



# The Jester Warbler

Official Publication of Jester Homeowners Association, Inc.

March 2012

Volume 7, Issue 3

## Proposed Loop 360 Changes

*by Patricia Seeger*

### **FOLLOWING IS A MESSAGE FROM TxDOT REGARDING MEETINGS ADDRESSING CHANGES TO LOOP 360:**

A Public Meeting for proposed improvements on Loop 360 (Capital of Texas Highway) was conducted the evening of November 1, 2011. During and after the meeting, Texas Department of Transportation ( TxDOT ) representatives received numerous comments and questions regarding the mechanics and the effectiveness of the proposed improvements, the potential effects to neighborhoods and schools that are adjacent to Loop 360, and concerns for pedestrian and bicycle accommodations. In response to the concerns, TxDOT will conduct additional public meetings.

To improve public input, the corridor has been subdivided into four sections, and each of four meetings will focus on a specific section of the Loop 360. The first meeting will address the section of Loop 360 from US 183 to Old Spicewood Springs Road and has been scheduled for 6:00 PM, Wednesday, March 28, 2012 in the cafeteria of Anderson High School.

The second public meeting will address the section of Loop 360 from Old Spicewood Springs Road to Westlake Drive and has been scheduled for 6:00 PM, Monday, April 16, 2012 in the cafeteria of Anderson High School.

We are in process of finalizing arrangements for the third and fourth meetings for the remaining sections from Westlake Drive to south of Scottish Woods Trail/Westbank Drive, and from south of Scottish Woods Trail to Loop 1 respectively. I will follow up with specific information on those meetings in the near future.

The meetings will consist of a presentation dealing with current and projected levels of congestion, a summary of comments received from the first public meeting, a discussion of various alternatives considered to address congestion, explanations and illustrations of innovative-type intersections in operation, a discussion of pedestrian and bicycle accommodations, an explanation of the revised set of proposed innovative intersection improvements and model animations of these intersections in operation.

State and local elected officials are expected to be in attendance.

Thank you for your participation in the first public meeting and your interest in this project. We look forward to these additional opportunities to expand the dialogue on the proposed enhancements for Loop 360.

*Carlos A. Lopez, P.E.*

*Austin District Engineer*

## JESTER EASTER EGG HUNT and PETTING ZOO

Saturday, March 31st

9:30 am

Jester Club

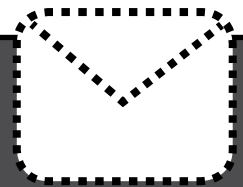
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### Warbler Co-Editor and Email Alert

Diana Miller..... diana0777@att.net

### Homeowner's Association Mgmt - Carol Wolf Mgmt

Carol Wolf ..... (W) 512-258-8200, (Fax) 512-336-7244  
..... carolwolf@austin.rr.com

#### Office:

1001 Cypress Creek, Suite 105  
Cedar Park, TX 78613

#### Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 202101  
Austin, TX 78720

## Newsletter Information

### Co-Editors

Diana Miller..... diana0777@att.net  
Teresa Gouldie ..... tgouldie@gmail.com

### Publisher

Peel, Inc. .... www.PEELinc.com, 512-263-9181  
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Interested in submitting an article? You can do so by emailing  
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## WELCOME COMMITTEE NEWS

Last month the Jester Welcome Committee delivered welcome packages to 3 new households. The families were Jesse and Forest on the 8400 block of Asmara Drive, Michael and Anna with their young daughter Alva on Aloe Cove, and Hank and Kate on the 7900 block of Jester Blvd. Please welcome these newcomers if you live on their block!

The packages we delivered contained information about Austin, environmental information about our area, wildflower seeds provided by Darla Rowan, and pot holders knit by Jennifer Schwan. If any of the new residents that received these packages have ideas of what to add, please let JoAnn Welles know at joann-welles@sbcglobal.net or (512) 346-0349. Also, please contact JoAnn 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!

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*Jesse and Forest on Asmara*



*Michael and Anna on Aloe Cove*

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- Styrofoam (cups, egg cartons, take-out containers)
- Pizza boxes from take-out or delivery services
- Yard waste/leaves (set out for yard trimmings pick up)
- Food waste
- Garbage (you may be charged for extra garbage if you put garbage in your recycling cart)
- Helium tanks
- Large metal items such as frying pans and metal pipes
- Large plastic items (plastics that are gallon-sized or smaller are ok)
- Wire coat hangers (recycle at your local dry cleaners)

## RECYCLE RIGHT TIPS

- Set out all recycling and trash by 6:30 a.m.
- Place trash, recycling and yard trimmings 5 feet apart at the curb away from cars, mailboxes, trees and overhead wires.
- Certain items are not accepted because they get caught in the recycling processing machinery

## 2012 SINGLE STREAM RECYCLING COLLECTION CALENDAR

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FEBRUARY - 9, 23  
MARCH - 8, 22  
APRIL - 5, 19  
MAY - 3, 17, 31  
JUNE - 14, 28

JULY - 12, 26  
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NOVEMBER - 1, 15, 29  
DECEMBER - 13, 28



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## NATUREWATCH

### *Morel of the Story*

by Jim and Lynne Weber

Mycology, or the study of fungi, used to be considered a branch of botany rather than biology, until it was recognized that fungi are most closely related to animals than to plants. Mushrooms are the fruiting bodies of certain fungi, and while fewer than one thousand species have been identified in the state of Texas, it is estimated that as many as eight to ten thousand species remain to be identified! Often associated with molds, mildews, and yeasts, several mushroom species are edible, and the most avidly hunted of all wild mushrooms is the Common Morel (*Morchella esculenta*).

The cap of the Common Morel is sponge-like, yellowish gray to tan in color, oval to mildly elongated, and has a mottled, pitted surface. Its stalk is white, hollow, and has a slightly rubbery texture. This species is most commonly found in our state growing in the limestone soils of Central Texas, but it has also been found in the acidic soils of East Texas and in parts of the Big Bend country. It can be seen singly or in small groups on the ground under oaks and junipers, often along creek beds. Its species name, *esculenta*, means 'good to eat', and morels regularly appear on the menus of some of the best restaurants.

Although a process to grow these mushrooms under controlled conditions was reported years ago, attempts to commercially cultivate them have been far from successful. Laboratory studies have shown that common morels hold several medicinal properties, including immune system regulation, anti-tumor effects, fatigue resistance, and anti-viral properties. This species has long been used in traditional Chinese medicine to treat indigestion and shortness of breath, and is even listed in the National Register of Medicinal Plants in the country of Nepal.

Several similar species of morels are recognized in Texas, but the Common Morel is known by various colorful names, including yellow morel, sponge morel, Molly Moocher, haystack, and dryland fish. Members of this species can vary in size, color, as well as the shape of the cap. When cut down the center, the 'true morels' reveal a hollow stalk, unlike a 'false morel' that looks similar but the interior of its thick, white stalk is deeply furrowed or folded and not at all hollow. Care must be taken to properly distinguish between the two, as the False Morel (*Gyromitra caroliniana*) is toxic to humans.

(Continued on Page 7)



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**Nature Watch-** (Continued from Page 6)

Mushrooms can be very photogenic and make for yet another reason for the whole family to walk new or familiar trails and see what earthy treasures can be found. While morels normally occur in the spring, they can appear after any unusual period of cool, rainy weather. And that's the morel of the story!

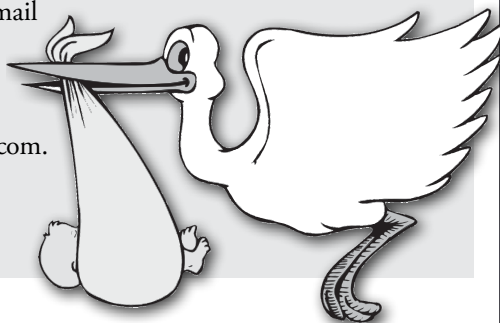
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*Common Morel*

## 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](mailto:tgouldie@gmail.com).



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## **GUYS AND DOLLS Jr.**

*by Gene Fruge*

River Place Student Theatre proudly invites you to attend THE children's musical performance of the year--Guys and Dolls Jr., a play by MTI. Based on Damon Runyon's short story "The Idyll of Miss Sarah Brown," Guys and Dolls is a fable of New York's fabulous Broadway in the 1950's.

Don't miss out on this great play, bring the whole family to enjoy elementary school students of all ages singing, dancing and acting out this favorite movie adaptation. Music and lyrics by Frank Loesser. Adapted for the stage by Abe Burrows & Jo Swerling. Based on the book: The Idyll of Miss Sarah Brown by Damon Runyon.

### **TICKETS, SHOWTIMES AND LOCATION**

Performances are at The Church at Canyon Creek located at 9001 F.M. 620 North in Austin Friday, March 2nd at 7:00 PM and Saturday, March 3rd at 7PM.

Tickets purchased online in advance are just \$10.00 for adults and \$5 for children. Tickets purchased at the door are \$12.00 for adults and \$6 for children. To purchase tickets online please go to [http://www.riverplacestudenttheatre.org/RiverPlaceStudentTheatre/Online\\_Store.html](http://www.riverplacestudenttheatre.org/RiverPlaceStudentTheatre/Online_Store.html).

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## LIGHT IT UP BLUE IN APRIL

*by Connie Ripley*

People all over Austin and the World will change lights to blue, dress blue, eat blue, drink blue and even paint fingernails blue beginning on April 2. April is Autism Awareness Month and Autism Speaks is celebrating by turning the World (and Austin) blue for the month.

This is the first year Austin will turn blue in a big way. In 2007, the United Nations adopted a resolution to make April 2nd World Autism Awareness Day. Autism Speaks created Light It Up Blue (LIUB) to create awareness for the month.

Austin TV and radio talk shows will be airing LIUB segments and contests. Numerous buildings like the 2nd Street Business District, the Four Seasons Hotel, the 360 Condos, the Amli Downtown and on 2nd Street, Home Away, west 6th Street Lounges and many more will be going blue. School campuses will be decorated, plus children and faculty will wear blue. Neighborhood Associations and organizations will turn blue.

Blue events will flood the Greater Austin area like the Blue Bash, Blue Martinis and Manicures, a golf tournament, a Blue Bingo and Burger Bash, a Blue Easter Egg Hunt, a UT sorority sponsored Blue Ball and much more.

Autism is becoming an epidemic with no known cause or cure. If the current trend continues, half the children born in the United States by 2046 will be diagnosed with autism. Our school districts are already "bending" under the load since 70% of people with autism are under 18. When these children become adults, what will happen? Many will have to be cared for throughout adulthood.

Autism robs families of the child they thought they had, since, although some are born with it, many regress around ages 1 to 3. The child loses speech, does not make eye contact, tantrums frequently and seems to be unreachable in his own little world.

A diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is devastating for parents. Every 15 minutes a parent hears this diagnosis! Not only have they "lost" a child, but their entire life is immediately changed. Money and time involved in treating autism is staggering—not to mention the emotional pull of every single day.

Last year over 1,800 iconic landmarks turned blue for April from Niagara Falls, Rockefeller Center, the New York Stock Exchange and the Empire State Building in New York to Christ the Redeemer Statue in Brazil. Buildings all over the world like the Cairo Tower in

*(Continued on Page 11)*

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## Light It Up Blue in April- (Continued from Page 10)

Egypt, the Hungarian Parliament and the Sydney Opera House in Australia turned blue. This year the number will top 2,000.

Help fight the spread of autism. Create awareness by changing your exterior home bulbs to blue, wearing blue, painting your nails blue, decorating your child's school in blue, etc.

The 2012 Autism Speaks National Poster Child for the United States and Canada is a Greater Austin kindergarten student—a great feat for our area! Let's show what we can do to make Austin blue!

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## Is that a fog machine in your yard?

*by Jacob Johnson, Austin Water Ll#17528*

Austin Water supplies water to customers at varying degrees of pressure due to elevation changes and differences in infrastructure. In cases of excessive supply pressure, the builder, plumber, irrigator or homeowner is tasked with regulating the pressure down to the optimum pounds per square inch (PSI). Water pressure inside a house should be around 65 PSI, but automatic irrigation systems are a different story.

The typical pop up sprinkler head has an ideal operating pressure of around 35 PSI, yet many installed systems' actual head pressure is much higher. If the actual head pressure exceeds the manufacturer's recommendation, the end result is misting and distorted coverage. Misting is water that is being treated, pumped and paid for—only to waft away even on a still morning. Excessive misting in an irrigation system is considered water waste within the City of Austin and can result in warnings and even citations.

There are multiple ways to regulate pressure, but in cases where the entire system is operating at high pressure, it is a good idea to install a pressure regulating valve (PRV) on the irrigation mainline. This will not affect anything in the house, but will make the irrigation system more efficient meaning less water is needed to maintain the landscape. Bigger drops will hit the landscape, wear and tear on components will decrease and the system will have better spray patterns overall. Correcting high pressure in an irrigation system is a win, win, win scenario. Your landscape, irrigation system and pocketbook all benefit. In many cases a PRV can pay for itself within a couple of years. If you suspect your irrigation system is operating at high pressure, talk to your irrigator about the issue or if you are a customer of Austin Water, set up a free irrigation evaluation through Austin Water's Conservation Division. All evaluations are performed by licensed irrigators and properties that have had an Austin Water evaluation may be eligible for certain rebates, including partial rebates on irrigation PRVs and pressure regulating heads. Call 974-2199 or visit [waterwiseaustin.org](http://waterwiseaustin.org) to schedule a free irrigation evaluation.

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**Special Guest Emcee** will be **Bob Fonseca**  
of the 93.7 KLBJ FM Dudley & Bob Morning Show

**Honorary Chairs**  
Olympic Swimmers:  
**Brendan Hansen** and **Garrett Weber-Gale**  
City of Lakeway Chief of Police: **Todd Radford**

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**[www.colinshope.org](http://www.colinshope.org)**



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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 Carol Biggar at [cabiggar@austin.rr.com](mailto:cabiggar@austin.rr.com) or 512-795-8446 (home) or 512-914-7517 (cell). 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](mailto:troy.reish@gmail.com) or call 241-0592.

**FOODIES OF JESTER** - Join our new group...meet friends and enjoy great food! Contact Rachelle Abercrombie at 512-779-5298 or [rabercrombie@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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@yahoo.com](mailto:jesterkids-subscribe@yahoo.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 Rachelle Abercrombie at 512-779-5298 or [rabercrombie@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:tandrien@yahoo.com).

**KAYAKING** - Have some fun with this great water sport! For more info contact Dan Wolfson at [dwolfson@austin.rr.com](mailto: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](mailto:griff@albioncomputergroup.com)

**ROWING** - Interested in sweep rowing and sculling? Contact Julie Donnie at 340-0432 or [JulieDonnie@yahoo.com](mailto:JulieDonnie@yahoo.com).

**SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT GROUP** - Interested in developing relationships and sharing spiritual life experience? Contact Jim Irwin at [jimirwin@austin.rr.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:JParker84@austin.rr.com)



## Establishing Flexibility & Momentum for Resolutions

*By Mighty Human Performance and 4Fitness 4Health*

Plenty has been written over the past months regarding the art of setting resolutions for 2012. By now, the initial excitement has diminished and the work continues. In any career there is a stage is called the 'Implementation Phase.' If you are still focused on implementing your goals, kudos to you! Studies show by mid February, gym participation declines and the resolutions of the New Year begin to be forgotten. For those still working on goals, here are a few suggested strategies: be flexible, establish momentum and celebrate small wins.

### BE FLEXIBLE

Realize unplanned situations may arise. Try to avoid wasting energy getting frustrated over situations you cannot control. Instead, use your creativity to find ways to support your fitness goals. For example, if you are unable to complete a 45 minute workout, consider a run/walk for 30 minutes followed by calisthenics. Research supports a broken down 30 minute workout, in increments of 10 minutes is beneficial.

### ESTABLISH MOMENTUM

Let's take Newton's Law of Physics; an object in motion remains in motion...It takes less work to keep moving once you have some momentum. Take consistent steps to create a steady rhythm and to build confidence. This will make it easier to stay focused, make progress and work through any unforeseen challenges.

### CELEBRATE SMALL WINS

Take time to celebrate those small moments that may seem insignificant but contribute to your fitness goals. Reward yourself for the small accomplishments. Take time to acknowledge, reflect and celebrate. After all, it's your hard work and you know what you bring to the table when it's all sweat and all heart.

*As always, we wish you balance, harmony, and Longevity.  
Be well be blessed.*

## PET REGISTRY

*Get your pets registered TODAY! This is a complimentary neighborhood service!*

**Mail (or drop off) your pet info to:**



Carol Philipson  
7502 Clematis Cv  
Austin, TX 78750



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.***

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- Jester Board Member
- Warbler Co-Editor
- Social Committee Chair
- Creator: **AllAboutJester.com**

**Leading Listing Agent**

## March Events

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

Mar. 3	<b>It's My Park! Day</b> <i>Volunteer to work on various park projects around Austin</i>	<b>austinparks.org</b>
Mar. 3	<b>Explore UT</b> <i>The "Biggest Open House in Texas"</i>	<b>utexas.edu/events</b>
Mar. 4	<b>Zilker Park Kite Festival</b> <i>See thousands of professional and amateur kite-flyers</i>	Zilker Park <b>zilkerkitefestival.com</b>
Mar. 9	<b>Imagination Movers</b> <i>The highest rated and most popular live family act of 2011!</i>	<b>texasperformingarts.org</b>
Mar. 9 - 18	<b>South by Southwest Music and Film Festival</b> <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 <b>sxsw.com</b>
Mar. 9 - 24	<b>Rodeo Austin</b> <i>Don't miss the livestock show, rodeo, barbecue cook-off, carnival, exhibits, and live entertainment</i>	Travis County Expo Center 919-3000 <b>rodeoaustin.com</b>
Mar. 17	<b>St. Patrick's Day Festival Austin</b> <i>Pipers, dancers, local Irish bands!</i>	Cover 3 <b>stpatricksdayaustin.com</b>
Mar. 23 - 25	<b>Light/The Holocaust and Humanity Project</b> <i>One of the most talked about Ballet Austin works</i>	The Long Center <b>balletaustin.org</b>
Mar. 25	<b>Capitol 10K</b> <i>Silly to serious... walk it, jog it or run it -- just don't miss it!</i>	Palmer Events Center <b>statesman.com/cap10k</b>
Mar. 28 - 31	<b>Clyde Littlefield Texas Relays</b> <i>High school, college and professional athletes</i>	UT Campus 471-4602 <b>texasassports.com</b>
Mar. 30 - 31	<b>Urban Music Festival</b> <i>Mix it up with hip-hop, R&amp;B &amp; DJs at this family-friendly festival</i>	<b>urbanmusicfest.com</b>
Mar. 31 - Apr. 1	<b>Zilker Garden Festival</b> <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 <b>zilker garden.org</b>
Mar. 31	<b>Austin Beer Fest</b> <i>Showcasing more than 500 craft beers from around the world</i>	Travis County Expo Center <b>theaustinbeerfest.com</b>

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