



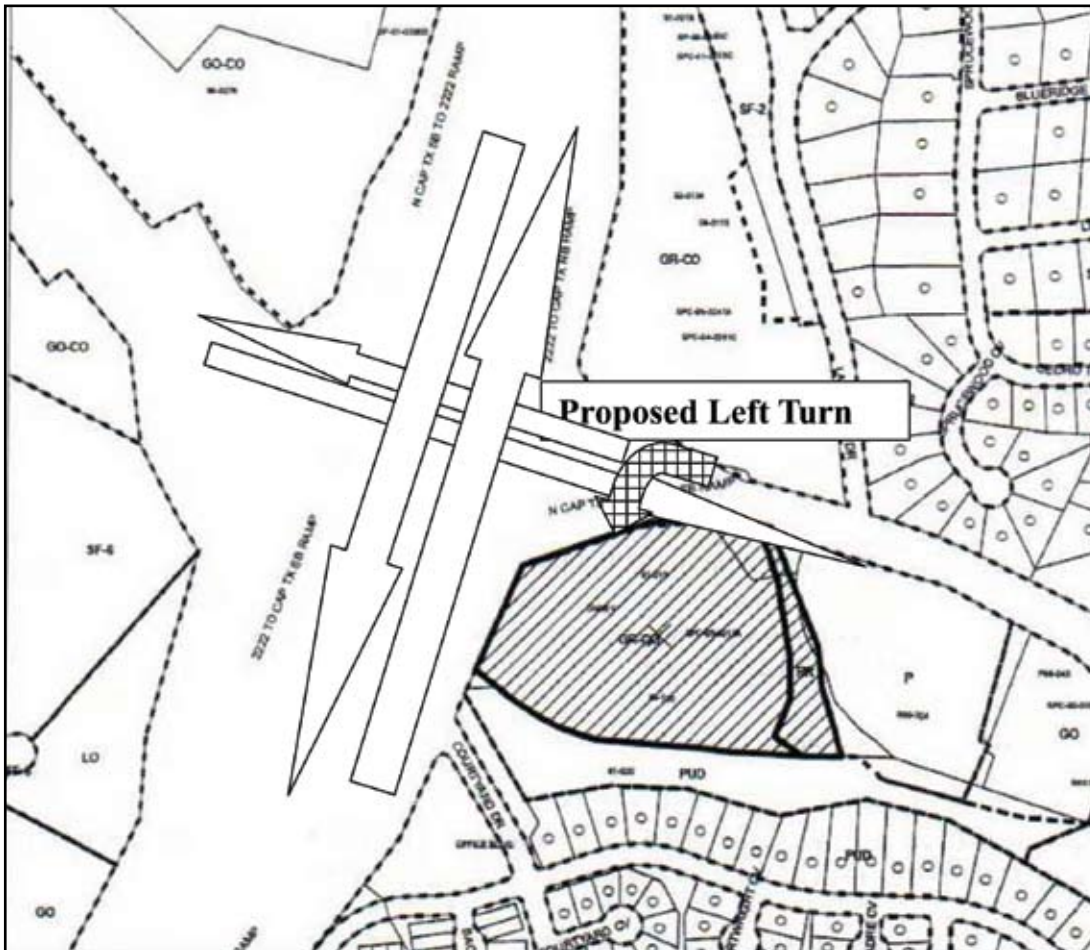
The Jester Warbler

Official Publication of Jester Homeowners Association, Inc.

March 2011

Volume 6, Issue 3

New Traffic Concerns Raised *at RM 2222 and Loop 360*



A request is scheduled to come before Austin's Zoning and Platting Commission and the City Council in March which should be of concern to all area residents who travel on RM 2222. If the City Council grants this request, it may well result in an increased risk to traffic safety on RM 2222 in the vicinity of Loop 360. **Your help is NEEDED to email your opposition to the request in Case # C14-91-0015(RCA).**

The owners of the property located on the

southeast corner of RM 2222 and Loop 360 have filed an application to amend the terms of a public restrictive covenant. This property, known as Champion Tract 4, has been a point of contention between nearby neighborhoods and the owners for 20 years.

The covenant specifies that access to the property will be from two right-in/right-out-only driveways, one on eastbound RM 2222 and the other on the

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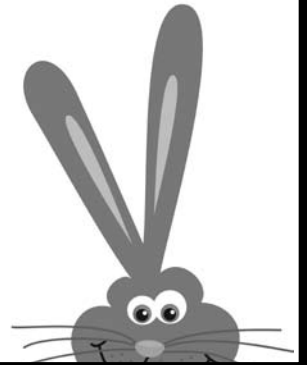
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*(the weekend before
Easter weekend)*

More details to follow
in next month's Warbler



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

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

New Traffic Concerns Raised - (Continued from Cover Page)

exit lane from Loop 360 to eastbound RM 2222. Furthermore, in order to guarantee that there would be no left turns into or out of the property onto RM 2222, the covenant requires that there be a solid median in place on RM 2222.

The owners filed to have the restrictive covenant modified to remove the right-in/right-out-only restriction on the driveways to Tract 4. If this modification is approved, TDOT will remove the solid median on RM 2222. The City then requested an updated Traffic Impact Analysis (TIA) from the applicants. Their engineers produced a TIA update which shows no improvement to traffic flow or traffic safety from the proposed change and instead tries to make the case that the change would "do no harm."

From the point of view of residents who travel on RM 2222, the proposed left-turn access poses several concerns. First, vehicles turning left into Tract 4 would be crossing the eastbound lanes of RM 2222 very near the intersection with Loop 360. Not only does this pose a danger to vehicles traveling east on RM 2222 but also to vehicles entering RM 2222 from the exit from northbound Loop 360. Second, vehicles waiting to turn left from westbound RM 2222 will be stacking up as they wait for a break in the eastbound traffic flow. The number of vehicles which can queue up to turn left will be limited by the new traffic signal to be installed at Lakewood Drive. Vehicles waiting to turn left could block the left lane of RM 2222 and possibly block the intersection at Lakewood, particularly during rush hour traffic. Third, the driveway to Tract 4 will be directly across RM 2222 from the driveway to the Bull Creek Market. It is inevitable that some vehicles will attempt to cut across RM 2222's westbound lanes to turn left onto eastbound RM 2222.

All of these scenarios create unnecessary traffic conflicts and decrease traffic safety for local residents and everyone who travels on RM 2222. There are no benefits to the public or to area residents.

Courtyard Homeowners Association, which is the adjacent neighborhood, and 2222 Coalition of Neighborhood Associations (2222 CONA) have already taken positions of opposition to the proposed modifications. Northwest Austin Civic Association and other area homeowner and neighborhood associations are also considering opposing the request.

Concerned area residents and all who travel on RM 2222 can individually indicate their opposition to this application. The
(Continued on Page 4)



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Jester Estates

Jester Estates Stork Report

We'd like to introduce Alma Bates Brandyberry, beautiful new baby girl of proud parents Maureen & Matthew Brandyberry. She was born January 24 and weighed 8lbs 10oz. She joins her big brother, Liam, at home.

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email info on
the arrival
of your little one to
diana0777@att.net.



New Traffic Concerns Raised - (Continued from Page 2)

easiest way to do so is to send an email expressing your opposition to the request to both the Zoning and Platting Commission and the City Council before their respective hearings. Below are the email addresses and case information which should be referenced: Case # C14-91-0015(RCA), Application to amend restrictive covenant, 5617 FM 2222

Zoning and Platting Commission members and their email addresses: <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/boards/results.cfm?bid=57>


ZAP group email, including staff, for your convenience: bbaker5@austin.rr.com, sbald@sbcglobal.net, gregorytbourgeois@gmail.com, prseeger@austin.rr.com, crbanks@hotmail.com, donna.zap@gmail.com, dora.anguiano@ci.austin.tx.us, greg.guernsey@ci.austin.tx.us

City Council members and link to group email form: <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/council/groupemail.htm>

The following public hearings are currently scheduled but are subject to change or postponement:

1. Zoning and Platting Commission, Tuesday, February 15, 2011 – postponement requested to March 1, 2011 or later
2. City Council, Thursday, March 3, 2011 – postponement to be requested to later date

For up-to-date information on hearing dates, visit www.2222cona.org or call Carol Torgrimson at 338-4722.



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*Many Thanks
to David and Cherise Sonnier*



Many thanks to David and Cherise Sonnier who formed the Jester Uncorked group a few years back. Their dedication to getting it started and keeping the members informed is greatly appreciated. Now we hope they can kick back and relax, take off the "organizer" hat, and participate in all the fun events!

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Free Youth Baseball Clinic Hosted by Austin High School Athletes!

Written by Hyde Park Junior James Barton

On Sunday January 23, over 75 youth baseball players from all over Central Texas gathered at Northwest Little League for a baseball clinic that will hopefully give them a leg up on their competition this spring. The clinic was free to all campers and was under the leadership of fourteen high school baseball players from around the Austin who served as coaches. The kids, ranging in age from 9-12, took part in various drills and activities that not only increased their personal skill level, but also taught them teamwork and cooperation. Hyde Park Baptist High School sophomore Jackson Sigman had the idea for the free clinic. With the help of his parents as well as some of Jackson's Hyde Park teammates and other high school baseball players from Bowie and Anderson, this idea became a reality. Jackson says he enjoyed putting together this free clinic for young Austin baseball enthusiasts because he "wanted every kid around the Austin area to have the same opportunity to come and have fun and hopefully get better at baseball." The clinic was a huge success, and will likely be carried on through years to come.



Pictured left to right: Matthew Brooks, Nick Cortes, James Barton, Justin Holder, Cody Chipman, Justin Montemayor, Matt Smith, Ozzie Gutierrez, Cory Rosenstein-Ford, Tyler Schmidt, Jackson Sigman, and Will Knape. Other coaches not pictured included Brian Andrews and Gunner Brown.

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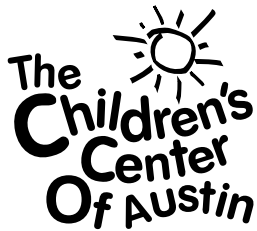
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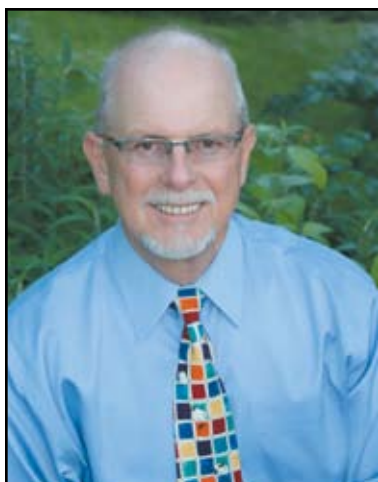
..... Jester Uncorked

Jester Uncorked kicked off 2011 with a wine party hosted by Jeff and Tanya Andrien. Everyone had the chance to compare a French and Italian wine in seven different categories (three whites and four reds) and then vote on their favorite. Although France won a few of the categories, Italy took home the overall prize for the night. There was a great turn-out, wine flowed freely, and someone truly got into the spirit of the evening and voted for Czechoslovakia as the winner of the Big Red

category! Thank you to all who participated and made the evening such a wonderful success!

Going forward, we are hoping to have a wine event once a quarter. This may be a wine-tasting in someone's home here in Jester, or a wine-tasting at a local restaurant. We also discussed taking a tour of several area wineries sometime this spring.

If you are interested in joining Jester Uncorked or hosting the next wine evening, please email Tanya Andrien at tandrien@yahoo.com.



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Travis County Commissioner Karen Huber Discusses Lake Travis Economic Value

At Four Points Chamber of Commerce Luncheon



Four Points Chamber of Commerce is delighted to have Travis County Commissioner Karen Huber as the guest speaker for Four Points Chamber's March Luncheon. Commissioner Huber recognizes that as the population in Central Texas continues to grow the demands for water and the impacts on water quality are increasing. Commissioner Huber will discuss the collaborative effort to study and analyze the value of Lake Travis as a significant regional economic engine considering its various revenue streams. Four Points Chamber luncheons provide stimulating discussions for local individuals, businesses and organizations to gain new insights and stimulate business growth.

- Thursday, March 17th
- 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 online to ensure your seat and receive early-bird discount pricing! While you are at the Four Points Chamber of Commerce website be sure to check out the other networking activities offered by the chamber including the monthly Happy Hour and bi-monthly networking meetings at Concordia University.

The Four Points Chamber of Commerce provides networking opportunities at social gatherings, luncheons and business network meetings. Now well over 100 members strong and growing, the Four Points Chamber of Commerce brings businesses together along highway 620 from Hudson Bend and Mansfield Dam to Anderson Mill and along Ranch Road 2222 from Jester to Volente to support business growth in the community. For more information about upcoming events contact us at FourPointsChamber@gmail.com, visit www.fourpointschamber.com or call (512) 551-0390. Membership inquiries may also be sent directly to membership@FourPointsChamber.com.

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Parents of Children 3 – 5

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Social Groups - Contact Info

BUNKO - If you'd like to join or be put on the list as a sub, contact Elaina Griffiths at emgriff@joseph-bolton.com or 512-343-1113. They are a lively group and play on the 1st Thursday of every month at 7 pm.

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@yahogroups.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@yahogroups.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 Tonya Andrien at (512) 795-0086 or tandrien@yahoo.com.

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WELCOME 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

Jester Networking Group



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Eastern Gray Squirrel

The word 'squirrel' comes from the Greek 'sciourus', meaning 'shadow tail', and refers to the bushy appendage possessed by most all squirrel species. They are members of the rodent family, and Texas is home to 10 species of squirrels with 4 of them common in the Austin area. Along with their bushy tails, squirrels are generally slender animals with large eyes and soft fur. Their front limbs are shorter than their hind limbs, with 4 or 5 toes on each foot. Their front feet include a usually underdeveloped thumb, and all toes have sharp claws for climbing trees and quickly clamoring over uneven terrain. Squirrels are strongly vegetarian, and feed mostly on a wide variety of seeds, nuts, fruits, buds, bark, and leaves. Their vision is sharp and they have 'vibrissae' or specialized hairs on their head and limbs, which afford them an excellent sense of touch.

The most common tree squirrels in Central Texas are the Eastern Fox Squirrel (*Sciurus niger*) and the Eastern Gray Squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*). A large squirrel with rusty or reddish underparts and grayish or brownish upperparts, the Fox Squirrel prefers open woodlands of mixed trees and riparian areas along rivers and streams, and makes its dens in hollow trees or nests made of leaves. Their diet is largely made up of acorns which are buried in winter and relocated through their keen sense of smell. Mating occurs in January/February, and again in May/June, with offspring born in March and July.

The Gray Squirrel is a medium-sized squirrel with grayish upperparts with white-tipped hairs, white underparts, and a white spot at the base of its ears in winter. Gray Squirrels live in dense live oak stands and bottomland areas, with the Austin area in the westernmost part of their range. There are usually two openings to their nests, which are otherwise similar to the Fox Squirrel, as is their diet and breeding cycle. Destruction of bottomland habitat from

logging, overgrazing by livestock, and development are the main reasons why gray squirrels are only locally common, and declining in many areas. Our most frequently seen ground squirrels include the Rock Squirrel (*Spermophilus variegatus*) and the Mexican Ground Squirrel (*Spermophilus mexicanus*). A rather large, stout squirrel with a blackish head and upper back and a mottled grayish-brown rump and tail, the Rock Squirrel is nearly always found in rocky canyons, cliffs, and rock piles, where they make their dens. While they can climb trees, they prefer to be ground dwellers, where they forage for acorns, nuts, insects, and berries. In Central Texas, these squirrels hibernate beginning in November, and emerge in late February or March to begin breeding.

The western edge of Austin is the easternmost range for the Mexican Ground Squirrel, a rather small squirrel with about nine rows of squarish white spots on its back and a moderately bushy tail. They prefer brushy or grassy areas, including mowed lawns and overgrazed pastures and live in burrows dug into the soil. They eat chiefly green vegetation and insects, but are one of the few squirrel species that will eat meat. Breeding begins in late March or early April, with a brood chamber built into a side tunnel in the deepest part of their burrow.

Anyone who has seen a squirrel running along a tree limb or across an open road with its bushy tail undulating and waving behind it, or spotted a squirrel sitting with its tail curled over its back while it eats or surveys its surroundings, can appreciate why their name means shadow tail! 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.

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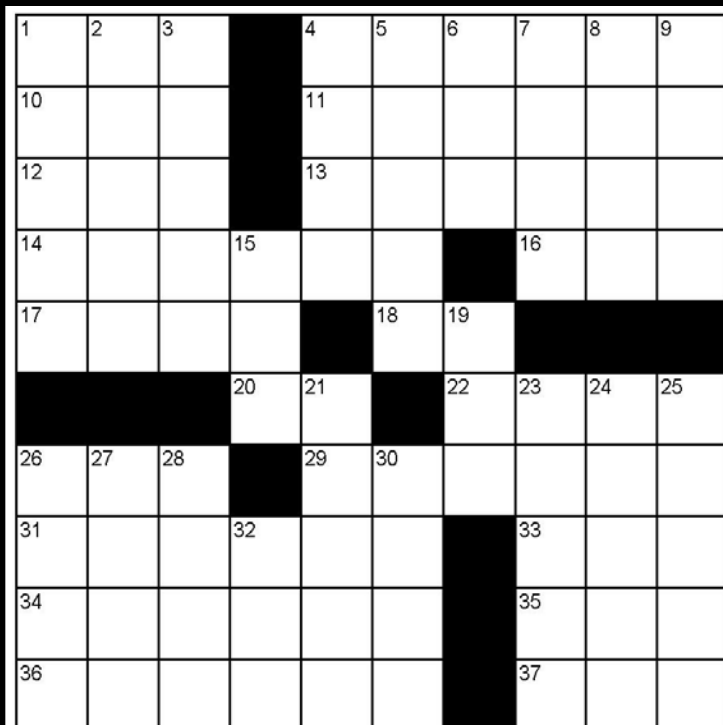
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Crossword Puzzle



- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 1. Extremity | 1. Reference book |
| 4. Nun's headwear | 2. Swanky |
| 10. Men's neckwear | 3. Award |
| 11. Asian nation | 4. Marry |
| 12. Limited (abbr.) | 5. Abraham's son |
| 13. Serf | 6. Mr.'s wife |
| 14. Flower | 7. El __ (Texas city) |
| 16. Poem | 8. Precede |
| 17. Monetary unit | 9. Women's magazine |
| 18. Atomic number | 15. Brim |
| 20. Paid (abbr.) | 19. American Football Conference (abbr.) |
| 22. Package label | 21. Coffee shop order |
| 26. Punching tool | 23. Ballroom dancing |
| 29. Esc | 24. Aromas |
| 31. Fine | 25. Particular style |
| 33. Modern | 26. American Civil Liberties Union (abbr.) |
| 34. Cat mystery writer | 27. Lash |
| Braun | 28. Lounge |
| 35. Lingerie | 30. Delivered by post |
| 36. Elevate | 32. Roman three |
| 37. Sign language | |

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March Events

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Mar. 3	Liza Minnelli <i>Stage and screen legend Liza Minnelli and her sextet performs in a one-night-only concert event</i>	The Long Center 457-5100 texasperformingarts.org
Mar. 6	Zilker Park Kite Festival <i>See thousands of professional and amateur kite-flyers.</i>	Zilker Park zilkerkitefestival.com
Mar. 6	Bowfire <i>High quality music and a fast-paced theatrically staged show</i>	The Long Center texasperformingarts.org
Mar. 11 - 15	South by Southwest Music and Film Festival <i>The latest and greatest in music, film, and multi-media interactive worlds. One of the the biggest festivals in the nation!</i>	Austin, TX 467-7979 sxsw.com
Mar. 11 - 26	Star of Texas Fair & Rodeo <i>Don't miss the livestock show, rodeo, barbecue cook-off, carnival, exhibits, and live entertainment.</i>	Travis County Expo Center 919-3000 staroftexas.org
Mar. 13	The "World Famous" Lipizzaner Stallions <i>Music, choreography & routines highlighting horses.</i>	UT Erwin Center uterwincenter.com
Mar. 17	St. Patrick's Day Festival Austin <i>Pipers, dancers, local Irish bands!</i>	Cover 3 374-1121 cover-3.com
Mar. 26 - 27	Zilker Garden Festival <i>Outdoor flower festival and plant sale with live music, food, exhibits, children's games, and over 100 vendors.</i>	Zilker Botanical Gardens 477-8672 zilker garden.org
Mar. 29	Westside Story <i>Broadway musical, nominated for four 2009 Tony Awards®</i>	Bass Concert Hall texasperformingarts.org
Mar. 29	Capitol 10K <i>Silly to serious... walk it, jog it or run it, just don't miss it!</i>	Palmer Events Center statesman.com/cap10k

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