



The Jester Warbler

Official Publication of Jester Homeowners Association, Inc.

December 2012

Volume 7, Issue 12

Crime Watch Reminders

by Alyssa Drury

It is always important to be aware of and stay vigilant against crime in our neighborhood. Unfortunately, the holidays can be a busy time for break-ins, burglary, and vandalism, etc. Sometimes the desperation one has for money or gifts at this time of year can lead to these actions....as can the lure of empty homes while residents are traveling during the holiday season. Here are a few tips to help remind us all how to stay safe:

- keep outdoor lights on around your house at night
- keep garage doors closed
- keep doors and windows locked
- be aware of any suspicious vehicles parked for long periods of time near your house or on your street
- take note of any suspicious people acting as service, delivery or maintenance personnel
- be aware that outdoor festive holiday decorations can be desirable items for theft
- get to know your neighbors and watch out for one another's property
- if you leave town, leave lights on, lock up, and alert your neighbors that you will be gone
- keep cars locked and free of valuables that are parked on the street or in driveways
- teach your children to be aware of and tell you about any strangers

(Continued on Page 3)

Green Tip

by Dale Bulla

Wastewater Averaging Starts in November

*Thru the End of February Save Water, Save Money
\$\$\$\$*

Many folks are not aware that their waste water or sewer bill is averaged over three months in the winter when outside watering is at a minimum. From November to the end of February, the lowest three months of water use are averaged, depending on when your meter is read, and that amount will be your wastewater cost for the next twelve months. So remember that every drop you save through February will save you all next year.

HO! HO! HO! Santa Is Coming To Jester Aboard A Firetruck!

SATURDAY, DEC 1ST

9:00 am - Jester Club

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

The Austin Fire Department
has graciously agreed to send Santa
aboard a fire truck to visit with our
Jester children and grandchildren.

Activities, Caroling and More!

BRING YOUR CAMERAS!



JESTER LIGHTS CONTEST

**Win Gift Certificates
to Various Merchants/Restaurants!**

Spread holiday cheer by lighting up our neighborhood! Help make Jester the "Go To" neighborhood -- the place people go to every season to see the best lights Austin has to offer!

Homes will be judged between December 10th and 14th so that we can meet the publisher's deadline for the January issue of the Warbler and announce the winners.

(To ensure our judges drive by ALL homes with lights/decorations in Jester, please register your address, or nominate your neighbor's home, by emailing Teresa at Tgouldie@Gmail.com or calling 751-8000)

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Crime Watch - (Continued from Cover Page)

or questionable activity they see around the neighborhood
As always, if you see suspicious activity or have a crime to report, please contact 911 immediately.

Also, please notify Jester_suggestions@jesterneighbors.com if you have anything to share.

Let's work together to stay safe and prevent crime in Jester during the holidays and throughout the year.



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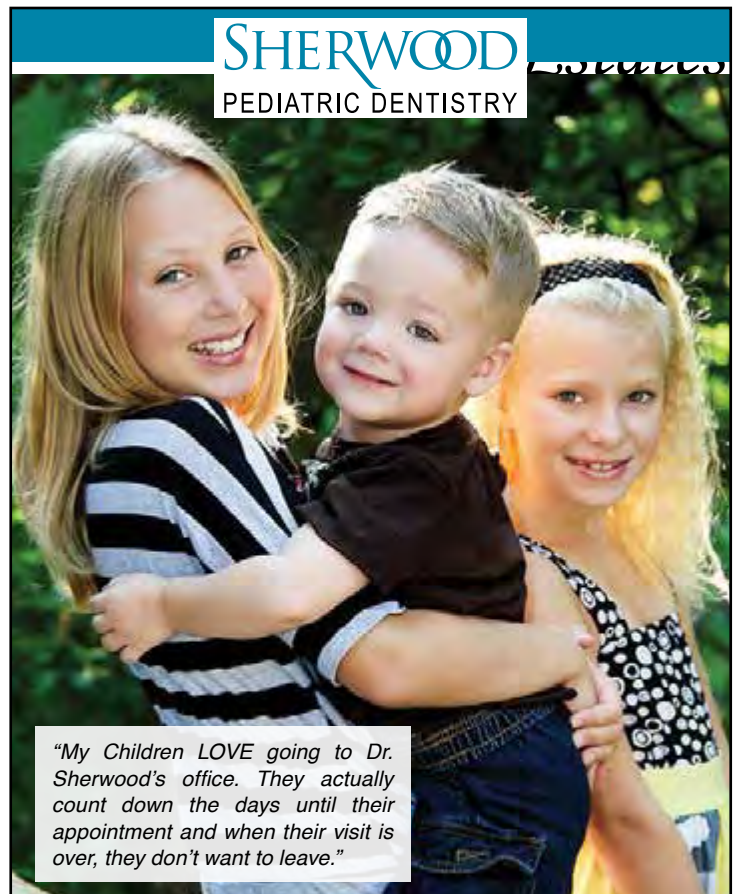
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The goal is to fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. Each digit may appear only once in each row, each column, and each 3x3 box.



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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 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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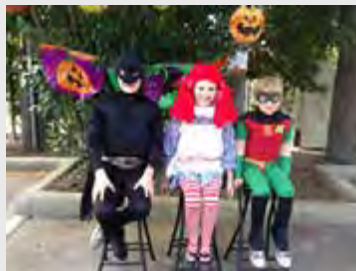
JESTER HALLOWEEN PARADE

by Teresa Gouldie, Social Chairman

Our Halloween Parade drew a great crowd this year as our neighborhood children gathered at Jester Club dressed in some incredibly imaginative costumes. Led by a decorated golf cart, the children and their parents provided a sea of color as they marched up Jester, around Basil and back to the club. They were greeted by our Jester volunteers who had set a prize walk, a tattoo area, and a table with various coloring sheets, crayons and magic markers.

The Halloween event is really special because the kiddos aren't just participants, they're the actual "stars"...they get to show off their costumes and get applause and waves as they walk the parade route. Each year I am amazed at the creativity and "fun spirit" of our Jester neighbors. This year a couple was standing on our parade route with their dog, who was in full costume. It almost stopped the parade...all the participants wanted to stop and take a look and pet the dog! A decorated golf cart was leading the parade and music was blaring, namely Ghostbusters and Monster Mash. There was a child with a Werewolf mask that really had some moves as he was walking...you couldn't see his face but his arms and legs were definitely rocking out to the music! It's always such a FUN day!

A special thank you, as always, goes out to Terri Milan and Jester Club for providing the location. Our Halloween helpers included Stacey Hull, Eva Wissner, Patricia Seeger, Glen Brown, Charlotte Glikman, Mike Parker, Kenneth Oliver, Haven Eregil, Elaina Hilliard, and Caroline, Sean, Liam, Kaitlin and Anne Moore. Thanks to all of these great people for creating memories for our Jester children!



*Pictured are Jester residents
Elaina Hilliard and Haven Eregil.*



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WELCOME COMMITTEE NEWS

Just when we thought we were almost caught up, there were 8 more new home closings this fall in Jester! If you saw moving vans on your block, you weren't alone.

Last month we delivered 3 welcome packages, to the following new residents:

- Sam and Jeff with their dog Stella on the 7900 block of Jester. Sam and Jeff moved from Rob Roy and have spent the last few months renovating their property. We caught them only a week after they moved in.
- Veronica and Bryce with their 3 ½ year old son Belen. Their family is now living on the 7100 block of Rusty Fig. Veronica and Bryce had also done some major renovations before moving in.
- Mike and Shelley with their 2 year old son Ian. They live on the 7400 block of Anaqua Drive. We met Mike and Shelly not too long after they had made their move.

There are still two homes that closed in the past (one from August and one from September) that we weren't able to deliver welcome packages to because the new resident hadn't moved in yet. It's great to see people taking advantage of the opportunity to upgrade their houses while the house is empty. I'm sure renovations are much more enjoyable (and less dusty) when there isn't anyone living in the house.

The Welcome Committee has delivered 44 Welcome Packages so far this year and we have at least 10 more to deliver before the holidays. We really enjoy meeting the new neighbors and finding out a little bit about them. Please contact JoAnn Welles at (512) 346-0349 or joann-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!

Veronica and Bryce on Rusty Fig



Mike and Ian on Anaqua Drive



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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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Coats for Kids

by Julia Ott

As a recipient of a gift, have you ever immediately turned around and paid it forward and given of your time, talent, and treasure to help someone else? Many who have received coats for their children and grandchildren at the annual Coats For Kids distribution day have come to the volunteer check-in and stayed for the rest of the day to help others just as they were helped moments earlier. They gave their gifts right back to the community... a circle of service truly indicative of a successful program.

Coats for Kids is a program in its 26th year that provides warm winter coats each December to disadvantaged children and teenagers in Central Texas through a community-wide collection and distribution process. Each year, The Junior League of Austin, Jack Brown Cleaners, KASE 101 and KVUE partner with the community to ensure the children of Central Texas stay warm. On average, 30,000 coats are distributed per year with the help of over 2,600 community volunteers.

So how can you participate? Donate a new or gently-used coat to your nearest Jack Brown Cleaners, organize a coat drive through many outlets in your community (schools, places of worship,

(Continued on Page 10)

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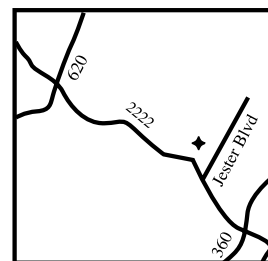
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Coats for Kids - (Continued from Page 8)

offices, neighborhoods), volunteer during sorting days or distribution days or spread the word.


Facts:

- Distribution Day: Saturday, December 8th from 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM
- Distribution Site: Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Road
- Community Coat Drive: Monday, November 12th through Wednesday, December 5th. Please drop your coats off at any local Jack Brown Cleaners.
- School & Business Coat Drive Competition: Monday, November 12th through Friday, November 30th. Please drop your coats off at any local Jack Brown Cleaners. To register your business or school, go to the JLA website: www.jlaustin.org/coats.
- Volunteer: Please join us to help sort coats December 4 – December 7 and/or to distribute coats to children on December 8. Register at www.jlaustin.org/coats.

Find all details about Coats For Kids at <http://www.jlaustin.org/coats>



We Invite You to Celebrate With Us This Christmas!




FESTIVAL OF CAROLS
This lovely musical by Joseph Martin follows the order of the traditional Lessons and Carols service. The lessons are written in a more contemporary form, and the carols are beautifully arranged for orchestra and choir. You'll have the opportunity to join in singing some of the beloved carols!

SUNDAY WORSHIP
Traditional Service @ 9 am
Bible Fellowship Groups @ 10:10 am
Celebration Service @ 11:11 am

Sunday, December 9, 6:00 p.m.


CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
Come and worship with us as we sing carols and read the beautiful Christmas story from God's Word. We will worship together as a family, concluding with "Silent Night" by candlelight.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Monday, December 24
6:00 p.m.



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Home Athletics Schedule December 2012

| Date | Sport | Opponent | Time |
|-------|-------|-------------------------|---------|
| 12/1 | WBB | Ozarks* | 1 p.m. |
| | MBB | Ozarks* | 3 p.m. |
| 12/17 | MBB | Northwood | 3 p.m. |
| 12/20 | WBB | Texas-Dallas* | 1 p.m. |
| | MBB | Texas-Dallas* | 3 p.m. |
| 12/29 | WBB | Wisconsin-Stout^ | 4 p.m. |
| 12/30 | WBB | Rust^ | 4 p.m. |
| 12/31 | MBB | Wisconsin-Stevens Point | 11 a.m. |

MBB (M. Basketball)

WBB (W. Basketball)

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Pedestrian Right of Way

by Jester Resident Stephanie Easterday

Below is the legal citation regarding pedestrian right of way in Texas. I have occasionally observed someone in the neighborhood holding an upraised palm in a "stop" gesture to motorists while crossing Jester Boulevard. According to the citation, pedestrians only have right of way when crossing in a designated crosswalk. Beyond that, they must yield to motorists. Although there are biking and jogging lanes on the shoulders of Jester Boulevard, the only crosswalk is at the bottom of the hill where it intersects FM 2222.

Thank you.

Sec. 552.005. CROSSING AT POINT OTHER THAN CROSSWALK. (a) A pedestrian shall yield the right-of-way to a vehicle on the highway if crossing a roadway at a place:

(1) other than in a marked crosswalk or in an unmarked crosswalk at an intersection; or

(2) where a pedestrian tunnel or overhead pedestrian crossing has been provided.

(b) Between adjacent intersections at which traffic control signals are in operation, a pedestrian may cross only in a marked crosswalk.

(c) A pedestrian may cross a roadway intersection diagonally only if and in the manner authorized by a traffic control device.

Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 165, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1995.



HOLIDAY WISHES 2012

Each year, neglected and abused children in the Austin area must be removed from their homes by Child Protective Services caseworkers.

Separations occur all year, but it is especially difficult during the holidays. Partnerships for Children is making a difference in the lives of these children and we invite you to join us by participating in our Holiday Wishes program.

With your help, how many children can we impact this year?

Please contact us at:

512.834.4756

holidaywishes@partnershipsforchildren.org

GET INVOLVED:

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- ✓ **ORGANIZE** a drive to collect gifts commonly requested on children's wish lists

Thank you for your support!

NatureWatch

by Jim and Lynne Weber

Merry Mistletoe

From the earliest times mistletoe has been considered one of the most magical, mysterious, and sacred plants found in European folklore. Originally used to bestow life and fertility, as a protection from poison, and as an aphrodisiac, in medieval times branches of mistletoe were hung from the ceiling to ward off evil spirits. With the process of immigration and settlement of North America, traditions associated with the European plant were transferred to the New World and evolved into a folklore all its own.

In Central Texas, two species of mistletoe are native, the Christmas Mistletoe (*Phoradendron tomentosum*) and Oak Mistletoe (*Phoradendron leucarpum*). The genus comes from the Greek 'phor' which means thief and 'dendron' which means tree, as both species are semiparasites that steal water and nutrients from their host trees. Christmas mistletoe has small, elliptical evergreen leaves and smooth green stems covered by short hairs, with tiny green flowers on the male plant and shiny white berries on the female plant. It is widely used in the United States as a Christmas decoration, and is especially common growing on Sugar Hackberry, Cedar Elm, and Honey Mesquite trees in Texas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma.

Native north to New York State, south to Florida, and west to New Mexico, Oak Mistletoe is another common mistletoe hung at Christmastime. It is a larval host plant for the Great Purple Hairstreak butterfly, and while similar in appearance to Christmas Mistletoe, its berries are covered with a sticky substance poisonous to humans but relished by winter resident birds such as Cedar Waxwings, Eastern Bluebirds, and American Robins. These birds eat the berries and spread the seeds through their droppings and by wiping their beaks on tree branches, both of which may cause a new plant to take hold and become established.

While ancient folklore has attributed a wide range of mystical abilities to mistletoe, none is more fascinating than the myth of Frigga, the Norse Mother Goddess worshiped by pre-Christian people of northern Europe, and how mistletoe became her sacred plant. She was believed to be the mother of Balder, the God of the Summer Sun, who had a dream of death. Alarmed by this dream, Frigga went to all the elements, plants, and animals to seek a promise that no harm would come to her son. Balder was thought to be safe from harm by anything on or under the Earth.

But Balder's enemy, Loki, was the God of Evil, and he knew of the one plant that Frigga overlooked. It was the lowly mistletoe, which grew neither on nor under the Earth itself, but on the branches of oaks and other trees. Loki made an arrow tip with the mistletoe, and gave it to the Hoder, the blind God of Winter, who used it to strike Balder dead. The sky paled and everything wept for the Sun God, who was restored by Frigga after working with the elements for three days. The tears she shed for her son were said to be the pearly white berries of the mistletoe, and in her joy at his resurrection she kissed everyone who passed beneath the tree on which it grew.

Thus began the custom that whomever should stand beneath the humble mistletoe will come to no harm, but receive only a kiss as a token of love. Merry mistletoe to you and yours!

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.

(Photos on Page 15)



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Nature Watch - (Continued from Page 14)

Christmas Mistletoe



Oak Mistletoe



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December Events

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| | | |
|--------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Nov. 23 - | The Santaland Diaries | Zachary Scott Theatre |
| Dec. 23 | <i>This tale of elfin' woe is Austin's most beloved holiday tradition!</i> | zachscott.com |
| Nov. 24 | Ice Skating on the Plaza | Whole Foods Downtown |
| Jan. 6 | <i>Our city's only public, outdoor ice skating rink!</i> | wholefoodsmarket.com |
| Dec. 1 - 23 | Gingerbread Workshops | Austin Children's Museum |
| | <i>Create a candy-covered holiday tradition!</i> | 472-2499 austinkids.org |
| Dec. 2 | Zilker Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony (6 p.m.) | Zilker Park |
| Dec. 5 | Handel's Messiah | Riverbend Centre |
| | <i>Handel's immortal masterpiece is a moving musical experience, elevating and enriching the soul.</i> | austinsymphony.org |
| Dec. 5 - 23 | Christmas Bureau of Austin | 5915 Burnet Road |
| | <i>Sponsor a family or elderly individual, or volunteer to man phones, process applications, etc.</i> | 453-3950 cbofaustin.org |
| Dec. 8 - 9 | Luminations | LBJ Wildflower Center |
| | <i>Luminarias, music, refreshments, and fun!</i> | 292-4100 wildflower.org |
| Dec. 8 - 23 | The Nutcracker | The Long Center |
| | <i>Ballet Austin presents an evening of magic</i> | 476-2163 balletaustin.org |
| Dec. 11 | Austin Symphony Orchestra - Christmas Sing-Along | Riverbend Centre |
| | <i>Sing-along to Christmas favorites</i> | austinsymphony.org |
| Dec. 12 - 24 | Armadillo Christmas Bazaar | Palmer Events Center |
| | <i>Austin arts event with an eclectic selection of unique gifts</i> | armadillobazaar.com |
| Dec. 15 | Snow Day at the Galleria (with real snow!) | hillcountrygalleria.com |
| Dec. 16 - 23 | Austin Trail of Lights | Zilker Park austintexas.gov |
| Dec. 20 | Trans-Siberian Orchestra Winter Tour | Cedar Park Center |
| | <i>With a live debut of The Lost Christmas Eve</i> | trans-siberian.com |
| Dec. 23 | Disney Live! Mickey's Music Festival 25+ Disney favorites | uterwincenter.com |
| Dec. 29 - 30 | The Music of The Beach Boys with Papa Doo Run Run | Palmer Events Center |
| | <i>They never fail to get the entire audience on their feet, singing along at the top of their lungs!</i> | austinsymphony.org |

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