



The Jester Warbler

Official Publication of Jester Homeowners Association, Inc.

November 2011

Volume 6, Issue 11

**LIGHT UP
THE HILLS**
*This Holiday
Season*

**JESTER
HOLIDAY LIGHTS
CONTEST**

More info to come in December issue,
including announcement of prizes.

*Jester...Start Your
Decorating!*

Wildfire Program

by Jeff Shapiro

More than 100 Jester residents came together on Thursday 9/22 at the Shepherd of the Hills Christian Church to discuss how a wildfire might impact the Jester neighborhood and things that residents can do to help protect their families and their properties. Co-presented by Lt. Josh Portie of the Austin Fire Department and Jeff Shapiro, a Jester resident who is a licensed fire protection engineer, the program provided parallels between Steiner Ranch, which experienced a major wildfire on Labor Day weekend, and Jester.

Residents learned that there are many simple preparations and safety precautions that can dramatically improve the chance of their homes surviving a wildfire and ease the burden of recovery if a home is lost. **These include:**

- Trim trees and shrubs around your home to create a defensible space
- Remove leaves and other debris from gutters, roof valleys and areas around the foundation of your home
- Have a plan IN ADVANCE to get your family, pets and important belongings out of the house quickly
- Move outdoor combustible furniture away from the home or inside and close all windows and doors if a wildfire is approaching
- Have a garden hose available outside your home for use by firefighters on high fire danger days.
- Store backups of important information off-site, such as computer files and a videotape of your home's contents (including areas inside closets, cabinets and drawers), which will be needed to prove your home's contents to your insurance company in the event of a total loss.

For more information, go to www.firewise.org and www.wildlandfirersg.org.



*Pictured from left to right, Jeff Shapiro, Chief Harry Evans,
Lt Josh Portie, and Lt Randy Denzer.*

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ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

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

www.peelinc.com/articleSubmit.php.

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

Welcome a New Addition

TO THE JESTER NEIGHBORHOOD!



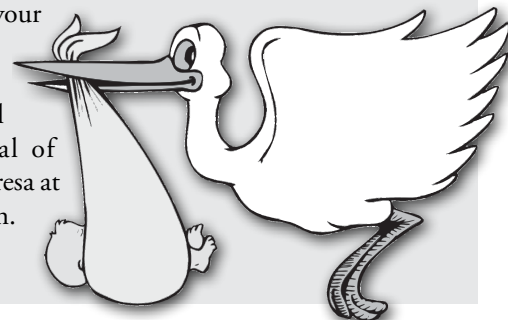
Leo Connor Verleye
was born on June 1st, 2011
at 3:56 AM,
weighing 7 lbs., 10 oz.

Proud parents are
Rita and Steve
who live in the
6900 block of Jester.

Congratulations from your Jester neighbors!

JESTER STORK REPORT PLEASE SUBMIT INFO & PHOTO!

If you have a new arrival (baby or grandbaby), email us the pertinent information along with a photo and we'll publish it in the Warbler. Let your neighbors share in celebrating your happiness! Email info on the arrival of your little one to Teresa at tgouldie@gmail.com.



WELCOME COMMITTEE NEWS

Last month the Welcome Committee only delivered two Welcome packages. One was to Gina and Allen on Jester Wild. We also left a package on the doorstep to a new resident on the 8000 block of High Hollow. It was definitely a light month as we only heard of 3 sales, and one of those was a house undergoing serious renovation. We'll try to deliver a package to the new homeowners when they move in. This month we've heard of 7 new sales, so we should have a lot more activity to report in next month's Warbler.

Please contact JoAnn Welles at (512) 346-0349 or joannn-welles@sbcglobal.net if you've moved to Jester lately and we haven't welcomed you officially. We may have tried to deliver a package but not found you home!

COATS FOR KIDS

*Helping To Ensure That The Children
Of Central Texas Stay Warm This Winter*
by Gene Fruge

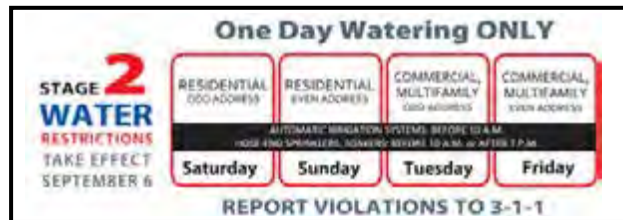
HEB AT 2222 & 620 HOSTS WARM COAT DONATION DROP OFF LOCATION FOR THIRD YEAR!

Coats for Kids volunteers from the Four Points community need your help to ensure that the children of Central Texas stay warm this winter. For the third year running, the HEB located at 2222 and FM 620 will be hosting a warm coat donation drop off location from November 28th through November 30th, 2011. Community volunteers are encouraging friends and neighbors to drop off new or gently worn coats before or after they shop. Last year's drive collected more than 200 coats in just three days because of the central location. To encourage donor participation, Starbucks coffee will once again donate free coffee to all who stop by to donate. HEB is also providing hot cocoa for those who prefer a non- caffeinated beverage.

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Nature Watch - The Fungus Among Us

by Jim and Lynne Weber

Frequently upstaged by the brightly colored autumn leaves and hidden among the leaf litter on the forest floor are several types of interesting fungi. Separated from the plant kingdom because they do not contain chlorophyll, fungi also do not make their own food through photosynthesis but obtain it by breaking down other organic matter and sometimes other plants. Mycology, from the Greek meaning 'fungus', is the branch of biology dedicated to the study of these organisms, and is most often associated with mushrooms.

While mushrooms are the most common form of fungi, some of the more interesting forms that occur in the fall after sufficient rains include puffballs, earthstars, earthballs, and bird's nests. These forms are grouped based on the shape of their fruiting body, or structure that produces the spores needed for reproduction.

Puffballs (*Lycoperdon pyriforme* and *perlatum*) and earthstars (*Geastrum saccatum*) are characterized by fruiting bodies that look like a small ball, unlike a mushroom have no stalk, and are normally found growing on wood or directly on the ground. They can range in size from small marbles to baseballs, with the spores produced inside. Once mature, the spongy inside darkens and dries to a fine powder, and the spores are emitted out of a hole on top of the ball.

Often found around the drip line of trees, this strategic placement serves the dual purpose of providing sufficient moisture until they are grown as well as sufficient force from the water droplets to act as a dispersal agent for the spores. When one translates the genus from Greek to English, 'lyco' meaning wolf and 'perdon' meaning to break wind, it isn't hard to guess that a common name for a puffball is wolf-fart!



With a somewhat less flamboyant name but a more elaborate display, earthstars get their common name from their thicker outer membrane, which when fully developed splits into rays that curve backward to form a distinctly star-like structure.

Earthballs (*Astraeus hygrometricus*) are often found wholly or partly underground, and have a fruiting body that simulates a ball with a thick, rind-like skin. Their spores are produced in the center of the ball, but unlike earthstars, they are extruded not via a pore at the top but when the entire inner spore sac splits open. Often called a 'false earthstar' the outer rind of this fungus splits into seven to fifteen pointed rays that open when it rains or when humidity is high, and close again during drier periods. This repeated action relates to its species name, as if it were nature's hygrometer, measuring the changes in humidity.

Bird's nests fungi (*Cyathus stercoreus*) have fruiting bodies that resemble clusters of very small cup-shaped structures filled with tiny eggs. *Stercoreus* literally means 'growing on dung', and that is where you are most likely to find this fungi. Also commonly found on woody mulch, each cup is only large enough to hold a drop of water, and the egg-like structures which contain the spores, are delicately attached to the cup by a finely coiled thread. When splashed out of the cup by raindrops, this thread-like structure uncoils, catches on to a chip of wood, blade of grass, or other organic matter, and the 'egg' splits open to release the spores inside.

The next time you take a walk in the woods to admire the colors and changes that define the fall, don't forget to look down at your feet, where you can discover the smaller mysteries of the forest, and appreciate its beauty from the ground up!

Send your nature-related questions to naturewatch@austin.rr.com and we'll do our best to answer them.




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We would like to announce that, together with our call partner, Dr. Mary Petropoulos, we are extending our Saturday sick visit clinics year round!

The phones
are on from
8AM-11:30AM.

If your child has an urgent, same day sick issue, you can call **512.323.5465** to find out which office is open for Saturday morning hours and schedule an appointment.

You can call our office directly at 512-241-1370 to schedule an appointment with our nurse practitioner, Pat Budd, RN, CPNP. The phones are on from 1PM-5PM.

Hill Country Pediatrics is now open on Sunday afternoons for sick visits by appointment only.

In addition to these exciting additions to services, we are pleased to announce that a new physician has joined our growing family!

Dr. Theresa Willis started with Hill Country Pediatrics on July 18, 2011. Dr. Willis completed her residency in June 2011 at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston after attending medical school there as well. She brings with her 20 years of experience providing therapy, educating and advocating for children and their families in a variety of settings: as a speech therapist, as a resident counselor for at-risk adolescents, as an elementary school teacher (Austin Independent School District) and as a caseworker for at-risk children. She has 3 adolescent children (including a set of twins!)



We think she will be a wonderful addition to our team, and will have a wide breadth of knowledge and experience to offer our patients.

Please remember to sign up for our newsletter at hillcountrypediatrics.com and to 'like' us on Facebook!



hillcountrypediatrics.com

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office: 512.241.1370 | fax: 512.241.1374

North Austin Women's Connection

North Austin Women's Connection would like to invite you to their annual Holiday Fair Live & Silent Auction Tuesday, November 8th from 11:30-1:00pm at the River Place Country Club, 4207 River Place Blvd, Austin. Get some great gifts for the holidays and help a great cause! Guest speaker, Carol Graves, author of children's books will speak about "What's Your Focus". Cost is \$15 payable at the door and includes lunch. Bidding begins at 10:30. For reservations, contact Nancy Gregor at 512-608-6686. Childcare available. Affiliated with Stonecroft Ministries.

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Join this fun and rewarding program at Hill Elementary School! All it takes is 30 minutes, once a week. You will work with the same student each week, helping them to gain skills and confidence in math. Math Buddy sessions take place during school hours, between 7:45 and 2:30. We work with your schedule to find a convenient day/time. We provide math games, worksheets, and manipulatives, as well as training and ongoing support.



*Fun + Learning =
Smiles, Confidence and Success!*

The Math Buddies Program runs from mid-October through April, and serves students in 1st - 3rd grade. Hill Elementary School is located near Anderson High School at 8601 Tallwood Drive. For more information or to volunteer, call Amy Kulik at 589-2225 or email us at mathbuddies@hillelementary.com.

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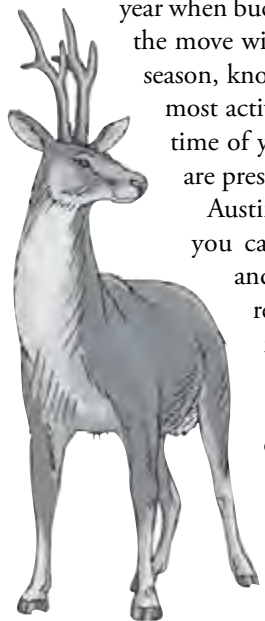
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DEER SEASON IS HERE

Submitted by Robin Abbott



November through December is deer season in Texas. It is the best deer-watching season of the year. Late fall is the time of year when bucks have grown their antlers and fawns are on the move with their mothers. It is also the deer-mating season, known as the "rut." During this season deer are most active and more likely to run and bolt, so it is a time of year to use extra caution in areas where deer are present.

Austin is one of very few large cities in Texas where you can still experience urban deer. Northwest and southwest Austin are home to most of our remaining neighborhood herds. Many area residents enjoy the deer's charismatic presence and quiet beauty. Young parents report finding teachable moments in watching does care for their fawns, while for seniors interaction with the deer can be life affirming. Others simply value the opportunity to observe wildlife living freely as they go about such daily business as walking the dog or driving to work.

DeerAustin is a group of Austin neighbors and animal lovers who are committed to living compatibly with urban wildlife and especially to protecting and preserving Austin's urban deer herds. Visit us at www.DeerAustin.org. We are providing the following information that is helpful to keep in mind during deer season:

- Always walk dogs on leashes.
- Observe the speed limit.
- Be extra cautious when deer or deer crossing signs are present and when driving from dusk to dawn.

To report an injured deer, call the Game Warden at 389-4848 or Austin 311. To report a dead deer for pickup, call Austin 311. Be prepared to give the operator an address or otherwise be able to describe the location of the deer (for example, "Loop 360 just north of Spicewood" or "the intersection of Mesa and Greystone"). If you need additional help – email admin@DeerAustin.org.

We hope you enjoy the fall season and the opportunity to interact with deer that is a part of what makes Austin a special place to live. Please take care, enjoy the wildlife, and Keep Austin Deered!



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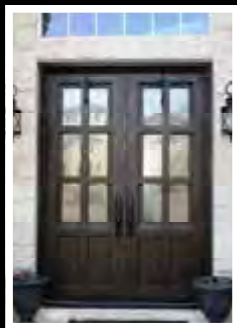
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Austin Tx 78746
512-329-6633

www.childrenscenterofaustin.com



FERAL HOG UPDATE

by Pat Bulla

According to Willie Conrad, the City of Austin is no longer managing a feral hog control program for neighborhoods. Instead it has been recommended that feral hog damage be reported to Jacob Hetzel who manages the Wildlife Services programs in Travis County. Jacob also works in conjunction with Aubrey Deal who has helped Jester in the past with feral hog issues. Here is Jacob's contact information:

Jacob Hetzel,
Wildlife Biologist
Texas Wildlife Services
(512) 854-9613

Confessions of a Holiday Shopaholic:

HOW TO GET MORE & SPEND LESS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

by Doreen Sims

This is my favorite time of year. I love holiday shopping...the sales, the decorations, free samples. When I shop, there are clothes for the kids, my husband, parents, cousins, nieces and nephews, gifts for the neighbors, friends and coworkers. And every January it is the dilemma: too many choices and a credit card bill that no one wants to look at. This year I found a solution that I am really excited about. I still get to shop, dine with friends and have room to buy new decorations all guilt free. Thanks to the Austin Shop Crawl, I can shop more and save more at our favorite Austin stores. I can eat for less, shop for less, and go to my favorite Austin events for less.

So how does it work? I'll let you in on the secret. The Shop Crawl is Austin's largest Black Friday event. A full ten days of saving at more than 50 Austin stores. Like the Sugar Factory by Gay Isber Designs, I can save an extra 10 to 20% on exquisite jewelry just by showing my FREE Shop Crawl Badge. With this free badge, I'm awarded with private in-store deals...two for ones and more! So all we need to do is sign up at austishopcrawl.com. to get a FREE Shop Crawl Badge for immediate discounts and other rewards such as in-store give-aways, free food, and free admission to events around town.

And Austin Shop Crawl is not just about shopping; the Crawl uniquely integrates family friendly entertainment and charity events so my husband and I can still have a little us time. It all starts on Black Friday, November 25th and for ten days, the Shop Crawl is full of events all around town. December 2nd, OsakaSoul is hosting a family event on South First where we can get great food, free beer and take in a movie or a band. November 26th, there's a children's fashion show, modeling clothing for ages 4-16 and a kick off weekend after party at TNT (Tacos and Tequila) after party on the November 25th.

So there it is, my secret plan to shop more and spend less this holiday season. Hope to see you out there with your FREE Shop Crawl Badge.

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Austin Kindergarten Student Picked National Poster Child!

By Connie Ripley

Five year old Max Whitney, kindergarten student at Rutledge Elementary, is named the 2012 National Poster Child for Autism Speaks. Max's picture was chosen from hundreds of entries by a New York advertising firm hired by Autism Speaks.

The announcement comes just as the Greater Austin Walk broke all goals and records for the local walk on the 24th with about 4,000 participants. The local Walk has thus far raised over \$140,000 in support of Autism Speaks' work, both locally and nationally, to increase awareness about the growing autism health crisis and fund innovative autism research and family services.

More children will be diagnosed with autism this year than with AIDS, diabetes and cancer combined, yet only 0.5% of the budget of the National Institute of Health goes to autism research. The research falls to private funding—like Autism Speaks, North America's largest autism science and advocacy organization. Children with autism are normally fixated on one or two things. Max loves car washes and tornados (after watching *The Wizard of Oz*). He has his own "Favorites" on the computer where he goes and "studies" car washes and tornados for as long as his parents will allow. (A timer is always set.)

Many children with autism have food allergies and extreme food preferences. Max has both. He is allergic to milk products and eggs. He is on a casein-free, egg-free diet with a big accent on organics. He will only eat foods that are tan. He loves chicken nuggets and breads that are egg and casein-free with an occasional bite of broccoli or avocado. Peanut butter, applesauce and banana are also high on his list. (His mother, Traci Whitney, purees carrots and spreads them under the peanut butter. She also purees tofu and white beans with casein-free butter to pour over pasta.)

Recent research has shown that the bodies of many children with autism are not able to rid their body of toxins and metabolize some of the vitamins and minerals they consume. Max has shown improvement with Glutathione, Methyl B12 and Folate cream rubs and DMG orally, plus a super multi-vitamin.

Max is totally integrated into a normal kindergarten classroom with the help of an aide provided by the school district, Andrea Sour. His favorite time at school is "eating". He eats almost the same thing every day. His least favorite is writing in his journal. He has great difficulty with fine motor skills and holding a pencil.



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Jester Estates

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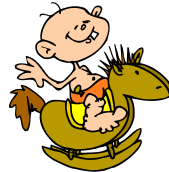
Parents of Newborns - 3

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 2011 Kindergarten Group

Contact Beth Schaffer
at 342-8395 or at
beth@schaffer.com



Christmas

DECEMBER 11



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BIBLE LIFE (all ages) @ 9:30 AM

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www.ghbc.org

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.

FOODIES OF JESTER - Join our new group...meet friends and enjoy great food! Contact Rachele Abercrombie at 512-779-5298 or rabercrombie@hotmail.com.

HILL 2011 KINDERGARTEN GROUP - This group is helping connect Jester families with others who also have children entering Hill Kindergarten in the Fall 2011. Email beth@schaffer to be added to our email distribution list.

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@yahooogroups.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 Rachele Abercrombie at 512-779-5298 or rabercrombie@hotmail.com.

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.

KAYAKING - Have some fun with this great water sport! For more info contact Dan Wolfson at dwolfson@austin.rr.com or call 795-8218.

NETWORKING GROUP - Are you a resident who owns a business or provides a service? Build your business by referral! One individual or company per professional category. Contact Paul (Griff) Griffiths at 241-1644 or griff@albioncomputergroup.com

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

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

REACHING YOUR NEIGHBORS

and many others...

- Avery Ranch
- Barton Creek
- Bee Cave
- Bella Vista
- Belterra
- Canyon Creek
- Cedar Park Town Center
- Chandler Creek
- Cherry Creek on Brodie Lane
- Circle C Ranch
- Courtyard
- Crystal Falls
- Davenport Ranch
- Forest Creek
- Hidden Glen
- Highland Park West Balcones
- Highpointe
- Hunter's Chase
- Jester Estates
- Lakeline Ranch
- Lakeway
- Lakewood
- Laurel Oaks NA
- Legend Oaks II
- Long Canyon
- Lost Creek
- Mayfield Ranch
- Meadows of Bushy Creek
- Pemberton Heights
- Plum Creek
- Ranch at Brushy Creek
- River Place
- Round Rock Ranch
- Sendera
- Shady Hollow
- Sonoma
- Steiner Ranch
- Stone Canyon
- Teravista
- Travis Country West
- Twin Creeks
- Villages of Westen Oaks
- Vista Ridge
- Westside at Buttercup Creek
- Wood Glen

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November Events

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

Nov. 2	"I Wish I Was in Austin" 70th Birthday Tribute to Texas music legend, Guy Clark.	The Long Center thelongcenter.org
Nov. 3 - 12	Christmas at the Caswell House Austin Junior Forum transforms this historic Victorian home into a magical, winter wonderland. Gifts available for purchase.	1404 West Avenue caswellhouse.org
Nov. 4 - 13	Wurstfest Annual Texas-German family funfest "salute" to sausage.	New Braunfels, TX wurstfest.com
Nov. 5 - 6	Austin Celtic Festival Four stages of Celtic music, dance, storytelling & much more	Fiesta Gardens austincelticfestival.com
Nov. 12	"Eleanor's Secret" Recommended for ages 3-8 A beautifully designed adventure in which a boy's newfound ability to read sets his imagination free, and saves the day!	Laguna Gloria amoa.org
Nov. 13	Spirit Fest - Christian Family Festival Performances by Amy Grant, Third Day and more	Dell Diamond spirit1059.com
Nov. 16 - 20	A Christmas Affair 200+ national merchants sell original art, jewelry and crafts	Palmer Events Center jlaustin.org
Nov. 17	Michael Grimm - Winner of 'America's Got Talent' Fedora-wearing Grimm wows audiences with his soulful voice.	One World Theatre oneworldtheatre.org
Nov. 19 - 20	Holidays in Gruene ~100 vendors offer uniquely crafted items & packaged Texas foods.	Gruene, TX gruenetexas.com
Nov. 24	Thundercloud Turkey Trot 18,500+ participants last year - Texas' largest 5-mile run	The Long Center thundercloud.com
Nov. 26	Chuy's Christmas Parade Bring a new, unwrapped toy to donate. Giant balloons, marching bands, floats and more!	Congress Ave. chuysparade.com

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