Heather Valey*



Swimming News



*is thrilled to be back
at Steiner Ranch this
season!*

Nitro Swimming is a USA Swimming year-round competitive swim team offering high-quality professional coaching and technique instruction to all our groups. The goal of our team is to provide every member an opportunity to improve swimming skills and achieve success at his or her level of ability. Swimming is a lifelong skill that our athletes come to cherish.

We offer 5 different groups from mid - month August to the end of April at the beautiful Bella Mar Community pool including:

- Intro to Nitro (our beginner group at Nitro, 2x a week),
- Two different Bronze group options (up to 3x a week),
- Silver (up to 4x a week), and our Steiner 5 group (up to 5x a week).

Nitro will also be offering a special twice a week Technique and Fitness (TF) group on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:50-5:35PM which is perfect for those who want exactly what the name of the group implies.

Practice schedules vary by day, so please refer to our schedule online at: <https://www.nitroswim.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Nitro-Steiner-Ranch-Short-Course-2020-2021-ver08072020-230PM.pdf>

If you are interested in learning more about Nitro Swimming and are a resident of Steiner Ranch please reach out to Coach Mike at: mike@nitroswim.com.

Ongoing evaluations are held on Saturdays at 11:45AM at our Nitro Bee Cave location at 15506 Hwy 71 West, just 13 miles from Quinlan Park and 620.

So come see for yourself why Nitro is the #1 choice for swimming in the Austin area. We look forward to meeting you!

-The Steiner Ranch Nitro Coaches

The logo for Texan Landscape and Irrigation Inc. features the word 'TEXAN' in large, stylized letters where each letter is formed by a tree trunk and branches. Above the letters is a small green tree. In the top right corner of the logo area, it says 'LIC #16969'.

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POOL RULES

Please note that after September 7th, 2020, lifeguards will not be on duty at Community pools until the Summer of 2021.

To ensure Steiner Ranch pools remain fun, safe, and sanitary for all residents during this time of COVID19, the below rules are in place. Pools are for residents of the Steiner Ranch Master Association and the Steiner Ranch Residential Owners Associations only and no guests are allowed. Residents must have a waiver on file to be able to use the facilities:

1. Pool gates must remain closed and locked at all times. A facility fob is to be used to access locked facilities during hours of operation. **DO NOT PROP GATES!**

2. The association may deny access to the pools at any time due to occupancy limits, weather, pool conditions, or if maintenance is required.

3. At the discretion of the association, and as approved by the Board of Directors of the SRROA and/or SRMA, certain periods of the normal open swim hours may be set aside for specialized activities.

4. All facilities are cleaned overnight daily; however, they are not sanitized. Pool usage is at the resident own risk and COVID-19 may be present.

5. Lifeguards, when present, have full authority and are responsible for the interpretation and enforcement of all rules.

6. Only lifeguards are permitted on the lifeguard stand.

7. An adult must accompany children 14 years old and under at all times.

8. Proper swim wear is required. Swim diaper and plastic pants must be worn by children who are not completely toilet trained.

9. No diving. Dive blocks are for use by Swim Teams and/or private lessons approved by the Association.

10. No Smoking.

11. No glass containers of any type are allowed in the pool facility.

12. No pets in pool area.

13. Residents are responsible for any damage they, their guests, or their children cause and for cleaning up any mess or trash created by them prior to leaving the pool facility.

14. It is the responsibility of each resident using the pools to follow the protocols from local health experts, State and CDC guidelines including staying at home if you are experiencing symptoms, practicing social distancing of 6 feet between parties, wearing facial covering when necessary and washing/sanitizing your hands before and after entering the facilities.

15. Violation of these rules may result in suspension of pool privileges, fines or other charges, and/or legal action.

The pool hours are as follows:

Bella Mar Pools - HEATED

•Monday - Sunday 8:00am – 10:00pm

Towne Square Pools

•Monday - Sunday 8:00am – 10:00pm

John Simpson Pools

•Monday - Sunday 8:00am – 10:00pm

Residents may use lap swimming lanes at Bella Mar Lap Pool and John Simpson Pool at 5:30am upon request to the Community Associations Office.



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ATTENTION TEENAGE JOB SEEKERS

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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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