



The Jester Warbler

Official Publication of Jester Homeowners Association, Inc.

October 2012

Volume 7, Issue 10

Thank You, Jester *For Your Generosity!*

by Teresa Gouldie

A heartfelt thanks goes out to you, our amazing Jester residents, for your support of the Backpack and School Clothes Drive benefitting Florence's Comfort House in East Austin. Florence's Comfort House is a place in Montopolis where children can go for a safe haven...a positive, happy place full of color and fun that can distract them momentarily from the ugliness of the poverty surrounding their lives.

Florence is a 69 year old force of nature who has dedicated herself for the past 20 years to making life better and brighter for the children in her neighborhood. She was overjoyed when we delivered colorful backpacks, school clothes of all sizes, a big assortment of school supplies, and even some laptops. Her eyes lit up when she was also handed many gift cards...receipt of the gift cards meant she could purchase the exact items the kiddos were lacking prior to school starting. Everything in Florence's life revolves around helping these kids. Thanks to YOUR help, Florence's kids were able to start the school year off with smiles and anticipation!

If you didn't get a chance to contribute but would still like to help with ongoing needs, there are 3 ways you can make life better for these children. One way is to donate a gift card, preferably from Target or Sam's (Florence's 2 favorite stores!) We'll be helping out at Florence's Comfort House at least a couple of times a month so we can pick up any contributions and get them directly to her. A second way to help is to pass the word that we are also collecting laptops for Florence to give to the kids. She has targeted some of the families with school age children that would really benefit from a laptop. A talented certified computer technician from MBK Technologies has generously agreed to donate his time to look at all laptops we collect and refurbish them if possible.

And finally, a 3rd and really great way to help is to give of your time by assisting with future volunteer efforts, such as a toy drive during the holidays. Please call me at 512-751-8000 or email me at TGouldie@gmail.com if you are able to contribute in any of these 3 areas.

I am so very proud to live in this neighborhood...thanks again for opening up your hearts to these kids who have so little and deserve so much!

A special thanks goes out to Jester resident and West Austin News reporter Susie Cohen for writing an article about our drive for their weekly newspaper. It not only made the front page, it was a large, detailed report that really captured the heart of Florence's work with these kids. Thank you, Susie, for bringing attention to this cause and helping spread the word to so many people!

Florence's Comfort House is a 501(c)3 non-profit and all donations are tax-deductible.

JESTER HALLOWEEN PARADE & ACTIVITIES

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27TH

9:30 AM

JESTER CLUB

(You do not need to be a member to participate)

Parade route is up Jester, around Basil, and back.
Come out and cheer on our Jester kiddos – they love an audience!



JESTER FALL GARAGE SALE

Saturday, Oct 6th at 8:00 am

Register your location for maximum exposure.
Maps with lists of garage sale addresses will be available at the entrances to Jester.

To Register Your Location Contact:

Teresa Gouldie 751-8000
tgouldie@gmail.com

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	MS	Ozarks!	3 p.m.
10/13	XC	Concordia Invitational%	2 p.m.
	WS	Texas-Dallas!	5 p.m.
	MS	Texas-Dallas!	7 p.m.
10/16	VB	Hardin-Simmons	7 p.m.
10/18	VB	Schreiner	7 p.m.
10/26	WS	Howard Payne\$	5 p.m.
	MS	Howard Payne\$	7 p.m.
10/27	VB	Hardin-Simmons\$	7 p.m.
	VB	Hardin-Simmons\$	7 p.m.

VB (Volleyball)

MS (M. Soccer)

WS (W. Soccer)

% at Cedar Park High School

! at St. Stephen's

\$ at Town & Country (Field 26)

CTX Athletics Is Now Accepting Tornado Club Applications!!!

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athletics.concordia.edu

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 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 or call 241-0592.

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 Nicky Shore at Shorenm@gmail.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

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

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



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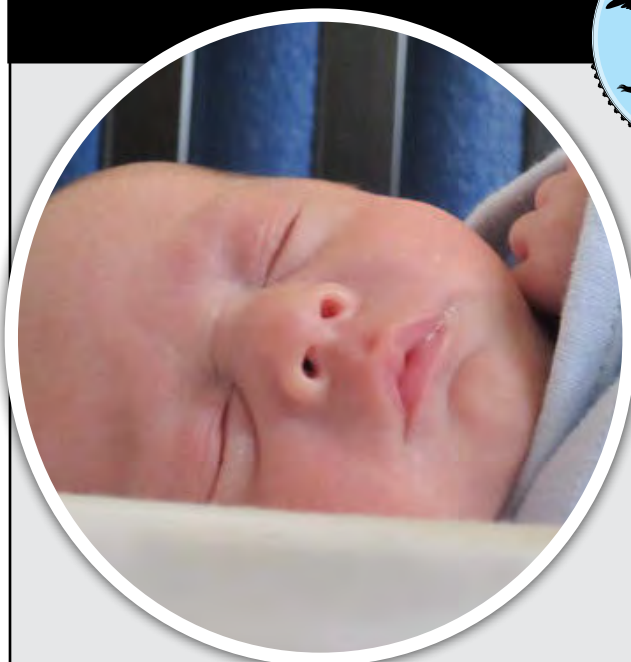
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STORK REPORT



Welcome a New Addition to the Jester Neighborhood!

Heather and Cary Lasher of Jancy Drive are the proud parents of Dexter Keaton, born on July 22nd. He weighed in at 4 pounds, 6 ounces and was 17 ¾ inches long at birth. We are told Dexter is now growing like a weed! Congratulations and best wishes from the neighborhood!

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.

A group of five diverse young adults (three men and two women) are smiling and pointing their index fingers towards the camera against a clear blue sky.

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For lost or found pets, call 338-1519.

SIGN UP FOR JESTER EMAIL ALERTS!

Visit Jester Homeowner's Association website and sign up to receive pertinent neighborhood email alerts.

www.JesterNeighbors.com

Community Registration Code: 3328 - REGISTER TODAY!

Jester Homeowner's Association Website!

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WATER CONSERVATION

For inquiries, watering tips, and rebate information please contact our staff at 512-974-2199.

WEBSITE INFORMATION

<http://www.austintexas.gov/department/water-conservation>



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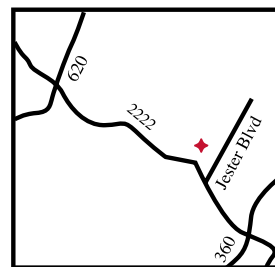
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Austin Water Activates Stage 2 Water Restrictions

Drought Response Stage 2 Water Use Restrictions began Tuesday, September 4. This decision was prompted by projected combined storage levels of Lakes Travis and Buchanan dropping below 900,000 acre-feet.

Stage 1 restrictions had been in effect for about six weeks. The brief return to a two-day per week watering schedule provided relief for customers concerned about trees and other landscaping investments through the hottest part of the summer. The time was also used by the city to update its water management strategy. The improved strategy allows for a more efficient overall response to water use during our area's current drought conditions.

The Austin City Council approved changes to the Water Conservation code that creates four drought stages that ramp up water use restrictions during times of drought to

maximize water conservation. Watering days for residential customers under Stage 2 have changed to allow separate watering days for hose-end sprinklers and automatic irrigation systems. This change gives hose-end sprinkler customers a more reasonable timeframe for watering.

The new Stage 2 schedule also spreads out water use to avoid peak demands on Austin Water's treatment and distribution system. Under the updated Water Conservation code, the following exemptions will be allowed any time of the day:

- Soaker hoses on vegetable gardens
- Automatic bubblers on trees or soaker hoses placed within the canopy drip line
- Hand watering with a hose or watering can.

For more information please visit www.austinwater.org.



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Breast Cancer: Importance of Early Detection

By: Concentra Urgent Care

Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women in the United States, and is the second leading cause of cancer deaths. Screening is vital because early stages of the disease are easier to treat.

The American Cancer Society recommends women:

- Obtain yearly mammography screenings, beginning at age 40
- Obtain yearly clinical breast exams
- Check your breasts regularly for lumps
- Discuss their breast cancer risk with their physician

Breast cancer risk increases as we age. Other factors that increase a woman's risk for breast cancer include:

- Having started menstrual periods at a young age
- Having a first child after age 30
- Use of hormone replacement therapy
- Having a family history of breast cancer

Men are also at risk for rare cases of breast cancer. All persons familiar with the normal look and feel of their breasts should promptly report any unexpected changes to their physicians. The American Cancer Society recommends both women and men consult their doctor if they notice any of the

following:

- A new, hard lump or thickening in any part of the breast
- Change in breast size or shape
- Dimpling or puckering of the skin
- Swelling, redness, or warmth that does not go away
- Recurrent pain in a particular part of the breast
- Pulling in of the nipple
- Nipple discharge that starts suddenly in only one breast
- An itchy, sore, or scaly area on one nipple

For more information about breast cancer and early detection, contact your health care provider, your Concentra health specialist, visit the American Cancer Society Web Site at: www.cancer.org, or visit the National Breast Cancer Awareness Month Web site at: <http://nbcam.org/>



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"If I Installed Solar, How Much Electricity Would It Generate and How Much Would I Save?"

By Chris Lee

For those of us living here in Austin, we're all acutely aware that the sun is a plentiful, if not unrelenting, source of heat and sunlight (okay, the heat is really a byproduct of the intense sunlight). And for many of us I bet that we've thought, "Gosh, if I could harness just some of that free sunlight...." The harder part is trying to answer the obvious questions about installing a solar array or solar panel system on the roof of your home - "How much electricity would it generate and how much money could I save on my electric bills?"

Without having to know much about solar or needing to contact a solar installer or solar company, you can easily get those estimates at your fingertips. The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), which is operated by the US Department of Energy, has created a website allowing anyone to calculate the amount of electricity a PV (photovoltaic) system (aka: solar panel array system) would generate. Here's the website (notice that it already takes into account that you're in Austin): <http://rredc.nrel.gov/solar/calculators/PVWATTS/version1/US/Texas/Austin.html> (Shortened: <http://goo.gl/H9a8y>)

Once on the website, for your initial estimate, you can use the default information presented and just click on "calculate" at the bottom. On the results page you will see that in Austin, a South facing solar panel array (which means the Array Azimuth = 180 degrees) that's built for 4 kW of electricity generation, would generate 5450 kWh in a year and save you \$528.65. To give you a better estimate, there are 3 settings you can go back and change:

1. **Array Azimuth in degrees.**
2. **DC Rating in kW.**
3. **Cost of Electricity in cents.**

ARRAY AZIMUTH:

If you're considering placing your solar array on the side of your roof that gets the most sunlight and that part of the roof faces due South, then the Array Azimuth would be 180 degrees. If your proposed solar array will be facing Southwest, the azimuth would be 225 degrees. Southeast would be 135 degrees. And so forth. The more accurate your submission, the more accurate your estimate will be.

DC RATING:

The DC Rating (in kW) default is 4 kW in the calculator. This would be the "size" of electricity generation by your solar array - basically, by adding (or subtracting) more solar panels to your proposed system, the DC Rating would increase (or decrease). Makes sense - if you add more solar panels to your array, you'll increase the amount of electricity generated and therefore increase the amount of money saved.

COST OF ELECTRICITY:

The default is the Texas state average of 9.7 cents per kWh. For those of you with an electricity provider with higher (or soon to be higher) rates, you should change the rate accordingly to get a more realistic estimate.

So that's it, an easy way to determine what you would be generating with a solar array on the roof of your home. This is a simple but fairly accurate way to determine the benefit of installing solar on your home. Of course, YMMV (your mileage may vary) but by getting a fairly accurate estimate of the amount of electricity generated and the money saved, you can better determine whether or not installing a solar array on your roof would make financial sense for you and your family. If you have any questions, please ping me at leec89@gmail.com.

Austin Newcomers Club



Austin Newcomers is dedicated to introducing new residents to Austin while extending a hand to make new acquaintances and join fun Interest Groups. Rosina Newton, the Horticulturist and Education Coordinator at The Natural Gardener, an award-winning Austin nursery, is the featured speaker. She will talk about Native and Xeric Landscaping, especially important in the present drought.

The monthly luncheon will be held on Wednesday, October 17 at Green Pastures Restaurant, 811 Live Oak St, Austin TX 78704. The luncheon is \$20 per person; reservations are required, and payment must be received by Thursday, October 11.

The club website is www.AustinNewcomers.com and the telephone number is (512) 314-5100.

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Splitting Hares

Nature Watch

by Jim and Lynne Weber

Colloquially known as ‘bunnies’, rabbits and hares are small mammals that can be found in a variety of habitats, including meadows, woodlands, grasslands, deserts, and even wetlands. But did you know that there are true differences between rabbits and hares?

Rabbits are clearly distinguished from hares in that rabbits typically have young that are born blind and hairless (altricial) and hares have young that are born with hair and able to see (precocial). Since young hares are well camouflaged and mobile within minutes of being born, the mother does not protect them and is with them only long enough to nurse. Rabbits, other than cottontails, live underground in burrows, but cottontails, like hares, live in simple grass nests above the ground called ‘forms.’ Unlike rabbits, hares usually do not live in groups (although a group of hares is called a ‘drove’) and they are generally larger than rabbits, with longer ears and black markings on their fur. Hares are also called jackrabbits, as they are very quick and can run up to speeds of 45 miles per hour! They have jointed or kinetic skulls, which are unique among mammals. This joint permits relative motion between the anterior and posterior part of the skull’s braincase, helping to absorb the G-force created as the hare strikes its powerful hind legs with impact against the ground.

In our area of Texas you can find the Swamp Rabbit (*Sylvilagus aquaticus*), the Eastern Cottontail (*Sylvilagus floridanus*), and the Black-tailed Jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*). Living in the eastern third of our state and one of the largest cottontails in its range, the Swamp Rabbit inhabits poorly drained river bottoms and marshes. Its upper parts are grayish-brown heavily lined

with black with a white underside and cinnamon-colored front legs and tops of hind feet. At home in the water, this rabbit’s dense fur helps to waterproof its skin, and unlike other rabbits it will cross streams and rivers on its own. Also unlike other rabbits, its young have fur at birth but their eyes and ears are closed.

Eastern Cottontails are the most common rabbit in the eastern three-fourths of Texas and are moderately large with rusty-brown fur, relatively short ears, and large hind feet. These cottontails commonly frequent brush-dotted pastures and are active largely in the twilight hours and at night, when they venture out to meadows or lawns to forage. They often live at the edges of town and feed in gardens and flower beds, and are common along country roads lined with dense vegetation. Eastern Cottontails are prolific breeders, and can have as many as four or five litters throughout the year.

The Black-tailed Jackrabbit, also known as the Desert Hare, reaches a length of about two feet and weighs from three to six pounds. Its distinctive long ears and powerful rear legs distinguish it as a hare. With dorsal fur that is dark buff peppered with black and an underside of creamy white, its black markings are found on the tips of its ears and the top of its short tail. In warmer climates like ours, this jackrabbit breeds year round and the average litter size is four, but it can range from two to seven depending on the food supply. Since it does not hibernate or migrate, it uses the same square half-mile to mile habitat of oak-juniper woodland as its territory.

Now that you know the subtle (and sometimes confusing) differences between these closely related mammals, you too can try your hand at splitting hares!



Swamp Rabbit



Eastern Cottontail



Black-tailed Jackrabbit

*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, *Nature Watch Austin*, published by Texas A&M University Press.*



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October Events

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

Oct. 4 - 7	The 26th Annual Gruene Music and Wine Fest <i>The best in live Texas music, food & wines</i>	LBJ Wildflower Center wildflower.org
Oct. 5	The Australian Pink Floyd Show – Exposed in the Light World Tour 2012 <i>New lasers, new lights and more jaw-dropping video effects</i>	The Moody Theater acl-live.com
Oct. 5 - 7	Oktoberfest In Fredericksburg <i>A colorful, festive, German celebration for the entire family</i>	Fredericksburg oktoberfestinfbg.com
Oct. 6	FireFest featuring The Beach Boys <i>5K Run/Walk, firefighter challenge, barbeque cook-off, washer tournament and concert</i>	thebackyard.net
Oct. 12 - 14	Austin City Limits Music Festival <i>Austin's biggest outdoor music festival. Three days, eight stages and more than 100 bands</i>	aclfestival.com
Oct. 13 - 14	Fall Plant Sale & Gardening Festival <i>Hard to find native plants will be among the 20,000 plants for sale</i>	wildflower.org
Oct. 18 - 25	Austin Film Festival <i>Eight days of films & parties celebrating the art of film</i>	Various Venues austinfilmfestival.com
Oct. 25	Capitol Steps <i>The best political humor this side of Saturday Night Live</i>	The Long Center thelongcenter.org
Oct. 27	ZZ Top 22nd Annual La Grange Fest	thebackyard.net
Oct. 27 - 28	Texas Book Festival <i>Hear readings and attend signings with some of your favorite authors, visit the children's tent, and enjoy live music.</i>	State Capitol Building 477-4055 texasbookfestival.org
Oct. 28	7th Annual Goblins in the Garden <i>Halloween festival features spooky fun activities and the Not-So-Haunted Tower. Wear your costume!</i>	LBJ Wildflower Center wildflower.org
Oct. 28	Bill Cosby <i>Classic stand-up by one of America's most beloved entertainers</i>	texasperformingarts.org

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