



The Jester Warbler

Official Publication of Jester Homeowners Association, Inc.

September 2010

Volume 5, Issue 9

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hopefully the bad summer heat will be behind us when you read this. We did have a very good turnout for the 4th of July Parade and Activities sponsored by Jester Homeowners Association. We have two social events planned for the remainder of the year, the Halloween Parade in October and the Christmas Santa Visit in December. Teresa Gouldie and her helpers do a great with these events – please call her if you can lend a hand. And don't forget the neighborhood garage sale on October 9.

JHA is a volunteer organization working to keep our neighborhood safe and clean - a place we can all be proud of! We maintain the entranceways, organize and support social events, and enforce the deed restrictions. Of course we also publish this newsletter and we welcome articles from any of our neighbors about subjects of general interest to folks in Jester. And be sure to register on www.JesterNeighbors.com. *Until next time – Philip Kolman*



Fall Garage Sale

Register your location so you can get maximum exposure!

JHA is sponsoring a Jester Garage sale on Saturday October 9th at 8 am. Ads will run in the American Statesman on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday promoting this neighborhood-wide sale. Please email Teresa at tgouldie@gmail.com or call her at 751-8000 if you would like to register your garage sale location. Maps with lists of garage sale addresses will be available at the entrances to Jester.

**Saturday, October 9th
8:00 AM**

GREEN TIPS

City of Austin Grow Green Landscape

Austin Water has teamed up with Watershed Protection to encourage landscaping practices that promote good water quality and water conservation. The new Grow Green landscape design templates are a guide for Austin area homeowners to help them choose a style and plant palette that requires less water and fewer chemicals.

The templates can be found at: (Also check out the “Meet the Natives” TV spot!)

<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/growgreen/designs.htm>

The landscape conversion incentive/rebate can be found at:

<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/watercon/landscapeconversion.htm>

On July 1, 2010, Austin Water Conservation launched a Landscape Conversion Incentive program to encourage homeowners to conserve water by converting turf areas to native beds and/or permeable hardscapes. To qualify for a rebate, a minimum of 500 square feet of turf must be converted. The amount rebated will be based on whether or not the area is irrigated. Rebate amounts in irrigated areas are \$20 per 100 sq. feet converted. Rebate amounts in areas that receive no irrigation are \$30 per 100 sq. feet converted. Applications will be accepted twice a year; December through February for spring installations and June through August for fall installations. Detailed program requirements and processes can be seen on the application.

More water conservation information is at:

<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/watercon/default.htm>

by Dale Bulla

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ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

Interested in submitting an article? You can do so by emailing
diana0777@att.net or by going to:

<http://www.peelinc.com/articleSubmit.php>.

All news must be received by the 9th of the month prior to the issue.

JESTER WARBLER WELCOME COMMITTEE

This month, two of Joan Smith's beautiful stroller afghans were delivered, the first to one year old Diana, daughter of Jen and Steve on the 7300 block of Foxtree, and the second to one month old Finnegan, son of Jeannine and Marc on the 7000 block of Juneberry Cove.

It was also an active period for welcome package deliveries, which this month included cookies baked by Deb Lewis, scrubbers made by Joan Smith and pot holders made by Darla Rowan. Welcome packages were delivered to:



**CRISTY AND JON ON
CLEMATIS COVE**

- Brian on the 7600 block of Berrycone Cove,
- Naomi and John on the 7400 block of Teak Cove,
- Hang and Ryan on the 8100 block of Jester Blvd,
- Derby and Lisa on the 8300 block of Jancy Drive,
- Patty and John on the 8000 block of Bottlebrush Drive
- Jen and Brent on the 7200 block of Holly Fern,
- Mark, in the 8000 block of Bottlebrush, waiting for his wife Janet and their 3 girls to move from San Diego,
- Cristy and Jon on Clematis Cove, and
- Johnna and Trent on the 7800 block of Lakewood Drive.

Jester sales seem to be heating up, so we expect the Welcome Committee to be busy. Please contact JoAnn Welles at 512.346.0349 or joann-welles@sbcglobal.net, if you're interested in joining. We can always use new ideas! Meetings are held about once a month, and deliveries usually take another hour a month. It's fun to meet new neighbors and get to know what brought them to Jester.

If you've moved to Jester lately and we haven't welcomed you officially, please also contact Jo Ann.

(Photos Continued on Page 4)

WELCOME

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JESTER Connections

Your Jester Networking Group

**Contact a Neighbor for your
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September Meeting
Wednesday, Sept. 15th, 7:30 am
Waterloo Ice House

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For info, contact Paul (griff) Griffiths 241-1644 or griff@albioncomputergroup.com

Jester Estates



Mark, in the 8000 block of Bottlebrush, waiting for his wife Janet and their 3 girls to move from San Diego.



Jobna and Trent on the 7800 block of Lakewood Drive



Hang and Ryan on the 8100 block of Jester Blvd



Naomi and John on the 7400 block of Teak Cove



Jen and Brent on the 7200 block of Holly Fern

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At Four Points Chamber of Commerce Luncheon

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- The Four Points Chamber of Commerce Luncheon
- Thursday, September 16th
- Time: 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- At River Place Country Club, 4207 River Place Boulevard.

Membership is not a requirement to come to the luncheon but you'll want to register so that you can reserve a seat at what is sure

to be a popular event. While you are at the Four Points Chamber of Commerce website be sure to check out the upcoming special event, Taste of Four Points Business Expo on Tuesday, October 19 where the keynote speaker will be Congressman Lamar Smith <http://lamarsmith.house.gov>. The event provides opportunities to exhibit and for sponsorship.

The Four Points Chamber of Commerce provides networking opportunities at social gatherings, luncheons with guest speakers and activities. The Chamber brings businesses together along highway 620 from Hudson Bend to Anderson Mill and Ranch Road 2222 from Jester to Volente. Four Points Chamber supports business growth in the community where we live, work and play. In less than 6 months Four Points Chamber of Commerce exceeded its first year membership goals and continues to grow! For information about participating in upcoming events or membership benefits visit www.fourpointschamber.com or call (512) 551-0390. Membership inquiries may also be sent directly to membership@FourPointsChamber.com.

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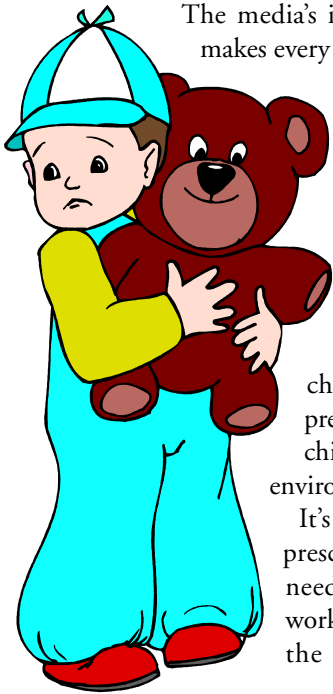
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Is My Child Ready for Preschool?

by *Therese Thompson*



The media's intense focus on "Back to School" makes every parent start thinking about summer coming to an end and getting kids ready to return to school. New school clothes, new school supplies and extra-curricular activities are on every mom's mind. Moms with children about to start school feel pangs of sadness as they prepare to send their child "out into the world." Even parents of very young children may start to wonder about preschool and just when to start their child in the more structured learning environment that preschool provides.

It's easy to see why parents consider preschools. In addition to serving the needs of families where both parents work, there are countless articles about the benefits of preschool for young

children. A multitude of studies demonstrate that participating in a structured program prior to beginning kindergarten not only makes the transition to elementary school easier, but also makes children perform better in school. But what's not as clear is the optimal age for kids to start a preschool program. And that's mainly because that optimal age can vary a lot, depending on the child.

So how can you tell if your child is ready for preschool? To me, the most important aspect is the child's level of socialization. While preschool no doubt helps socialize children a great deal, that process is most effective when the child is ready.

There are some simple signs that your child may be ready to join the more structured learning environment that preschool provides:

- Does he enjoy playing with other kids, and easily cooperate at games and other activities?
- Is she comfortable spending time away from you, either at a Mother's Day Out program, or with a babysitter, grandparent, or other family member?
- Can he do some basic tasks on his own? For instance, can he wash his hands at the sink or put on his own coat?

(Continued on Page 7)

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Is My Child Ready for Preschool?- (Continued from Page 6)

- Is she able to fall asleep on her own, without being rocked or held first?
- Most preschoolers take only one nap in the afternoon. Does he have the stamina to last through the morning without a nap?
- Can she follow some basic instructions, like picking up her toys or bringing her plate to the kitchen after dinner?
- Will she entertain herself for short periods by drawing or coloring, paging through books or doing other activities independently?
- Does she talk freely to other adults, or does she still depend on you to translate for her?

These are just some basic clues that your child will be able to function in a structured environment such as a preschool. Other behaviors that may indicate that your child is ready for socialization:

- Does she enjoy going to new places and having new experiences, or prefer that her days be more routine?
- Is he open to new playmates, or does he prefer to spend most of his time playing alone?
- Does she seem to welcome the opportunity to learn new things and be excited to meet new people?

For some children, these behaviors may be clearly evident by age three, while they may not show up until age five or even later in other children. But if you need to enroll your child in a preschool setting due to your own work situation, there are things you can do to prepare your child:

1. Start slowly – let her spend time with a family member or sitter while you're still in the home. As that becomes more comfortable, leave her alone while you run a few errands, gradually working up to a whole day or evening way.
2. Schedule regular play dates with different children and encourage them to play together – simple games, puzzles or even coloring or finger painting will encourage interaction.

3. Go to story time at the library to practice paying attention and sitting in a group of other children.
4. Try swim lessons or tumbling to familiarize him with taking direction from another adult.
5. Start giving your child simple tasks to complete, like stacking his books on a shelf or putting the plates on the dinner table. Encourage him to dress himself by providing easy-on outfits like sweat pants and a t-shirt.
6. Set up playtimes where she can entertain herself for half an hour or so. Encourage her to play independently by offering her coloring books or simple puzzles to work on alone. You may need to work up to the full 30 minutes, so start with five minutes and add time as she is successful at entertaining herself.
7. Visit the local children's museum or zoo and talk about the exhibits. Encourage her curiosity and further discussion by reading books about the subject or even watching Animal Planet or Mr. Science together.
8. Practice spontaneity – mix up your routines by playing outside before breakfast or scheduling bath time in the afternoon or even eating breakfast for dinner.

It probably won't happen overnight, but with a little planning and encouragement, you can help your child make the transition to preschool smoothly and reasonably easily. Of course, it's a good idea to transition to the actual school environment over a few days as well. Make a visit one day together, then try leaving him for a few hours or a half day first and work your way up to a full day at school.

It's not easy to know when to start your child in preschool, but there are signs to watch for and ways to encourage the behaviors required to succeed in the environment. Knowing what to look for, and what to work toward, can go a long way in easing the transition for both of you.

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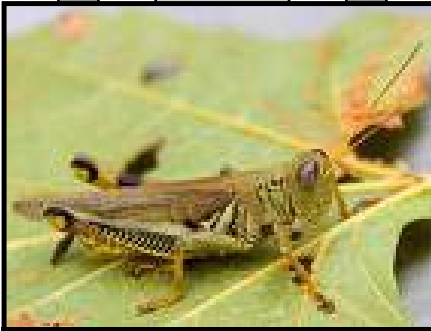
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NATURE WATCH

Hoppin' Orthoptera



DIFFERENTIAL GRASSHOPPER



TREE CRICKET
(Photo: Bastiaan M. Drees)



TRUNCATED TRUE KATYDID

Take a walk through a meadow on a warm summer day, and you'll no doubt encounter members of the insect order *Orthoptera*: grasshoppers, crickets, and katydids. While their Greek name translates to 'straight wings', these insects are better known for their jumping ability and powerful hind legs that can propel them to 20 times their body length.

Abundant, large, colorful, and often noisy, orthopterans are unlike other insects in that they undergo an incomplete or gradual metamorphosis. Their simple lifecycle consists of an egg, nymph, and adult, where the nymphs look similar to adults, but lack completely developed wings. Eggs typically hatch in the spring, nymphs develop through the summer, and adults mate and reproduce in late summer and fall, with winter passing in the egg stage. They have three basic body parts: the head, which contains sensory parts such as antennae, eyes, and mouthparts; the thorax, which contains the legs and wings required for movement; and the abdomen, which bears the digestive and reproductive organs.

The use of sound is crucial in courtship, with each species having its own distinct song. Males attract mates through stridulation, or producing sounds by rubbing the upper and lower wings or the hind leg and wing together creating a vibration that is species-specific. The auditory organs for orthopterans are not located on their heads, however, but on the abdomen for grasshoppers and the front legs of crickets and katydids.

A common group of grasshoppers in Central Texas are the Banded-winged grasshoppers (*Arphia* sp.). Heavy-bodied with large hind legs and rounded heads with vertical faces, these grasshoppers are typically 1 to 1 ½ inches long, grayish-brown to black and mottled with numerous spots. When they fly, their open hind wings show a bright orange-red, the only give away to the natural camouflage of their grassy habitat. The Differential grasshopper (*Melanoplus differentialis*) is brown to olive-green and yellow and up to 1 ¾ inches long, with black herringbone markings on its legs. It feeds on both grasses and broadleaf plants, although it prefers the latter. A close cousin, the Eastern lubber grasshopper (*Romalea microptera*) is large and has a variable color pattern of yellow, red, and black, showing rose-colored forewings when in flight. Most often found in low moist areas with dense undergrowth, when alarmed this grasshopper will hiss, spread its wings, and secrete a foul-smelling froth from its spiracles, or breathing structures on the sides of its abdomen.

More often heard than seen, Tree crickets (*Oecanthus* sp.) are whitish to light green, with long antennae and slender bodies. In late summer from dusk into the evening hours, the males begin to chirp, with the rate of the chirp correlating to the outside temperature. If you count how many chirps you hear in 15 seconds and add that to 40, you'll come surprisingly close to the actual air temperature in degrees

(Continued on Page 10)



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Nature Watch - (Continued from Page 8)

Fahrenheit. Field crickets (*Gryllus* sp.) are dark brown to black, about 1 inch long, live in cool, dark areas, and normally emit high-pitched, continuous calls. Those that live in caves are dark brown, have well-developed hind legs, and exhibit a hunchbacked appearance. The Southern mole cricket (*Scapteriscus borellia*) is a subterranean insect, with shovel-like front legs modified for digging. Dull brown and cylindrical, they are poor jumpers but fly at night and are quick runners.

The antennae of katydids are hair-like and at least as long as the body, superbly represented by the True katydid (*Pterophylla camellifolia*). The common name for these green insects is derived from their calls, with the true katydid's call being rendered as a harsh *ka-ty-did, she-did, she-didn't*. Heard from early summer through early fall, it is rivaled only by the rapid, rhythmic but slurred call of the Central Texas leaf-katydid or Truncated True katydid (*Paracyrtophyllus robustus*). Living in woodlands and feeding on oaks, an outbreak of these insects can easily defoliate many trees.

Often, what you can't identify by sight during the day becomes clear when it sings, calls, buzzes, or chirps at night. Immerse yourself in the nighttime soundscape, and hear your way to discovery!

Send your nature-related questions to naturewatch@austin.rr.com and we'll do our best to answer them. **If you enjoy reading these articles, look for our book, *NatureWatch Austin*, to be published by Texas A&M University Press in 2011.** - By Jim and Lynne Weber



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SOCIAL GROUPS

Contact Info

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CYCLING - Want to join a Jester road biking group and participate in organized rides? Contact Troy Reish at troy.reish@gmail.com or call 241-0592.

DINNER CLUB- Join our new dinner club. Meet friends and enjoy great food! Contact Diana O'Connell at 767-0573 or dianaconnell@yahoo.com

HILL KINDERGARTEN YAHOO GROUP - This group is helping connect Jester families with others who also have children entering Hill Kindergarten in the Fall 2010. Email JesterHill2010-subscribe@yahoogroups.com to subscribe.

JESTER DOG LOVER'S GROUP - Put a smile on your dog's face and a wag in his tail — sign up now to be a founding member of the Jester dog lovers group. Contact Carol Powell at 340-0321 or email her at carolpowell@austin.rr.com

JESTER KIDS YAHOO GROUP - This group is helping Jester parents connect with other parents who have children with similar ages or interests! Email jesterkids-subscribe@yahoogroups.com to subscribe.

JESTER PAGE TURNERS - Check out the Jester Page Turners, a neighborhood book group that meets the second Wednesday evening of each month. Contact Valerie Walley at vwalley@randomhouse.com. 372-4077

JESTER UNCORKED - Wine lovers of Jester, unite! Join our ever-growing group of wine lovers. Contact David and Cherise Sonnier

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ROWING - Interested in sweep rowing and sculling? Contact Julie Donnie at 340-0432 or JulieDonnie@yahoo.com.

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT GROUP - Interested in developing relationships and sharing spiritual life experience? Contact Jim Irwin at jimirwin@austin.rr.com or 502-0797

WELCOMING COMMITTEE - Darla Rowan and JoAnn Welles are co-chairs of this committee, which is designed to welcome new residents to Jester, including newborns. Volunteer to help by emailing JoAnn at joann-welles@sbcglobal.net or call her at 346-0349

WOODWORKING GROUP - Join our woodworking group to share knowledge and techniques! Contact John Parker at 345-6991 or JParker84@austin.rr.com

Be considerate of our neighbors and pick up after your dog!

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PLAYGROUPS

Parents of Newborns - 3

Kate Murdock - KFM.associates2005@sbcglobal.net



Parents of Children 3 – 5

Position Open – If you would like to serve as a contact person for this group please call Teresa at 751-8000 or email tgouldie@gmail.com.

Hill Fall 2010 Kindergarten Group

Contact Julie Stoakley
at 527-8683 or at
stokes@austin.rr.com



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Include type of pet, name, male or female, description, age, medications, veterinarian's name, whether it is microchipped, and pet owner's name, address, and contact information.

For lost or found pets, call 338-1519.

JESTER PAGE TURNERS

*We meet the second Wednesday
of each month at 7 PM.
Upcoming book group selections:*

- Sept 8 Olive Kitteridge by Elizabeth Strout
- Oct 13 China Road by Rob Gifford
- Nov 10 A Walk on the Beach by Joan Anderson
- Dec 8 Party and book exchange; book recommendations

Please contact Valerie Walley for information/locations of meetings
at vwalley@randomhouse.com or 372 4077.



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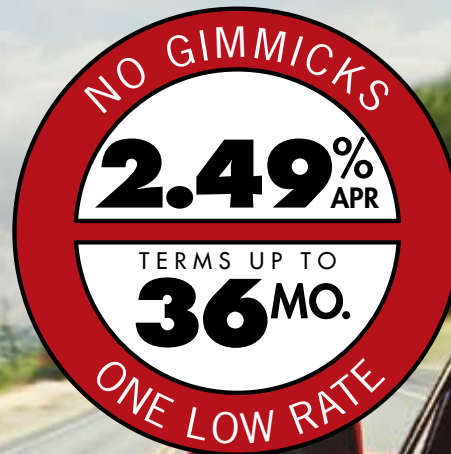
Jester Networking Group



Are you a resident who owns a business or provides a service?

Build your business by referral! Join our group! This is a non competitive referral organization that admits one quality individual or company per professional category. We offer our members the opportunity to share ideas, contacts, and most importantly, referrals. Interested in learning more? Contact Paul (Griff) Griffiths at griff@albioncomputergroup.com or 241-1644.

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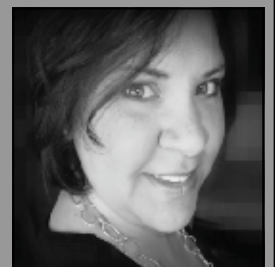
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512.565.7848

Malita Jones, REALTOR®

512.497.6442

Homes@JesterEstatesInfo.com



Jester Estates Stork Report

Congratulations!
Let us help celebrate...
email info on the arrival
of your little one to
diana0777@att.net.

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Classified Ads

Personal classifieds (one time sell items, such as a used bike...) run at no charge to Jester Estates residents, limit 30 words, please e-mail Diana Miller at diana0777@att.net.

Business classifieds (offering a service or product line for profit) are \$50, limit 40 words, please contact Peel, Inc. Sales Office @ 512-263-9181 or advertising@PEELinc.com.

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- Warbler Co-Editor
- Social Committee Chair
- Creator: AllAboutJester.com

Leading Listing Agent

September Events

Compliments of... Teresa Gouldie 751-8000 Coldwell Banker, United

Sept. 5	Splash Jam <i>Beach volleyball & washer tournaments, food concessions, inflatables, face painting, laser tag, hamster balls, live music/dance, fireworks and a Movie in the Park ("Planet 51").</i>	Elizabeth Milburn Park cedarparkfun.com
Sept. 11 -12	Austin Wedding Guide <i>2010 Bridal Extravaganza</i>	416-WEDD austinweddings.com
Sept. 12	Ballet Austin's Come Dance! 2010 Family Friendly Event <i>View a demonstration, take a class or dance all day!</i>	Butler Community School balletaustin.org
Sept. 18 - 19	MamaCents Children's Consignment Sale <i>Great deals on gently used clothes, etc. ... Free Admission</i>	801-0331 mamacent.com
Sept. 18	Free Seminar: Growing a Great Lawn <i>Learn the best information on the care & feeding of your lawn</i>	Zilker Botanical Garden zilkergarden.org
Sept. 18 - 19	Ballet Austin's "Not Afraid of the Dark" <i>Sing, clap, dream, dance and do everything imaginable except be afraid.</i>	Paramount Theatre 472-5470 balletaustin.org
Sept. 19	Museum Day <i>City-wide free museum day!</i>	495-9224 amoa.org
Sept. 23 - 30	Fantastic Fest: 8-day Film Festival <i>Featuring a range of genres: 32 feature and 15 short films</i>	fantasticfest.com
Sept. 24	BJ Thomas <i>Celebrate a career that spans more than 3 decades!</i>	One World Theatre Oneworldtheatre.org
Sept. 24	Nature Nights: Plants & People <i>Discover benefits & use of native plants in our everyday lives.</i>	Wildflower Center wildflower.org
Sept. 24 - 26	2010 International Gem and Jewelry Show <i>Fabulous jewelry exhibition of hundreds of companies, designers and manufacturers with the best quality jewelry</i>	Palmer Events Center s

serving JESTER ... Just a Little Closer to Heaven!