



VOLUME 15 ISSUE 02  
FEBRUARY 2021

# RANCH RECORD

*Official Newsletter of The Steiner Ranch HOA*



***WHERE IN STEINER RANCH?***





**Rhonda Durrill**  
512.994.8400

Rhonda@AvalarAustin.com



**Melissa Van Leeuwen**  
512.230.4419

Melissa@AvalarAustin.com



**Erin Bloss**  
512.264.5889

Erin@AvalarAustin.com



**Joy Brillante**  
512.423.4479

Joy@AvalarAustin.com



**Marguerite Craig**  
512.656.8292

MargueriteCraig@austin.rr.com



**Dawn Eckert**  
512.797.8488

Dawn@AvalarTexas.com



**Lisa Nauert**  
512.217.3762

LNauert@AvalarAustin.com



**Lisa Westwood**  
512.785.1886

LisaW@AvalarAustin.com

**Avalar Austin Real Estate**  
2900 Quinlan Park Rd. #220 - Next to Lakeside Pizza  
512.610.5000 | AvalarAustin.com

Steiner Ranch Real Estate Experts  
**Since 2006**





# COMMUNITY INFO

## STEINER RANCH

### COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS OFFICE

12550 Country Trails Lane

Austin, Texas 78732

512-266-7553 – Telephone

512-266-9312 – Facsimile

[www.steinerranchhoa.org](http://www.steinerranchhoa.org)

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday (Closed from 12–1:00pm) 9:00am – 5:00pm

Saturday & Sunday ..... **CLOSED**

(Currently office closed to walk-ins because of Covid19)

### STAFF

#### General Manager

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

#### Lifestyle and Communication Manager

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

#### Operations Manager

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

#### Architectural and Community Standards Coordinator

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

#### Front Desk Coordinator

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

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

### COMPLIANCE, ARCHITECTURAL

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

### SRMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

## STEVE'S PLUMBING REPAIR

Master License: M-39722

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

**Steve Brougher**  
**512.276.7476**



2605 Buell Ave

# 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)

# From the Association Office

## FROM THE ASSOCIATION OFFICE

- 4 Key Community Meeting Dates
- 5 Special Thanks to the SRMA Board of Directors
- 5 CiraNet
- 5 Landscaping Tips
- 6 Making Exterior Changes?
- 6 Prevent Oak Wilt
- 10 Firewise Focus – How to Prepare for a Wildfire

## STEINER ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

- 10 Thank You Volunteers!
- 12 Salsa Fever
- 12 'Chalk Your Walk'
- 12 Steiner Ranch Blood Drive
- 14 Cupid's Scavenger Hunt
- 14 Steiner Ranch Multicultural Festival
- 17 News from the Trails Committee
- 17 Ranch Record Front Cover Contest
- 18 Spring Field Lottery
- 18 Spring is Calling
- 20 Swimming News

## IN EVERY ISSUE

- 4 Steiner Ranch Events
- 4 Cover Photo
- 22 Teenage Job Seekers
- 22 Classifieds

## UPCOMING STEINER RANCH HOA EVENTS

Multicultural Festival (ongoing – monthly)

Ranch Record Front cover contest (ongoing – monthly)

- 02/06 Salsa Fever
- 02/06 – 02/12 Cupid's Scavenger Hunt
- 02/28 Steiner Ranch Blood Drive
- 03/01 Chalk your Walk every day in March
- 04/03 Easter Bunny Parade & Egg-stravaganza
- 05/22 2021 Senior Parade
- 06/01 – 08/01 SR Summer Activities Challenge
- 07/04 July 4th celebration
- 08/14 Back to school Bash
- 10/18 – 10/28 Steiner Spook-tacular House Parade
- 12/04 Santa Parade
- 12/09 Volunteers' dinner
- 12/01 – 12/17 Santa Mailbox and Elves' Special Delivery Mailbox
- 12/13 – 12/23 Annual 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.steinerhousing.com](http://www.steinerhousing.com)



### 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.

### 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/steinertrails>

### Event Planning Committee

Meets once a month. To join the committee and for more info, please send an email to [desirre.ghebremicael@grandmanors.com](mailto:desirre.ghebremicael@grandmanors.com)

**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

This month's cover photo was captured by Sterling Gray and features a Steiner Ranch Trail for the 'Where in Steiner Ranch?' Contest. For details about the contest, see page 17.

Have a photo you would like to see published in the next Ranch Record? For consideration, send pictures to [communications@steinerranchhoa.org](mailto:communications@steinerranchhoa.org) no later than the 8th of the month prior to publication. Your photo might just be next month's cover!

By submitting your photo you agree to allow your photo to be published in future issues of the Ranch Record and/or other Steiner Ranch communications.



# Special Thanks to the Steiner Ranch Master Association Board of Directors for their Service

The SRMA Board of Directors has worked hard for another year in service to the Steiner Ranch Community. Despite the many challenges in 2020 due to the Covid19 Pandemic, the Board met over Zoom throughout the year, retained consulting and engineering firms and accomplished many goals to include community enhancement and capital investment projects, security systems upgrades across the community, RADAR signs, sports field renovations, Landscape 2.0, Towne Square 2.0, and Lake Club 2.0 initiatives and much more.

The SRMA Board in 2020 consisted of seven directors:

- Naren Chilukuri
- Chris Langevin
- Josh Yates
- Jessica Bombra
- Lawrence Spinetta
- Christina Morales
- Raj Singh

Please join us in expressing our gratitude to the 2020 SRMA Board of Directors and their dedication and passion to improve our neighborhood.

## CiraNet: A one-stop online resource for all Homeowners

The HOA invites all residents to register to use the CiraNet Owner/Resident Portal at <https://www.ciranet.com/ResidentPortal>. Having a Ciranet account gives homeowners the ability to:

- View homeowner documents such as community rules and regulations, by-laws, financial documents, architectural guidelines, board meetings agendas and minutes
- Submit an architectural modification request, variance request, pool addendum and greenbelt addendum
- View owner's account information, account statements, payment history, make a one-time payment, setup recurring payments
- Access resident directory
- View restrictions summary
- Report a Violation
- Compliance Check and more

For a step by step guide on how to sign up, please visit [http://www.steinerranchhoa.org/document\\_view.asp?id=1080](http://www.steinerranchhoa.org/document_view.asp?id=1080).

If you have any issues signing up or locating your account details, please contact Grand Manors Customer Support at 855-947-2636.

## February 2021 Steiner Ranch Residential Landscaping Tips

*Written by: Brandon Fojt – Urban Dirt Account Manager for Steiner Ranch*



As we all know, winter is almost over, and we had a few winter cold snaps. This may mean a few different things for a homeowner and their landscaping. As many residents inspect their landscaping, you might notice that certain plant material and trees lose their leaves or start to turn brown, especially after the first freeze or two. This is known as the dormant period for a perennial plant such as Lantana, several types of Salvias, Esperanza, Turks Cap, Crape Myrtles, etc., and especially Native Grasses. This is only normal, and this is the perfect time to begin to prune and cut plant material back if you have not already done so. Most perennial plant material commonly used around the central Texas area, such as Lantana and Salvias, can be cut back anywhere from 3" to 6" from the ground. For larger plants, such as Esperanza, it is recommended that they be cut 1' to 2' from the ground. Do not worry if you have cut yours lower, as most perennial plants are fairly hardy and should come out of dormancy as long as there are a few inches left.

You will notice fresh growth as soil temperatures rise in early Spring. With that being said, there are a few perennials that are not recommended to be cut back quite yet, such as Roses. The rule of thumb for Roses would be to cut them back around Valentine's day or when you start to see signs of new growth. These can be cut back approximately halfway to 16" depending on how big the original plant size is. Another tip to help not only the look but the health of the plant is to make all cuts at a 45-degree angle. This is important, especially for Roses at any time of the year. You want to cut ¼" above a leaf set at the desired height. Another great tip corresponding with perennial cutbacks is to apply 2" - 3" of mulch after you cut back most of your dormant plant material. Do not be afraid to apply a few inches of mulch over the cut plant. This not only helps create a clean look while your beds may feel empty but helps insulate dormant plants providing them with a higher success rate of coming back in the Spring.

While temperatures are milder in the winter months, irrigation is still an important part of maintaining a beautiful landscape. Generally, irrigation can be turned off in the winter, but it is important to continue to monitor soil moisture levels. If it has not rained in a few weeks, it is good to irrigate the landscape to maintain plant health.

When in doubt about lawn care, it is always best to consult with a professional who is familiar with each type of plant and the key components they require to grow, bloom and thrive in the landscaping of your home.



# From the Association Office

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

Thinking about modifying your deck, adding a pool, or changing the color of your exterior trim? Steiner Ranch governing documents require the submission of plans and specifications for review and approval by the Architectural Committee (AC) **before** construction or installation begins. Improvements requiring approval include, but are not limited to, playscapes, pools, decks, patios, ponds, new siding or trim colors, planter boxes, arbors, walkways and sheds. Before making exterior changes to your home, please submit a Modification Application, which is now available through the CiraNet portal. In addition, the SRMA Board of Directors have approved the removal of the \$500 deposit policy from the application process.

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

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

### Please note:

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

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

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

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

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

## Prevent Oak Wilt – Don't Prune Oaks Feb 1st – June 30th

Information provided by Travis County Transportation  
& Natural Resources

From February through June, avoid all pruning or cutting of oaks – this is the high season for oak wilt transmission. Any wounds that occur from construction, vehicles, wind, etc., should be painted as soon as they're discovered – ideally within ½ hour of being cut – with commercial tree wound dressing or latex paint. That includes freshly cut stumps and surface roots.

Pruning is least risky during the coldest winter days and extended hot periods in mid to late summer. Any time you prune though, the Texas Forest Service recommends painting all wounds and sanitizing pruning equipment between trees using denatured methyl alcohol (shellac thinner), isopropyl alcohol, or a general-purpose household disinfectant such as Lysol, Listerine or Pine-Sol. Household bleach is not recommended.

Red oaks, including Spanish (now Buckley) oak, Shumard oak and blackjack oak, are very susceptible to oak wilt and play a key role in the disease's transmission. Oak wilt is caused by the fungus *Ceratocystis fagacearum*, which spreads its spores from "fungal mats" that form under the tree's bark. These mats have a sweet, fruity smell that attracts insects, especially the sap-sucking nitidulid beetle. After feeding and breeding on the fungal mats, these beetles fly away covered in fungal spores. As they visit other oaks, they spread the fungus through open wounds in the bark. The nitidulid beetle is only about the size of a pinhead, but is capable of flying as far as a mile away. While red oaks are the most susceptible to oak wilt, all oaks can become infected.

Fungal mats usually form on standing trees, but can also develop on logs, stumps and fresh firewood cut from infected oaks. Make sure to remove and either burn or bury infected oaks to prevent mats from forming, and never store unseasoned wood from infected trees near healthy oaks.

The second way oak wilt can be transmitted is through the roots. Live oaks tend to grow together in dense mottes with interconnected roots, so the fungus can be transmitted easily among them.

*Continued on Page 8*

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

**GIVE US A  
CALL TODAY!**

**512.762.8243**  
**coldisontheright.com**



*High Fives are Free!*  
**LN: M39724**



**10% Off**  
for Steiner Ranch Residents (up to \$100)



Bicycle Accidents | Boating Accidents | Car Accidents | Dog Bites | Drunk Driving Accidents  
Injuries to Children | Motorcycle Accidents | Slip and Falls | Truck Accidents | Wrongful Death



**ADAM LOEWY**

Personal Injury Lawyer



**LOEWY LAW FIRM**  
HELPING INJURED TEXANS

LoewyFirm.com  
(512) 280-0800



LIC # 16969



**Landscape and Irrigation inc.**

**LAWN CARE**  
Residential and Commercial

**LANDSCAPING**  
Design and Installation

**SPRINKLER**  
Installation and Repair

**Tree and Shrub Trimming**

**Power Washing ■ Stone Work ■ Fencing**

**FREE ESTIMATES**

**TexanLandscapeAustin@gmail.com**

**512.294.8967**

*"Prevent Oak Wilt" - Continued from Page 6*



Oak wilt is occasionally transmitted through red oak roots as well, but the movement is slower and occurs over shorter distances than with live oaks. Root transmission can be prevented by cutting trenches four feet deep between infected and healthy trees, but by far the best option is to prevent infection in the first place.

So make sure **NOT to prune oaks between February 1**

**and July 1, and ALWAYS paint wounds on oaks no matter what time of year it is.** For more information on preventing and treating oak wilt, please visit [texasoakwilt.org](http://texasoakwilt.org).



## Prodigy Mortgage

**JOHN CAMPBELL**

MANAGING PARTNER

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

· If your current interest  
rate is 3.25% or higher.....

Let's discuss a Refinance

(Rates as low as 2.25%)

· No cost evaluation -

You could be savings

thousands a year.



**Address:**  
12912 Arbor Lake Cove  
Austin, Texas 78732

**Phone:**  
(512) 983-4108

**Online Application:**  
[www.loansbycampbell.com](http://www.loansbycampbell.com)

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

**NMLS#**  
891346  
RMLO - John Campbell

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

# Firewise Focus – How to Prepare for a Wildfire

*Provided by Brian Tarr – Firewise Committee member*

## ■ VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

### 1. HOME IGNITION ZONES

Limiting the amount of flammable vegetation, choosing fire-resistant building materials and construction techniques, along with periodic exterior maintenance in the three home ignition zones - increases the chances your home will survive a wildfire when exposed to embers and/or a surface fire. The zones include the **Immediate Zone**: 0 to 5' around the home; **Intermediate Zone**: 5 to 30' and the **Extended Zone** 30 - 100'. Visit [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org) for more details on the Home Ignition Zones.

### 2. LANDSCAPING AND MAINTENANCE

To reduce ember ignitions and fire spread, trim branches that overhang the home, porch and deck and prune branches of large trees up to (depending on their height) 6 to 10 feet from the ground. Remove plants containing resins, oils and waxes and replace mulch in the Immediate Zone of 0 to 5 feet with non-combustible mulch products like crushed stone and gravel. Maintain vegetation annually.

## ■ FIRE RESISTIVE CONSTRUCTION

### 3. ROOFING AND VENTS

Class A fire-rated roofing products offer the best protection. Examples include: Composite shingles, metal, concrete and clay tiles. Inspect shingles or roof tiles and replace or repair those that are loose or missing to prevent ember penetration. Box-in eaves, but provide ventilation to prevent condensation and mildew. Roof and attic vents should be screened to prevent ember entry.

### 4. DECKS AND PORCHES

Never store flammable materials underneath decks or porches. Remove dead vegetation and debris from under decks/porches and between deck board joints.

### 5. SIDING AND WINDOWS

Embers can collect in small nooks and crannies and ignite combustible materials; radiant heat from flames can crack windows. Use fire-resistant siding such as brick, fiber-cement, plaster or stucco and dual-pane tempered glass windows.

## ■ BE PREPARED

### 6. EMERGENCY RESPONDER ACCESS

Ensure your home and neighborhood has legible and clearly marked street names and numbers. Driveways should be at least 12' wide with a vertical clearance of 15' for emergency vehicle access.

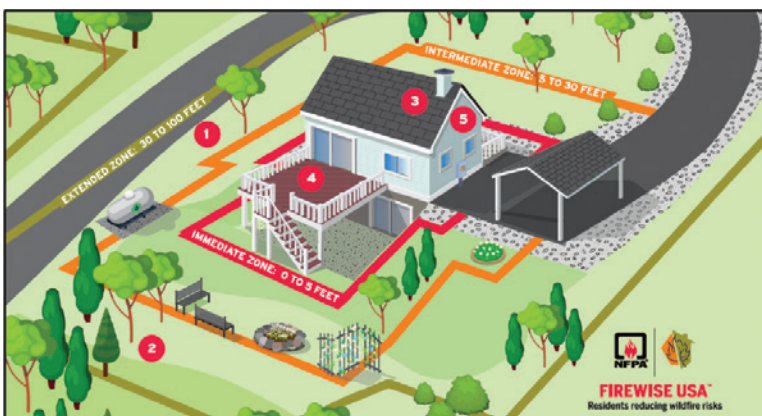
### 7. DISASTER PLAN

Develop, discuss and practice an emergency action plan with everyone in your home. Include details for pets, large animals and livestock. Know two ways out of your neighborhood and have a pre-designated meeting place. Always evacuate if you feel it's unsafe to stay - don't wait to receive an emergency notification if you feel threatened from the fire.

### 8. ANNUAL INSURANCE CHECK-UP

Conduct an annual insurance policy check-up to adjust for local building costs, codes and new renovations. Create/update a home inventory to help settle claims faster.

To request a free Firewise Home Ignition Zone evaluation of your home, please email your request to [SRFirewise@gmail.com](mailto:SRFirewise@gmail.com)



**FIREWISE USA®**  
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS



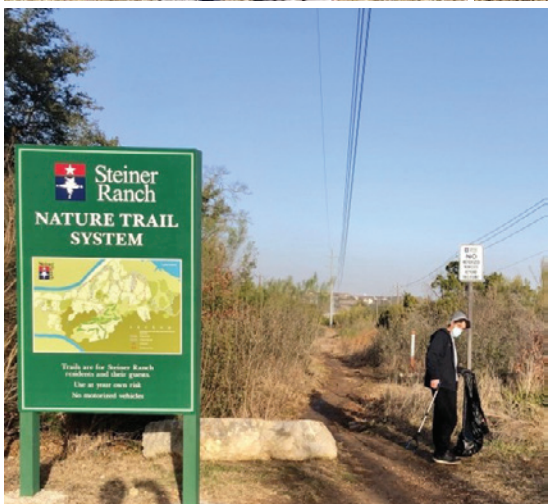
# Steiner Activities & Events

## Thanks to our Volunteers For Helping Keep Steiner Ranch Beautiful!

The Steiner Ranch Event Planning Committee and the Hill Country Young Men's Service League (YMSL) partnered to bring to Steiner Ranch a "Love Where You Live" event in line with the City's "Keep Austin Beautiful" campaign on Saturday, January 16, 2021.

It was a chilly January morning, but that did not discourage volunteers from donating two hours of their Saturday to the community. Volunteers from YMSL as well as many Steiner Ranch residents came out to pick up trash on roads throughout the neighborhood. Cleaning efforts extended from the two main entrances at FM 620 all the way down Quinlan Park Road and Steiner Ranch Boulevard, including Towne Square Park, Bella Mar, John Simpson Park and the pond at the Shops at Steiner Ranch. This was an in-person event, and each cleanup group wore masks and disposable gloves and only included members of the same household. During these difficult times, volunteers were able to be both safe and of service.

Special thanks goes to volunteers Jenni Gary, Viviane Peterka and Alison Hellmund, who were instrumental in making this event happen. Thank you, volunteers, and committee members, for supporting your community!







IN PARTNERSHIP  
WITH



**TRANE®**

*It's Hard To Stop A Trane.®*

*NOW IS THE BEST TIME TO UPGRADE  
OR REPLACE YOUR AC*



*512.339.7700*  
*www.ArrowSvcCenter.com*





# Steiner Activities & Events



**Want a fun and unique way to prepare for Valentine's day? Salsa Fever is the answer!**

The Steiner Ranch Event Planning Committee presents to you 'Salsa Fever', a live Zoom Salsa class.

**WHEN: Saturday, February 6th, at 6pm**

**WHERE: At your House**

**\*No prior dance experience needed, and wear what is comfortable for you!**

The class is taught by Jeremy James who has been dancing and teaching Salsa for over 10 years with the Sandunga Dance Company, directed by Agustin Guzman from New York where they had instruction not just for Latin dance, but for West Coast Swing, Ballroom, Indian Classical dancing, Flamenco, Belly dancing, and much more over the years until he moved to Austin where he still teaches.

So don't wait, put on your dancing shoes and sign up by scanning the QR code above to receive the link for the class by February 4th, 2021 by 11:59 pm.

GIVE LOVE A DIFFERENT WAY  
THIS VALENTINE'S

## STEINER RANCH BLOOD DRIVE

JUST BRING YOURSELF AND A SMILE

**TOWNE SQUARE PARKING LOT  
FEBRUARY 28, 2021  
10 AM TO 4 PM**



Scan QR code below to sign up and for more info



## 'Chalk Your Walk' Every Day In March!

It's that time of the year to showcase your artistic skills and Chalk Your Walk! every day the month of March. Draw some positive messages and images with chalk on your driveway so your neighbors can see.

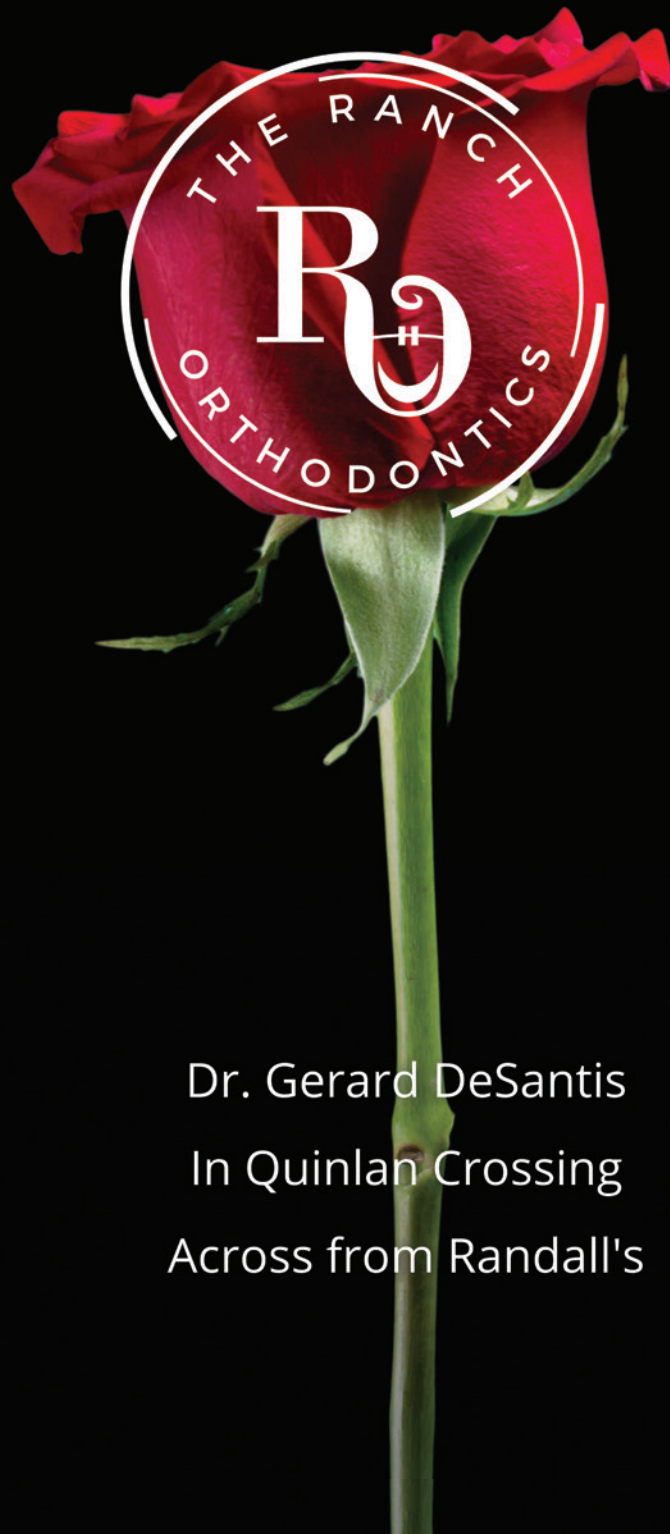
Take a picture of your final work and send it to us at [communication@steinerranchhoa.org](mailto:communication@steinerranchhoa.org) for a chance to win a \$25 Amazon gift card and your art be featured on the front cover of the Ranch Record. The HOA has some chalk to give away to get your creativity flowing. Fill out the form at <https://forms.gle/MQ4WnKrKaW7NzjwF7> and we will deliver it to your door (no contact delivery, limited supplies available, only one per household).

Remember to continue to practice physical distancing with your neighbors and practice your art skills on your driveway or in front of your home only. Stay safe and healthy, let your creativity flow!

Below are some of last years:



*Happy Valentine's*



Dr. Gerard DeSantis  
In Quinlan Crossing  
Across from Randall's



# Steiner Activities & Events

THE STEINER RANCH HOA & ADC INVITE YOU TO

## CUPID'S SCAVENGER HUNT

Find Cupid's clues to win a special Valentine's treat

February 6 to 12, 2021  
Towne Square, Bella Mar, John Simpson Parks & ADC Steiner Ranch



SPONSORED BY

 **ADC**  
THE ALSTIN DIAGNOSTIC CLINIC

 **Steiner Ranch**

## Steiner Ranch Multicultural Festival



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 started in November 2020 and will go through December 2021. Each month we will feature a Steiner family or group of families sharing their unique culture and heritage on the Ranch Record. We hope you will join us in this exciting journey, and you will contribute to the Festival. To participate, please contact us via email at [communications@steinerranchhoa.org](mailto:communications@steinerranchhoa.org)

## FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHT - THE SMART FAMILY

*Submitted by Sylvia Smart*



**Bobbie, Dean, Sylvia and Cuinn Smart**

*Continued on Page 15*

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

Now is the time to start planning out your vacations for 2021.  
We are ready to help.

**DreamVacations**   
*Start Here*

**Paula Kaisner - Kaisner Travel**  
**Independent Vacation Specialist**

512-607-6635 • [pkaisner@dreamvacations.com](mailto:pkaisner@dreamvacations.com)  
**[www.KaisnerTravel.com](http://www.KaisnerTravel.com)**



### Continued from Page 14

The Smart family is dressing up in traditional Chinese clothing for the 2021 Chinese New Year.

Chinese New Year, also known as the Lunar New Year or Spring Festival, is China's most important festival, marking the end of winter. It's a time for families to get together and celebrate for two weeks.

Chinese New Year falls on February 12 this year, inaugurating the Year of the Metal Ox, which lasts until January 31, 2022. Individuals born in 2021 and 12 year increments prior (i.e., 2009, 1997, 1985, 1973, etc.) will be an Ox. There are 12 Chinese zodiac animals in a 12 year cycle.

Oxen are believed to be faithful, obliging, persistent and sympathetic as well as loyal, honest, hard-working, less-talkative and conservative. Those Metal Oxen born in 2021 especially represent the characteristics "Busy and active, with good interpersonal relations." This year's lucky colors are red, blue and purple.

The origins of the Chinese New Year festival can be traced back to about 3500 years ago. The most popular story told about its origins says that the mythical beast Nian would eat livestock, crops and even people on the eve of a new year. To prevent Nian from attacking people and causing destruction, people put food at their doors, scared it away with loud noises (firecrackers) and put red lanterns and red couplets on the doorframes to stop Nian from entering.

Chinese New Year has evolved over a long period of time and its customs have evolved over time. Along with reunions of families and friends comes a lot of traditions and superstitions aimed at making sure the year ahead is lucky and prosperous.

**The holiday starts** with cleaning your home until it shines: Sweep, mop, scrub...do everything to make sure your home is spotless BEFORE the midnight of New Year's Eve. The aim here is to get rid of any bad luck that's accumulated over the past year. Cleaning of any kind is then forbidden on the first day and traditionally allowed on the second day. You don't want to sweep or wash away any good luck that arrived at the stroke of midnight!

**Putting up decorations** for the Chinese New Year is comparable to putting up Christmas decorations in western countries. Almost all decorations involve the color red and lucky images, such as lanterns, door couplets, paper cutouts, the "happiness" character hung upside down, etc.

**The reunion dinner** is the biggest part of any New Year's Eve.

Dishes made of special meats are served as a main course for dinner and as an offering for the New Year.



Continued on Page 16



Hannah Wang is dusting



Ben Liang writing Happiness in Chinese brush

Steiner Ranch Resident | Locally Owned in Austin Since 1993



# Matthew Lorand ROOFING

Trust is just one of the things we build well!

- Roof Replacements - All Types
- Roof Leak Repair Services
- General Contractor Services
- Insurance Claim Specialist
- Interior Remodel/Renovations



Previous Awards  
2016-2018

512-808-0403  
MatthewLorandRoofing.com





# Steiner Activities & Events

Continued from Page 15



People typically visit relatives and friends during days 2-7. In traditional Chinese culture, married women spend New Year's Eve and

**Dumplings** are the most well-known food, and they are meant to symbolize wealth because their shape resembles a Chinese sycee (a type of gold and silver currency used in imperial China).

**Whole Fish** is eaten or merely displayed on the eve, because the pronunciation of fish makes it a homophone in Chinese for "surpluses."

Other traditional foods are:

- Chicken feet or front pork feet: Symbolizes grabbing money.
- Rice cake/Nian Gao: Pronunciation is a homophone for "A more prosperous year".
- Spring rolls: the shape of the rolls resembles gold bars.
- Noodles: These noodles are left uncut and are meant to be slurped all in one go, rather than chewed. The longer the noodle, the longer your life.

Watching the Spring Festival Gala on China Central Television (CCTV) is the most common family activity after dinner on New Year's Eve. It is broadcast annually on the eve, and typically has the largest audience of any entertainment show in the world with over a billion viewers.

**On New Year's Day**, setting off firecrackers and fireworks has long been a Chinese tradition from the first minute of the New Year. The first day is a time to honor one's elders and visit the oldest and most senior members of their extended families.

**People exchange gifts**, much like westerners do at Christmas. Older people give red envelopes containing cash (the most common gift and tradition) to single younger people and children as a form of a blessing.

Lion or dragon dances are performed in the streets or at events as a symbolic ritual to usher in the New Year.



Day with their husbands' families, and bring their husband and children to the wife's family on day two.

After another dinner is held to celebrate the eve of the birth of the Jade Emperor, the ruler of heaven, on day 8, after which most people return to work on day 9. But the festival atmosphere is still in the air—employers will host a lunch or dinner with their employees or give them red envelopes, thanking them for the work they have done all year.

**The 15th day of the New Year is the Lantern Festival**, and it marks the final day of the celebration. On this day, children go out at night carrying lanterns and solve riddles printed on them.

**The special food for this day is Tangyuan**, a glutinous rice ball typically filled with red bean or sesame paste. People believe that the round shape of the balls symbolize family togetherness and that eating it may bring the family harmony, happiness and luck in the New Year.

**These are the Chinese New Year traditions in a nutshell.** There are a lot of interesting details about this holiday. (To learn more, visit [ChineseNewYear.net/calendar](http://ChineseNewYear.net/calendar).)

**From our family to yours, we wish you all a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!**





## News from the Trails Committee

*Submitted by Sterling Gray*

As I write this, it's a chilly 45°F outside - but sunny. Winter is a great time to get out and enjoy the wonderful nature trails in Steiner Ranch. As a Yankee originally from Michigan and Maine, I particularly enjoy the opportunity to go hiking in the middle of January – sometimes in just a T-shirt and shorts – but not today. In any case, it still beats shoveling snow.

The Trails Committee has been very active over the last year – with new trailhead signs, several new bridges and other trail improvement projects. More recently, the trail benches scattered throughout the community have gotten a bit of a “rejuvenation” with the new year. With most of the benches 20 years old or more, they were in need of some TLC. Can you guess how many benches there are?

Over the holidays, a few Trails Committee volunteers scraped, sanded, and stained eleven of the thirteen benches on our trails. The remaining two need more extensive repairs – including one on Bear Creek Trail that was burned in the tragic wildfires of 2011. But hopefully they'll also be finished by the time you read this. So, if you're out on the trails, and see a newly stained bench, stop and sit a spell, and take in the beauty and peacefulness of our very own slice of heaven –Texas Hill Country – literally in our backyard. With approval and funding from the SRMA, the committee also has plans to install three more benches, particularly along some of our longer trails that offer incredible canyon and lake views.

If all this talk of trail improvements has motivated you to get out on the trails and maybe even lend a hand, we hold monthly trail maintenance events on the fourth Sunday of each month. To learn more, visit the Steiner Ranch Trail Committee Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/srtrailcommittee>). The cooler months of winter and spring are the best time to volunteer and give back to our community.

Finally, I'd like to recognize Rob Mack who has chaired the Trails Committee for many years. Rob has devoted untold hours to maintaining

and improving our trail system and he has been a strong advocate and voice for the trails through the SRMA and GrandManors. Rob is relinquishing his current role, but will continue on the committee - we are grateful for his leadership and guidance: past, present and future. Another one of our “passionate” volunteers, Eric Morton, will be assuming the role of Chair. As always, we are grateful to Eric and all the other community volunteers that make Steiner Ranch the best place to live in Central Texas. Hope to see you out on the trails!



## Ranch Record Front Cover Contest

Please enter this month's contest by identifying the exact location of the Trail 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 at [communications@steinerranchhoa.org](mailto:communications@steinerranchhoa.org).

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.

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 Committee. In addition, for your safety and convenience, the Trails Committees 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. Winners will be announced in the following month Ranch Record and contacted via email.





# Steiner Activities & Events

## Spring Field Lottery

Are you planning on coaching a team this Spring? Need a place to practice? Mark your calendar for the 2021 Spring Field Lottery to be held on Friday, February 26, 2021.

Register your team by sending an email to [desirre.ghebremicael@grandmanors.com](mailto:desirre.ghebremicael@grandmanors.com).

Registration must be submitted by 5:00pm on Thursday, February 19, 2021 with the following information:

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

### FIELD OPTIONS:

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

### TIME OPTIONS:

• One hour weekly beginning at 4:00pm, 5:00pm, or 6:00pm (Daylight saving time 2021 in Texas will begin at 2:00 AM on Sunday, March 14) for all 3 fields.

### DAY OPTIONS:

- Monday – Friday only

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

Assigned practice day(s), time(s), and field(s) will be emailed to you by Wednesday, March 3, 2021. Please note, once you have been awarded a practice day, time and field, changes will not be made until the next field lottery.

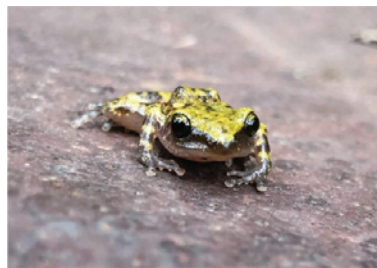
\*Please Note: If you are with Neighborhood Sports (soccer or flag football), you do not need to register your team for the lottery.

## Spring is Calling

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

We're right around the corner from the beautiful Central Texas springtime. Before the wildflowers and migratory songbirds arrive, some of the first true signs of spring are the mating calls of frogs and toads as they emerge from winter hibernation. You can usually hear them in the evening when the temperature is above freezing, especially after rain. So next time you are out enjoying an evening walk, take a moment to listen for all the frogs and toads looking for love.

Many people think you need to be near a pond, stream, or marsh to hear and see amphibians, but areas with rocks, decaying logs, and leaf litter are great places to find them too. You also don't need to be very close to hear them since frogs and toads make a huge amount of noise for such small creatures.



*Cliff chirping (Eleutherodactylus marnockii) frog. Photo by Kristen Gold*

There are more than 15 different types of frogs and toads found in the Balcones Canyonlands, but we're focusing today on the top 5 that you're likely to hear at Steiner Ranch. The Blanchard's cricket frog is one of the more common species and its call is very easy to recognize. It sounds like two rocks being clicked together with increasing speed. You can find this frog almost anywhere there is water, like a pond or creek. They are very small, with adults being approximately one inch long, so you will have to look carefully to see one. They are much easier to find by listening.

Next up are our two chirping frogs. The cliff chirping frog and Rio Grande chirping frog make a "chirping" sound as their name implies, and they also make a short "trill." They are often mistaken for crickets or birds. Unlike most other frogs, they don't need water to breed and do surprisingly well in suburban yards. Frogs and toads are great to have around because they help naturally control garden pests, including many bugs, snails, and slugs.

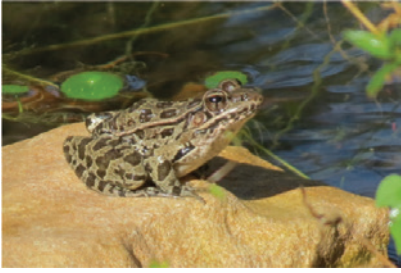
Another staple resident of Central Texas is the Gulf Coast toad. You can hear its long trill at night after rains in the spring and summer. This toad is fairly easy to identify with bumpy skin and a large light-colored stripe down its back.



*Gulf coast toad (Incilius nebulifer). Photo by Debra Scott.*

*Continued on Page 19*

*Continued from Page 18*



*Gulf coast toad (Incilius nebulifer). Photo by Debra Scott.*

Last but not least is the Rio Grande leopard frog, which can be found in ponds and other permanent water sources. Its call is often described as sounding like a snore. They are active both night and day and are commonly seen at the edge of ponds, often floating in the water.

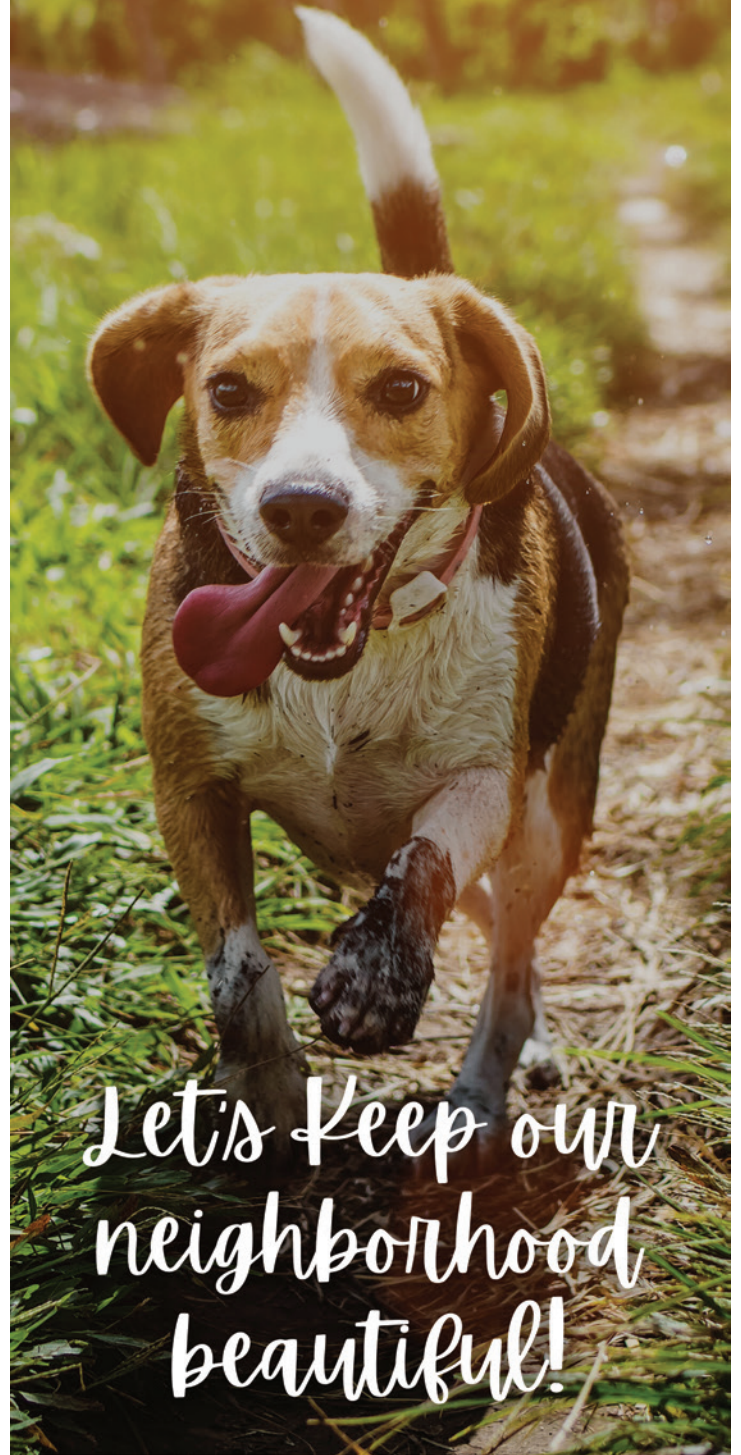
Amphibians have existed on earth for over 300 million years and they are a very important part of the food web. They eat insects and worms, helping to keep those populations stable, and they are eaten by a wide range of animals from turtles to birds. They also help our economy by eating lots of agricultural pests, and they benefit our health by helping to keep mosquitoes at bay. Their tadpoles even help keep waterways clean by eating algae. Despite their importance, nearly one-third of the world's amphibian species are threatened with extinction, and almost 200 species have gone extinct since 1980.

The good news is, you can help by welcoming frogs and toads into your yard. The best way to make your yard more hospitable is by not using chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Amphibian skin is permeable and easily absorbs chemicals. Fortunately, since frogs and toads are great natural pest controllers, they'll do much of the chemicals' work for free.

Another way to roll out the red carpet for amphibians is to leave leaves under bushes and other plants, which they can use for shelter and reproduction. If you have space for it, a small pond or water feature is a great way to attract frogs. Or you can make a toad home out of an overturned plant pot – just remove part of the rim to make a door.

You can also help by supporting landscape-scale conservation like the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve. The preserve is home to the threatened Jollyville Plateau salamander (a close relative of the better-known Barton Springs salamander) and many other amphibians. To learn more about the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve at Steiner Ranch and beyond, follow us on Instagram @bcp\_traviscounty, Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/traviscountybcp/>) and our website ([www.traviscountytexas.gov/tnr/nr/bcp](http://www.traviscountytexas.gov/tnr/nr/bcp)). For more information about the frogs and toads discussed above, including recordings of their calls, please check out the Texas Parks and Wildlife Nature Trackers site [https://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/wildlife\\_diversity/texas\\_nature\\_trackers/amphibian\\_watch/references/](https://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/wildlife_diversity/texas_nature_trackers/amphibian_watch/references/).

# Clean Up After Your Pet!



## Let's Keep our neighborhood beautiful!



## *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](mailto:goldstarsswimming@gmail.com) for more info

Cost is \$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



EARN YOUR  
POT OF GOLD  
WHEN YOU  
ADVERTISE  
TO THOUSANDS  
OF POTENTIAL  
CLIENTS  
NEXT MONTH!

We are the end of the rainbow  
for your advertising needs.

**512.263.9181**

**advertising@peelinc.com**





# TEENAGE JOB SEEKERS

## ATTENTION TEENAGE JOB SEEKERS

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

*Not Available Online*

## BUSINESS CLASSIFIEDS

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

### *Classified Ads*

**Business classifieds** (offering a service or product line for profit) are \$65, limit 40 words, please contact Peel, Inc. Sales Office @ 512-263-9181 or [advertising@PEELinc.com](mailto:advertising@PEELinc.com).

\* CPR Training + Red Cross Certified ^ First Aid



**Dr. David Ensley & Family**

## **RJ Orthodontics welcomes Dr. David Ensley**

**Dr. Ensley graduated with Honors from the University of Georgia and earned his Doctor of Dental Medicine from the Medical College of Georgia.**

**He went to serve for 7 years with the US Army, completing 1 year Advanced Education in General Dentistry residency and then receiving his orthodontic specialty training from the Tri-Service Orthodontic Residency Program in San Antonio.**

**After graduation, he completed his written and oral board certification, becoming a Diplomate of the American Board of Orthodontics- a distinction achieved by less than half of all orthodontists.**

**Dr. Ensley understands what it's like to have a smile you don't like, because he had crooked teeth as a kid. After an orthodontist straightened his teeth, giving him a new smile and confidence, he knew he wanted to do the same for other people.**

**Dr. Ensley is passionate about blending the artistry of sculpting smiles with the precision and science of creating healthy bites.**



**Dr. RJ Jackson**



**RJ ORTHODONTICS**  
*Making Austin Smile*

**512-363-5792 | [www.rjorthodontics.com](http://www.rjorthodontics.com)**

Located Behind the Walgreens at the Intersection of 620/2222

**invisalign** | *teen*



**Dr. Ensley**





**PEEL, INC.**

1405 Brandi Ln  
Round Rock, TX 78681

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

SR

**GARAGES**

**CLOSETS**

**EPOXY**

**AND MORE!**



**\$250 OFF**  
OR FREE ACCESSORIES

MUST PRESENT THIS  
AD AT THE TIME OR  
ESTIMATE. LIMITED  
TIME OFFER.



***We are now offering***

**FREE VIRTUAL CONSULTATIONS!**

GIVE US A CALL TO GET YOUR PROJECT STARTED!

**512-791-7453**

**VISIT US ONLINE**

**[www.fortitudehomesolutions.com](http://www.fortitudehomesolutions.com)**

