



VOLUME 14 ISSUE 11  
NOVEMBER 2020

# RANCH RECORD

*Official Newsletter of The Steiner Ranch HOA*

**WHERE IN  
STEINER  
RANCH?**



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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

Joe Ristuccia ..... [steiner@ciramail.com](mailto:steiner@ciramail.com)

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

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#### Architectural and Community Standards Coordinator

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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)

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# 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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## UPCOMING STEINER RANCH HOA EVENTS

### 12/13-23 Holiday House Decorating contest

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

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

The front cover features a photo of the Trails. For more info please see page 14.

We would like to thank our sponsor, Tiff's Treats for graciously donating the gift cards. Contest started in September and will end in December.



## Steiner Ranch Master Association Board (SRMA) of Directors Vision and Strategic Initiatives for the Community

Dear Steiner Ranch Residents,

With 4,200+ homes and approximately 15,000 residents over 30 years, Steiner Ranch has continually grown in size while key facilities and infrastructure have aged or been outgrown by the community's changing needs and growth. These changes over time make it imperative that we constantly seek to improve and invest in our physical and digital infrastructure, including amenities, landscaping, safety, security and more to better serve our homeowners. We also recognize the need to stay competitive in the large-scale master planned community market in order to enhance home values. With that in mind, the SRMA Board of Directors developed a vision, strategy and multiyear phased investment plan for the Association and has been executing it over the last two years.

Below is an overview of the current vision, investments strategy and current status:

### **Board of Directors Vision, Mission and Core Values**

#### **Vision**

- Be the premier master planned community in Central Texas

#### **Mission**

- Represent and protect best interest of the community as a whole.
- Protect and enhance value.
- Offer best in class amenities.
- Effective and efficient management practices.

#### **Core Values**

- Transparency, in operations to BOD and Residents.
- Communication, concise & consistent proactive communication.
- Service, listen to our residents & provide best possible service.
- Excellence, in all we do.



### **Capital Investments and Enhancements (Under review and/or completed)**

#### ***1. Town Square 2.0***

- Multi-level complex
- Larger community rooms (reservable)
- Walk-in rooms (no reservation required)
- Gym
- Upgraded interiors and appliances
- Lap pool with splash pad
- Dog park
- Other enhancements

#### ***2. Lake Club 2.0***

- Secured parking lot with wall, fence and RFID gates
- Paved parking lot to accommodate cars and boat trailers
- Multi-level closed complex with reservable rooms
- Beach access

#### ***3. Landscape 2.0 (Signage, Structure, Lighting, Plants)***

- Renovate two front entrances (signage, structure, lighting, plants/flowers)
- 3 key intersections along Quinlan - upgraded landscape
- Approximately 35 monuments - renovate as needed including

upgrades landscape

- Approximately 21 mail kiosks - upgraded landscape
- Other common areas

#### ***4. Safety and Security***

• Integrated security cameras at common areas and strategic locations (new cameras have already been installed at Community Center in August of 2020)

- Speed Radars across multiple locations (4 speed radars have already been installed in August 2020 and are currently yielding valuable data / results for Travis County and local law enforcement)

#### ***5. Sports Fields***

- Upgrade three sport fields (Towne Square Park, Bella Mar Park, Westridge Park) to the required turf standard
- Expand field lighting to other fields (Lights have been added to the Towne Square field in December 2018)

#### ***6. ACC***

#### **Application Automation**

- Residents can now submit ACC applications and check for status online through the Ciranet Resident portal (completed on July 2020)

#### ***7. Website***

- Update and integrate current HOA portal and Ciranet Resident portal for all homeowner needs

#### **Current status and next steps**

• The above projects will incur large capital expenditures that require significant evaluation and redesign. To ensure an objective view, the majority of the SRMA BOD concluded that it is in the best interest of the Association to hire and leverage consulting and engineering firms.

• In July 2020, the majority of the SRMA BOD approved the retention of a consulting and engineering firm to conduct feasibility studies and preliminary designs for the Townsquare 2.0 and Lake Club 2.0 projects. In addition, the majority of the SRMA BOD voted to hire a landscape consulting firm for the rebranding and the Steiner Ranch Landscape 2.0 project. Preliminary investigation has already begun on some of these projects and designs and schematics provided.

• In January of 2020, the SRMA BOD also secured an IT and Security consultant to upgrade the IT infrastructure and security cameras across the neighborhood and multiple phases of the project have already been completed.

• Shortly, the SRMA BOD will deliberate on the sports fields project and make both short- and long-term decisions.

• In the upcoming SRMA BOD meetings of October and November, the board will evaluate and allocate appropriate enhancement funds to additional projects as part of 2021 planning and budget cycle.

The SRMA BOD will provide more information and updates on monthly basis. We encourage all homeowners to:

• Register and /or log into the Residents / Ciranet portal by visiting the Association homepage at [steinerranchhoa.org](http://steinerranchhoa.org), review monthly

***Continued on Page 6***



# From the Association Office

*Continued from Page 5*

board meeting minutes, review financials etc.

- Continue to provide feedback by emailing the HOA and attending monthly Board meetings.
- Follow the Steiner Ranch HOA Events & Communications Facebook page, the only Facebook page affiliated with the HOA, for the most up-to-date information about HOA community events and latest community announcements. Search Steiner Ranch HOA Events & Communications to find and follow us.

For any more question or concerns, please do not hesitate to send us an email at [steiner@ciramail.com](mailto:steiner@ciramail.com).

Regards,

**The Steiner Ranch Master Association Board of Directors**



(All Volunteer run Board, for more info about the SRMA Board Members, scan the QR code here)

12550 Country Trails Lanes,  
Austin, TX 78732

Telephone: 412-266-7553 (9am-12pm & 1pm-5pm CST M-F)

Email: [Steiner@ciramail.com](mailto:Steiner@ciramail.com)

Resident Services: 1-855-947-2636 (7:30am to 7pm CST M-F)



## Compliance Inspections Have Resumed

Dear Residents,

As per our email on April 2nd, 2020, compliance inspections and overnight parking enforcement were temporarily relaxed after the Stay-At-Home order was issued on March 24th, 2020. This was done to provide some relief to many homeowners that were facing challenges at the beginning of the Pandemic.

However, at this time, we would like to inform you that compliance inspections as well as bi-monthly overnight parking compliance inspections have now resumed.

Please be aware that you may see the daytime inspector driving in a RealManage car taking photos throughout the community. Likewise, you may see the overnight inspector in an ACT Security vehicle also taking photos throughout the community between the hours of midnight and 4:00am.

If you would like to report a compliance issue, please utilize the Report a Violation option via the CiraNet Resident portal at <https://www.ciranet.com/ResidentPortal>. These reports are anonymous and will be followed up by the GrandManors inspector.

If you have any concerns or questions, please contact our office via email at [steiner@ciramail.com](mailto:steiner@ciramail.com).

Best Regards

Steiner Ranch Homeowners Association

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# From the Association Office

## Holiday Decorations

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

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

Have a wonderful holiday season!



## FRIENDLY REMINDER: STEINER RANCH DON'T LITTER!

We would like to remind everyone to please pick up and not leave any litter after using common areas, trails, and other open spaces.

There's been a noticeable uptick in litter left behind. We have also received multiple reports from residents concerned by the amount of litter left behind by other common areas' users. We would like to thank those residents that have been picking up their own litter and more left behind by others.

Maintenance of a community is a daily and ongoing commitment and the HOA maintenance crew and the contracted janitorial service company remove trash and litter daily and nightly, however it is extremely important that everyone picks up their own litter as it needs to be a team effort.

### What is Litter?

When people throw things from their car, drop things on the ground or even if someone aims for a garbage can, misses and leaves it that is littering.

### Problems Caused by Litter?

When litter is near sidewalks or along curbs, it may get washed down in to storm drains during a heavy rain. As water exits the outfall, nature guides the rainwater into Lake Travis or Lake Austin. Lake Travis is the source of WCID 17's drinking water.

- Litter can be very dirty. Not only does not look nice but, it may carry germs. Some animals are attracted to areas with lots of litter. As most of you know, Steiner is surrounded by preserve and open space land where many different species of wildlife live. Unfortunately, many of these animals make their way into the neighborhood and searching for food which they may find among the trash and can pick up the germs and become carriers for diseases that may make people sick.

### What can you do?

- The first solution to littering is to always make sure you properly dispose of your garbage.
- If you see a friend throwing something on the ground, ask them nicely to put in the trash receptacle instead of on the ground.
- If you see a piece of litter, pick it up and throw it away. But remember, never to touch anything that you are not sure of as it could be of a hazardous material.

**Together, we can keep our common areas nice  
and clean for everyone to enjoy!  
Let's keep Steiner Ranch Beautiful!**



## Thanksgiving Trash Pick-Up Schedule

Trash & recycling pick-up during the week of Thanksgiving will be as follows:

If your regular trash pick-up day is Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday, then your service will remain unchanged. If your regular trash pick-up day is on Thursday, then your pick-up day during the week of Thanksgiving will be on Friday, November 27th. If your regular trash pick-up day is on Friday, then your trash service will be on Saturday, November 28th.

Visit the TDS Waste Wizard at [www.texasdisposal.com/waste-wizard/](http://www.texasdisposal.com/waste-wizard/) for your customized collection calendar for trash, recycling, and green waste pickup, plus holiday scheduling and local disposal guidelines.



## HOA Communications: Your Source For HOA Information

The HOA utilizes several communication tools to keep residents informed. Need information about facility availability or pool schedules? Unsure about Association rules? This information and more is available to residents via the HOA website. The HOA also publishes a monthly community newsletter and communicates via the only Facebook page affiliated with the Steiner Ranch HOA @ SteinerRanchHOAEvents.

How to stay informed:

### **Resident Portal: Ciranet.com**

- Homeowner documents such as community rules and regulations, by-laws, financial documents, architectural guidelines, board meetings agendas and minutes and more
- Submit an architectural modification request, variance request, pool addendum and greenbelt addendum
- Owner's account Information, account Statements, payment History, make a one-Time Payment, setup Recurring Payments

- Restrictions Summary
- Report a Violation
- Compliance Check and more

**Steiner Ranch HOA Website: [www.steinerranchhoa.org](http://www.steinerranchhoa.org)**

- Concise community boards & committee information
- Facility availability and calendar
- Landscape calendar
- Pool schedules
- Upcoming community events, programs and meetings
- Neighborhood organizations
- Contact information for HOA staff & SRMA and SRROA Board of Directors

*Continued on Page 10*



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**Email:**  
[john@loansbyprodigy.com](mailto:john@loansbyprodigy.com)

**NMLS#**  
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RMLO - John Campbell

**Website:**  
[loansbyprodigy.com](http://loansbyprodigy.com)



# From the Association Office

Continued from Page 9

## The Ranch Record:

The official newsletter of the Steiner Ranch HOA, The Ranch Record is mailed or emailed to homeowners monthly. It contains information from association management, Board of Directors, as well as detailed information about community events. If you are not receiving the newsletter and would like to, visit [peelinc.com](http://peelinc.com) and follow the prompts to sign up for delivery via mail or email.

## Facebook

Follow the Steiner Ranch HOA Events & Communications Facebook page, the only Facebook page affiliated with the HOA, for the most up-to-date information about HOA community events and latest community announcements. Search Steiner Ranch HOA Events & Communications to find and follow us.

## Email Alerts

Sign up to receive HOA email alerts. To sign up, send an email to [steiner@ciramail.com](mailto:steiner@ciramail.com) with your address.

## Mailbox Kiosks & Community Marquee

Monthly board meeting dates and times are posted at the community marquee at the entrance of the community on Quinlan Park Road. Various community information are posted at mailbox kiosks.

## KEEP STEINER BEAUTIFUL – HOLIDAY TREES



After Thanksgiving, creative, festive, sweet and fun decorated trees magically appear along Quinlan Park Road, Bella Mar Trail, Flat Top Ranch Road, and other parts of the neighborhood. It's an Austin holiday tradition which has been adopted in Steiner Ranch.

If you plan on decorating a tree this year, please do your part to keep Steiner beautiful by maintaining the tree throughout the season. The HOA will not maintain decorated trees. Please fasten decorations securely in place and consider using biodegradable decorations. Remember that decorations must be

removed by January 1st.

Please note that no advertising or marketing material is allowed for tree decorating purposes.

Should the HOA have to devote excessive resources to holiday tree décor clean up, this tradition may be in jeopardy. Keep the tradition alive and remove your decorations!

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## Fall Green Waste Pick-Up & Bulky Waste Pick-Up Information

### Green Waste Pick-Up:

Texas Disposal Systems (TDS) will provide Steiner Ranch residents with a fall green waste collection pick-up (bagged leaves, brush, limbs and other yard waste) during the week of November 9th to November 13th, 2020.

To participate, residents may place up to 20 thirty gallon **paper** bags of green waste at their curb on their designated trash pick-up day during the week of green waste pick-up.

**NOTE:** Green Waste materials are composted and therefore must be bagged in **paper** bags. Plastic bags will not be picked up.

### Bulky Waste & Bundle Pick-Ups:

Residents may schedule free bulky waste and/or bundle pick-ups twice per year by calling TDS. Bundle pick-ups may include tree, shrub, and brush trimmings; newspapers or magazines securely tied together, not exceeding 4 feet in length or 40 pounds. Bulky waste pick-ups consist of large pick-up items

such as sofas, refrigerators, water tanks, etc. Call TDS at 512-329-1752 to schedule individual pick-ups.

**Reminder:** Aside from scheduled green waste pick-ups and individually scheduled bulky waste/bundle pick-ups, TDS will not pick up items/bags left outside of trash containers, unless bags are tagged with TDS trash tags. Tags are available for purchase, by check, at the HOA office for \$2.50 per bag. Additional trash/recycle carts may also be ordered directly from TDS.



## Prune Trees Before February

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

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

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

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

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

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# Steiner Activities & Events

## *HAPPY THANKSGIVING!*

The Steiner Ranch Homeowners' Association wishes Steiner Ranch Residents a Happy, Safe and Healthy Thanksgiving! Below are pictures taken at the Turkey Trot event from past years when traditionally residents joined their family, neighbors and friends the morning of Thanksgiving to support multiple great causes. We will not be having a Turkey Trot this year due to COVID-19, but the Event Planning Committee hopes to come back together soon and host in-person events and support more great causes and the Community.



**WE ARE  
GRATEFUL  
FOR OUR  
RESIDENTS!**





Happy Fall Y'all!

We Are Thankful for You Steiner Ranch!

*DR. GERARD DESANTIS DMD*

*QUINLAN CROSSING ACROSS FROM RANDALL'S*



# Steiner Activities & Events

## Ranch Record Front Cover Contest



### Congratulations to the winners of the October Ranch Record Front Cover Photo contest

#### Linda Courtney

She identified the correct location of the October cover photo as Horseshoe Bend Trail HSB005.

She received a \$50 Tiff's Treats gift card.

Thank you to everyone that entered the contest. Winning entries that were entered in the raffle were received from:

1. Jason Stubbings
2. Austin Yoder
3. Jackie Acevedo
4. Tom Forshee
5. Linda Courtney
6. Dustin Westwood
7. Kim Phipps

**Please enter again in this month's contest by identifying the exact location of the Trails featured on this month's Ranch Record cover.**

#### Contest Rules:

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](mailto:communications@steinerranchhoa.org).

#### **RULES**

1. Entries will be accepted for each featured monthly cover between the 1st and the 7th day of the 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.

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

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."*

#### **Tip of the Month**

**It's a good time to be planning your vacations for 2021!**



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## News from the Trails Committee

*Submitted by Eric Morton*

I'd like to start by reminding everyone to "carry out". I've received several comments about trash on the trail. Nature does not look as pretty when it isn't natural and there is nothing natural about trash and droppings from humans and their pets. Please everyone, do not litter on our trails.

Last month's "Where in Steiner" picture contest featured a photograph from "Horseshoe Bend" trail, so it seems like a good time to highlight the trails on the other side of Quinlan - the section of trails near the apartments. I think these trails are very nice but they tend not to get used very much.

There are "three" trails on that side, but I'll get into that in a bit.

The primary entrance is on Quinlan Park near Steiner Ranch Elementary onto Horseshoe Bend. Within a few hundred yards, you'll pass the metal tube that was featured on the front cover last month. Ironically, the path of water has moved over the years and I don't often see any water going through that drainage so it kind of a bridge over the ditch. In fact, too much water was flowing just a bit shy of that ditch and flowing down the trail - we had to do some work to get a new small plastic tube to carry the water under the trail.

However Horseshoe Bend is actually an extremely short trail. Within a short period, Horseshoe Bend ends and intersects with the beginning of "Lakeview". The reason it is a separate trail is somewhat historical - the trail would go for a bit further but got cut off with new development so it was rerouted (a long time ago) to hit Lakeview earlier.

Lakeview is really a gem of a trail. You gain a fair amount of altitude, all to be rewarded with a view of, well, the lake. I've included a picture that I took just today as I biked that trail. OK, that was a bit of a mental health check out from my work day, but we all deserve that, right? This view of the lake requires you to find a bit of a side spur. It may not be hidden, but it does require a bit of attention to see it. The trail cuts through the apartments, crossing their parking area once and then heads back around and downhill back to the level of Quinlan.

At this point, Lakeview ends. It used to turn into Buckaroo, which would head around a drainage pond and come out near the top of Quinlan Park Road. Unfortunately, Buckaroo has gone to "different pastures", as the new development at the front removed the entire trail. You can still find your way back to Quinlan, up a power line cut. Or, you can turn around and go for another view of the lake! Now if you do find your way back to Quinlan, there isn't an official trail to get back on. But some of us are known to look for a "stone" in a "fire" (hint hint) and you just might find a way (this isn't HOA property here, so its definitely not part of the trail committee at all).

Normally the trail committee does a work day on the fourth Sunday of every month. We have stalled this due to the pandemic, but hoping to start it back up again soon. I'll make an announcement in this Ranch Record and through the HOA when we can. In the meantime, we appreciate those people that have picked up garbage and done some trimming. But if you do not have sealant and Lysol to clean your tools, please do not trim oaks! If you see a trouble area

and do not have the proper equipment, feel free to report it through the HOA website.

Now go out and enjoy the trails! And say hi to me if you see me on my mint-green mountain bike.



## TREE PLANTING SEASON IS HERE

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

The cooler temperatures and recent rains have us excited about fall on the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve! It's a great time to dust off the gloves and tools you put away during the oppressive summer heat and return to the garden to plant some shrubs or trees.

Why is fall a good time to plant? It gives trees and shrubs plenty of time to get established before the stressful summer heat returns. Plant roots will grow any time soil temperatures are above 40 degrees, which could be all winter in Central Texas. Giving your new trees and shrubs time during the fall and winter to establish good root systems will allow them to take full advantage of the spring growing period.

When planting, follow these general steps provided by the Texas A & M Forest Service.

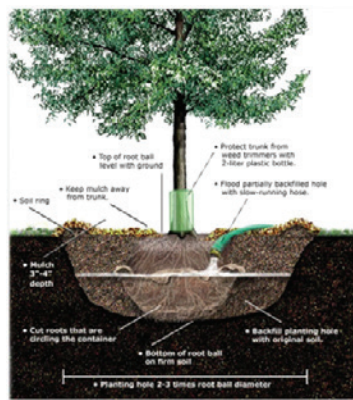
- Dig a hole 2-3 times the width of the container or root ball
- Dig the hole so the root ball is level with the ground when placed in the hole
- Backfill with the original soil removed from the hole
- Wait until spring to fertilize or add soil amendments
- Water directly after planting to settle the soil and remove air pockets
- Starting 5 inches away from the trunk, add 3-4 inches of mulch in a ring around the base of the tree tapering out to the ground level at the edge of the ring. For the health of the newly planted trees, it is very important to avoid the dreaded mulch volcano pictured below.

*Continued on Page 16*



# Steiner Activities & Events

Continued from Page 15



*Tree planting guide from Texas A&M Forest Service*

Choosing the best locations for your new trees is key. When selecting a planting site, take into consideration how much sun, shade, and water are available. Trees planted on the east, south, or west side of your house will provide afternoon shade in the hot summer months and potentially reduce your cooling bills. Evergreen trees planted on the north and northwest sides of your house can block winter winds and help reduce heating costs. Before digging, remember to

call 811 to avoid any buried utility lines.

We recommend selecting native species when buying your new trees and shrubs. Natives are hardy and provide numerous economic and environmental benefits. For example, yards with native plants have been shown to attract more bird and butterfly species than ones landscaped with exotic or invasive plants. They also generally require less water, fertilizer, pesticides, and maintenance than exotics.



*Avoid mulch volcanoes from Texas A&M Forest Service*

For help selecting a native tree or shrub, check out the Texas A&M Forest Service Tree Planting Guide: <https://texasreplanting.tamu.edu/index.html>. A few of our favorites are burr oak, Eve's necklace, Mexican plum, and Texas

redbud. There are actually more than 100 types of trees native to the Edwards Plateau. Not all of them will commonly be available at nurseries, but there are still many wonderful options to choose from.

Please avoid planting non-native invasive trees and shrubs like ligustrum (aka glossy privet), Chinaberry, and nandina (aka heavenly bamboo). They are ecologically destructive and are also prohibited by the Steiner Ranch HOA. For a full list of prohibited plants, check out the Residential Design Guideline Manual on the HOA's website. For more information about invasive plants in Texas, visit <https://www.texasinvasives.org/>



*Juniper hairstreak butterfly on a Texas redbud. Photo by Heather Valey.*

So get out and enjoy this lovely time of year by planting a native tree this fall! For more information about the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve, please visit our website: <https://www.traviscountytexas.gov/tnr/nr/bcp/>, check us out on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/traviscountybcp> and follow us on Instagram @bcp\_traviscounty.

You can also always contact us at [BCCP@traviscountytexas.gov](mailto:BCCP@traviscountytexas.gov).

## Water Conservation Now Means Lower Wastewater Rates Year-Round

As we move into the winter months, WCID 17 would like to remind customers to conserve household water use for their upcoming winter wastewater averaging. Winter averaging provides WCID 17 a measure that represents the wastewater volume discharged from your home. Wastewater lines do not have a meter so your water meter measures the volumetric incoming rate that is representative of your outgoing wastewater.

WCID 17 averages household water usage each year during the billing cycle that begins mid-November and goes through the meter readings ending with the mid-February reading. This period of time is used since water usage during these winter months is generally only inside household use, and is a good measure of the volume sent to the wastewater system.

This year WCID 17 customers will notice a change in their wastewater monthly fee beginning with the invoice mailed out October 22, 2020. This change reflects the winter averaging of household water usage from the billing cycle that began mid-November 2019 and lasted through the meter readings of mid-February 2020. The Board of Directors recently passed an Order to keep the averaging months the same and apply the new fee in March which will show up on your April bill. Next April (2021,) you will receive a new adjustment and spring will become the annual time we apply the winter averaged rate moving forward.

For those customers that did not have usage during this period, the wastewater average will be set at a default wastewater average, which is 8,000 gallons per month for residential customers. A customer must have at least 60 consecutive billing days of water usage for a calculated wastewater average. You may contact the District office for more information on this process.

Minimizing your water usage during these winter months can lower your wastewater costs every month of the year ahead. Remember, some ways to conserve water are to stop irrigating through the winter months of dormancy, wash only full loads in the dishwasher and washing machine, take shorter showers and fix leaky toilets and faucets.

Conserve water over the winter and save money all year.

## Steiner Ranch Multicultural Festival



Steiner Ranch is a unique and diverse community with residents coming from many parts of the world. In order to strengthen our sense of community, increase awareness and foster cultural acceptance, celebrate each member's unique heritage and culture, and bridge the understanding of what makes us unique and yet very similar, the Event Planning Committee presents to you the Steiner Ranch Multicultural Festival.

The event will run from November 2020 to December 2021. Each month we will feature a Steiner family or group of families sharing their unique culture and heritage on the Ranch Record and the Steiner Ranch HOA Facebook Page. We hope you will join us in this exciting journey and you will contribute your story to the Festival. If you would like to participate, please contact us via email at [communications@steinerranchhoa.org](mailto:communications@steinerranchhoa.org).

### NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHT – THE PILLAI FAMILY

*Submitted by Heera Pillai*



(From left to right: Sanju, Arya, Heera, little Anjali and Arjun)

We are the Pillai Family and we are very excited to kick off the Steiner Ranch Multicultural festival.

My husband, Sanju and I are originally from India and have been living in the United States of America for the past 22 years. We moved to Steiner Ranch from California with our three beautiful children in 2017 and have been living and loving it here ever since.

When we first moved here, we immediately fell in love with the beautiful surroundings, the amenities, the schools and most of all, the warmth and generosity of the people in our Community. We were welcomed by everyone which helped us settle in quickly and feel at home right away.

***What are some of the cultural activities/holidays you still celebrate as an Indian/American?***

There are lots of festivals that we used to celebrate back in India and continued celebrating as our family grew. Though both my husband and I come from the Southern State of Kerala, we were brought up in two different parts of the country which heavily influenced us. I'm originally from Delhi and my husband from Bangalore and we carry with us memories of different holiday celebrations such as Onam, Navratri, Holi, Diwali to name a few.

***Is there an upcoming holiday you will be celebrating soon?***

One of the biggest festivals that is celebrated among Indian communities all over the world is Diwali, also known as the festival of lights. It is celebrated by Hindus, Sikhs and Jains, each of these groups honor some historical figure and significance. In northern India, Diwali celebrates King Rama's return to his kingdom after a 14-year exile after defeating the evil king, Ravana. In Southern India, it is celebrated to honor Lord Krishna's defeat of the demon Narakasura. Whatever one's belief, it is considered a celebration of good over evils and marks new positive beginnings. This festival is also a classic example of unity in



(Heera and Anjali lighting diyas)

diversity as every state in India celebrates it in its own way and brings in its own unique flavor. At its core, Diwali is a five-day festival that celebrates the triumph of light over darkness marked by the lighting of little clay lamps called diyas.

***How do you usually celebrate Diwali?***

Diwali is considered to be a very auspicious time period of the year. In most families, it often starts with offering prayers to Goddess Lakshmi and Lord Ganesha. It is widely believed that Goddess Lakshmi visits every home on

Diwali and brings along peace and prosperity to all. People often decorate their floors with bright, geometric patterns called Rangoli usually made with colored rice powder.



(Rangoli)

My early memories of Diwali include getting together with family and friends, staying up late and celebrating with fireworks, exchanging gifts and waiting for mom to serve the specially made Indian sweets and snacks. As children, we looked forward to wearing new clothes and we carry most

of these traditions (without the fireworks) to our family even today.

What I personally love about Diwali is that it can mean a lot of different things to different people.

***Continued on Page 18***



# Steiner Activities & Events

*Continued from Page 17*



(Sweets and snacks on Diwali)

To some Diwali celebrations are loud and colorful, with people vying for who has the loudest and brightest fireworks and competing on card games (teen pathi). For some, Diwali means the annual cleaning and decorating of the house along with the religious rituals and a quiet reflection on the year gone by. And for others, it is the time to share with those in need or give freely to members of the community who have little.

## ***How will you celebrate this year?***

In Steiner Ranch, usually Diwali is celebrated by the community with a 2-days celebration marked with cultural activities, traditional performances, DJ, Bollywood-style dancing, and a catered dinner. It is also a great way to meet new neighbors and welcome them to the community, a memory I personally cherish from three years ago when we were still new to Steiner Ranch.

As everything else, the celebrations will be a light affair this year due to the pandemic, however spirits are just as high. Our family plans to celebrate this Diwali at home by lighting the diyas (small clay lamps) and making rangoli and sweets/snacks with our children and sharing with family and friends. For us, it is a great opportunity to immerse our kids in the excitement of Diwali and our culture and re-creating the nostalgia of what we experienced as children ourselves and re-creating old memories with them. Since Diwali is a time of goodwill, generosity and community, it is a good time to look for opportunities to give back to the community along with a silent prayer for things to go back to normal in the coming days.

Thank you for this opportunity and we wish the Community a Healthy and Happy Holiday Season!

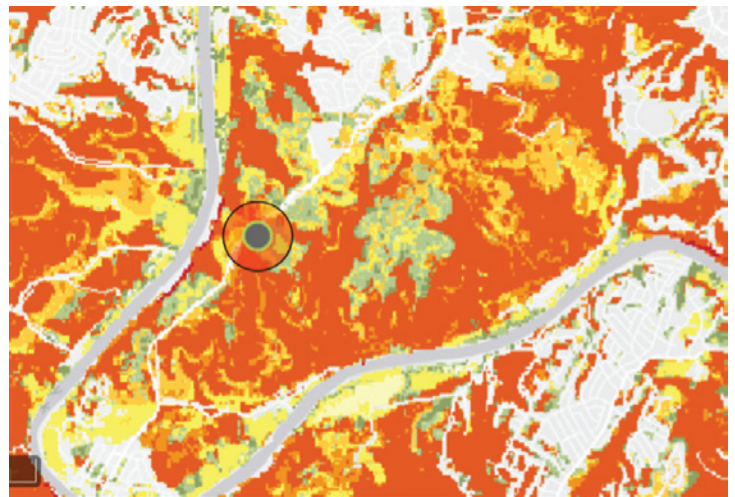
## **Firewise Focus – What's Your Home's Wildfire Risk?**

*Submitted by Bill Hamm – Firewise Committee Chair*

There were 792 wildfire events in Travis County from 2005 to 2015, so, as is often said, it's not if, it's when wildfires will occur. The Texas A&M Forest Service, together with other organizations, including Baylor University, has created a wildfire risk assessment portal. There is a LOT of science and engineering that has gone into this portal, but, after you register, it is pretty easy to use. The easiest option is to simply type in your address. For example, my home's wildfire risk is high to very high, and from the map, the wildfire risk for most homes in Steiner will likely be similar. To know your home's wildfire risk, simply register at: <https://www.texaswildfirerisk.com/Map/Public/#whats-your-risk>

The map you see is "pixelated". The reason is that many factors had to be averaged (slope, vegetation type and density, etc.) and the averaging was done over a 30 meter by 30 meter area. There are, as with any model, assumptions that need to be made about variables like wind, moisture levels in vegetation, etc. This model uses the hot, dry, windy conditions similar to those in 2011, when the Steiner and Bastrop fires occurred.

As pointed out on the website, homeowners are not defenseless. You can reduce the risk of losing your home substantially by "hardening" it against embers, which is the prime ignition risk locally. You can request a Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) evaluation by texting a request to [Srfirewise@gmail.com](mailto:Srfirewise@gmail.com). They are free and take about an hour. They are "contactless" and we request that everyone wear masks.

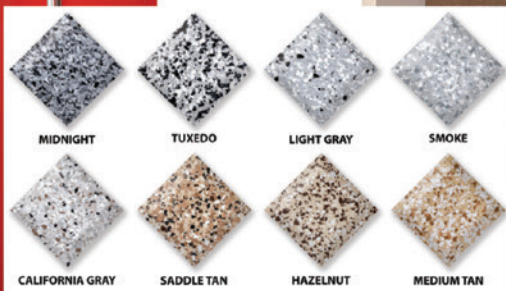
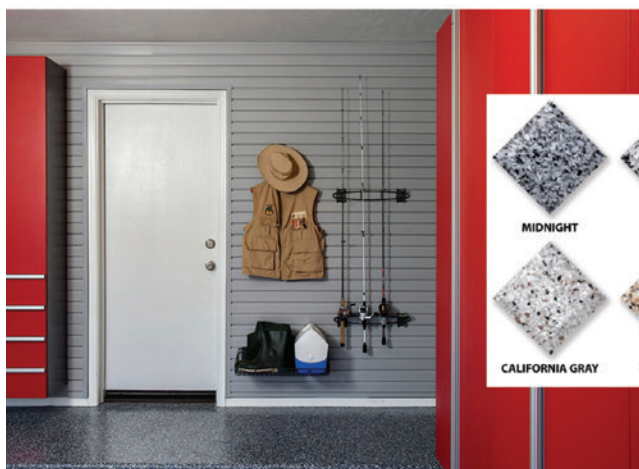


***Figure from cited website showing wildfire risk levels in Steiner Ranch and surrounding areas. Note that the redder the area, the higher the risk. The dot is the location of my home.***





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# Swimming News



The logo for PEXAN, featuring the word "PEXAN" in a stylized font where the letters are made of tree trunks and branches. A small pink flower is on the "P".LIC # 16969

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## Red Giants Masters Swimming (Adult Swimming)

More than 55,000 adults are members of U.S. Masters Swimming organization around the country. What can be easier for you, as a Steiner Ranch resident, then to have a program right here in your neighborhood with other neighbors/friends? We want to let the secret out and get you into swimming or back into swimming and see/feel the MANY benefits. No need to be intimidated by the name "Masters". This only means that you're over the age of 18. All levels are encouraged as we have beginners, former college swimmers and every level in between.

**When:** Wed/Fri: 5:30-6:45am; Sundays 6:30-7:45am. Year round

**Where:** Bella Mar Pool

**Why:** Why not? But we can elaborate on this for a long time. But, it's better to feel the "why".

**Who:** You, your friend, your spouse, your neighbor....or all of you!

**How:** Contact Hollie Kenney at goldstarsswimming@gmail.com for more info.

**Cost:** \$50/month and you will just need to have your USMS insurance card (one time fee/year). With that, you will receive all kinds of discounts, insurance and a subscription to Swimmer Magazine.







## READY TO SPREAD SOME HOLIDAY CHEER?

### ENTER THE STEINER RANCH HOA HOLIDAY HOUSE DECORATING CONTEST!

Many Steiner Ranch residents share the spirit of the season by decorating their homes for the Holiday Season with lights, Santa's, snowflakes, Christmas Volcanos, Santa's workshop underwater, Christmas Dog Wonderland and much more...

## NEW THIS YEAR

Residents will vote online for their favorite in each category:

-  Most lights
-  Most cheerful
-  Most unique
-  Community Favorite



To help residents find these fabulous decked out homes and cast their vote for their favorite, please register your home at the link below:

<https://forms.gle/bUKoXitk6yCCP6VWA>

**\*\*\*Deadline to enter the contest  
is December 12th\*\*\***

Get out your decorations and start planning your festive holiday display today! Judging will take place December 13 through December 23. Winners will be announced on December 24.

Winners will receive a yard displays and a themed basket for their efforts and will be announced on the Ranch Record and the HOA Facebook Page.

## GOOD LUCK AND HAVE FUN!





# 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.

Name	Age	Baby Sit	Pet Sit	House Sit	Yard Work	Phone
Alexis Atencio.....	16.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	512-924-2976
Bonner, Allen .....	15.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	206-484-0504
Sarah-Kaye Thurston*^.....	17.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	512-820-4010
Gabriella Sevieri.....	13.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	505-263-2689
Emily Schulz.....	14.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	512-266-6306
Nathaniel Proffitt .....	12.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	512-695-7795
Karla Trujillo .....	17.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	737-932-1128
Nicole Freer*+^.....	14.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	737-256-1352
Kendra Stephens*+^.....	16.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	903-217-9230
Katherine Nissen*+^.....	18.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	512-266-7044
Hannah Nissen.....	15.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	512-266-7044
Nathan Nichols*+^.....	21.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	512-660-0556
Leanne Nichols*+^.....	15.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	512-660-0556
Kody Hicks .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	mother's helper*	512-217-3158
Eesha Patel.....	14.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	631-560-7307
Kiersten Dyke+ .....	15.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	512-266-8090
McKenna McDaniel*+.....	13.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	512-608-2135
Nicole Greenberg*+.....	13.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	512-497-0902
Sarah Conner .....	15.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	512-507-6000
Rachael Klein*+.....	19.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	512-810-9003
Isabela Carson*+.....	15.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	509-308-8601
Kassidy Gailey .....	15.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	864-238-0020
Campbell Fernandez .....	13.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	808-783-0780
Lilly Nguyen .....	17.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	512-694-5568
Madelyne, Miranda*+.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	512-266-7361
Naymal Siddiqui+ .....	14.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	512-968-5993
Cameron Romero*^.....	13.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	713-210-9042
Megan Schmitt.....	14.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	512-713-5343
Kaitlyn Schmitt.....	13.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	512-663-6543
Grace Jackson .....	14.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	512-565-0963
McKayla Bagnal*+^.....	13.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	512-695-1981
Grace Jackson .....	14.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	512-565-0963
Leila Mahmud.....	16.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	512-657 7718
Elise Cuellar.....	15.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	512-872-1660
Abbey Wilson.....	16.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	310-343-2286
Henri Renel.....	12.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	512-660-9542
Johnson, Jade.....	15.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	970-787-0740

Name	Age	Baby Sit	Pet Sit	House Sit	Yard Work	Phone
Kassidy Gailey .....	14.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	864-238-0020
Brittany Ryley.....	18.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	512-501-0482
Ryan Rathbun .....	12.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	512-215-9846
Nina Porter*+ .....	16.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	512-589-0165
Camille Gutierrez+.....	13.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	512-762-8507
Zachary Davis .....	11.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	512-965-1644
Melanie Wisenbaker*+^.....	16.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	512-659-1602
Jacob Villegas.....	16.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	512-608-7087
Kaylee Russell.....	18.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	512-689-1553
Ariel Wood.....	18.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	417-207-9305
Michael Craft .....	13.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	832-589-6939
Riley Bryarsi+ .....	15.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	512-788-2014
Makinna Pritchard*+^.....	14.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	512-922-3121
Eva Pacak* .....	15.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	512-655-9491
Kathryn Russell*.....	16.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	512-375-8887
Carly Christensen+* .....	13.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	512-565-5588
Jacqueline Hines+* .....	13.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	512-565-5588
Alexa Gray.....	15.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	425-753-3950
Michael Hildner.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	512-507-5937
Eesha Patel+.....	14.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	631-560-7307
Benton Ballengee*^.....	17.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	512-992-3138
Grace Ballengee*+^.....	17.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	512-992-3138
Luke Ballengee .....	15.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	512-992-3138
Jennifer Walker*+^.....	17.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	512-409-8590
Annika Olson*^.....	15.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	650-291-3633
Marie Seybal+.....	15.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	512-851-7995
Brooke Moore+ .....	14.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	512-788-3373
Mitchell Gary.....	14.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	512-502-5010
Claire Cussimano .....	14.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	512-839-1669
White, Katherine.....	15.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	737-346-2847
Roberto Guarda .....	15.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	713-858-4934
Kate Richmond*+^.....	14.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	512 484-1088
Vanessa Rubio*+^.....	15.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	512-987-7473
Bridget O'Brien.....	14.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	512-777-2675
Rikhil Vatcher.....	14.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	432-269-8646
Nate Wilson .....	16.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	310-343-9139
Corinna Crawford.....	14.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	512-944-3001
Kaleb Gailey .....	13.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	864-238-0030
Isabella Sanchez .....	16.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	512-552-4939
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