



The Jester Warbler

Official Publication of Jester Homeowners Association, Inc.

April 2013

Volume 8, Issue 4

Protect Your Home From Wildfire

*“30-feet For Fire Safety” Weekend
April 13-14, 2013*

The greatest danger to your home isn't a big wall of flames coming from the Balconies Canyon. It's blowing embers that can ignite combustible materials in the 30-foot space around your home. Think you're safe because your property doesn't back up to the canyon? Not true...embers from a fire in the canyon will land throughout Jester.

By properly preparing a 30-foot “defensible” space around your home, you greatly reduce the risk of losing your home to wildfire, and you give the fire department a fighting chance to extinguish spot fires before they spread to nearby structures. It may surprise you to learn how much of a difference you can make by following a few simple landscaping tips, limiting combustibles materials and debris around the perimeter of your home and hardening your home against direct ember ignition.

The City of Austin is providing a special yard waste pickup for this event. Get it to the curb, put it in a pile and they'll take it.

- NO branch size limits
- NO bundling required (cut to 5-foot maximum length).
- Register at <http://tinyurl.com/firewise-pickup>

Not sure what you need to do? Request a free property fire-risk assessment at <http://tinyurl.com/JesterFirewise>. We'll look at your property and provide recommendations to help you protect your home and your family. Other questions? Email us at firewise@jesterneighbors.com.

*** ACT NOW TO PREPARE YOUR HOME AND
YOUR FAMILY ***

More info at www.firewise.org



GARAGE SALE

**Spring
Garage Sale**

*Register your location so you
can get maximum exposure!*

JHA is sponsoring a Jester Garage sale on Saturday May 4th at 8 am. Ads will run in the American Statesman on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday promoting this neighborhood-wide sale. Please email Teresa at tgouldie@gmail.com or call her at 751-8000 if you would like to register your garage sale location. Maps with lists of garage sale addresses will be available at the entrances to Jester.

**Saturday, May 4th
8:00 AM**

JHA Annual Meeting

Tuesday, April 2nd

7:00 pm

Shepherd of the Hills Christian Church
6909 West Courtyard Drive

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www.JesterNeighbors.com

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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 12th
of the month prior to the issue.*

Jester Homeowner's Association Website!

www.JesterNeighbors.com

Community Registration Code: 3328

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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.

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 Uncorked

by Christina Taylor

Jester Uncorked had a fantastic meeting, in February, at My Place. As the wine poured, thoughts and ideas were exchanged on how to make it one of the most fun and dynamic groups in Jester. This year will bring a variety of events, including a combination of get togethers at homes in Jester, restaurant based happy hours and wine tasting events at Texas wineries. If you would like to join Jester Uncorked and/or would like to share your ideas on fun things to do, please contact Karen Kershaw at kershawk@me.com.



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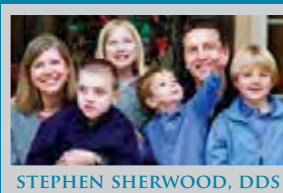
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Green Tip: Check Your Irrigation Controller

by Dale Bulla

Even though we are back to once a week watering for now, the times are different from last year. Automatic sprinklers are only to be operated between the hours of 7 PM and 5 AM on Wednesday or Thursday. A good rule of thumb is if the water is on and the sun is up, you probably need to reset your controller. If you have a hose end sprinkler, you water on Saturday or Sunday between 7 PM and 10 AM. If you see watering in the neighborhood between 5 AM and 7 PM, you may want to call 311 and report water waste. A card will be sent to the address that you report and it can be made anonymously.

Check the water conservation site for the latest updates:
<http://austintexas.gov/departments/water-conservation>



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Nature Watch

by Jim and Lynne Weber

Little Armored One

Spanish for 'little armored one', the armadillo is one of the most interesting mammals in North America. All but one of the 20 different species of armadillo live in Latin America, but the Nine-banded Armadillo (*Dasypus novemcinctus*) makes its home as far north as Texas (except for the western Trans-Pecos), Oklahoma, and Louisiana. In fact, this armadillo is the official state small mammal of Texas!

A cat-sized, insect-eating mammal, armadillos have bony plates that cover their back, head, legs, and tail, protecting them from predators. No other living mammal wears such a shell, but contrary to popular belief, the Nine-banded Armadillo cannot roll into a ball and encase itself with its shell. Only the Three-banded Armadillo can accomplish this, by curling its head and back feet inward and contorting its shell as protection. No amount of armor can protect them from the cold, however, and because of their low metabolic rate and lack of fur and body fat stores, cold weather can wipe out whole populations of these little creatures.

Armadillos have a pointy snout and small eyes, and are prolific

(Continued on Page 5)



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(Continued from Page 4)

diggers. They dig for food and dig many burrows, mostly along creekbeds in Central Texas, and they do not survive in areas where the soil is too hard to dig. Armadillos spend up to 16 hours a day digging, mainly active in the dawn and dusk hours, looking for beetles, ants, termites, and other insects. Their eyesight is quite poor, but they use their keen sense of smell to locate food, and utilize their long, sticky tongues to grasp berries, caterpillars, grubs, fungi, and sometimes even carrion.

Armadillos are quite fond of water, visiting water holes and streams to drink, feed, and even take mud baths. Their specific gravity is high, which means they normally ride low in the water when swimming. For short water crossings, they often just walk underwater across the bottom, but for deeper and longer crossings they voluntarily ingest air to inflate themselves and increase their buoyancy by retaining the air in their digestive tract!

Armadillos are thought to be a pair during the breeding season, sharing the same burrow. Due to their bony shells and the underside location of their genitalia, copulation occurs with the female lying on her back. While breeding occurs in July, the embryo remains in a dormant state until November. Always of the same sex, identical quadruplets develop from the single egg, and four young are born in a grass-lined burrow in March.

While the Nine-banded Armadillo is a unique mammal whose

range is expanding northward, there is reason to be concerned about their conservation status in Texas. Encroaching human civilization, overgrazing, and progressive climatic change may be keeping them on the move, and many mammalogists agree that armadillos are rare at best when compared to populations of a few years ago. This decline also appears to be correlated with increasing populations of feral hogs, as well as the propensity for people to make trinkets from armadillo shells. Perhaps our state motto should read 'Don't Mess with Texas Armadillos!'

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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Jester resident for over 20 years — call for free market analysis



TORNADOS

Home Athletics Schedule April 2013

| DATE | SPORT | OPPONENT | TIME |
|------|-------|---------------------|-----------|
| 4/9 | BB | Trinity | 7:00 p.m. |
| 4/12 | SB | Hardin-Simmons (DH) | 4:00 p.m. |
| 4/13 | SB | Hardin-Simmons (DH) | 2:00 p.m. |
| 4/15 | BB | Southwestern | 7:00 p.m. |

BB (Baseball)

SB (Softball)

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alumni.concordia.edu/golf**

For up-to-date information about CTX
Athletics, please check out our website at:

athletics.concordia.edu



WELCOME COMMITTEE NEWS

Since the holidays, the Welcome Committee has delivered 5 Welcome Bags to

- Patricia on the 8100 block of Crabtree Cove.
- Suzanne and Dave, Daniel (9), Anna (7) and Ben (1) on the 8400 block of Asmara Cove. They moved from Manor and have other family members already in Jester.
- Ken and Carol on the 7100 block of Anaqua. Ken's an Austin native, while Carol was born in Houston – 2 honest to goodness Texan natives! They moved from a condo downtown.

Bags were left on the doorsteps of new residents on the 6700 block of Lakewood Point and the 7400 block of Jester Blvd. We knew the new residents had moved in but they weren't at home when we did deliveries.

This month we also greeted a new Welcome Committee member, Naomi Ritchie. She was able to join us for the deliveries and enjoyed chatting with the new residents. Naomi's been in Jester a little over 2 years. She has some good ideas about family friendly additions to the Welcome Bags.

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 bag to you but not found you home!



Ken and Carol on the 7100 block of Asmara

(Continued on Page 7)

(Continued from Page 6)



Suzanne, Daniel and Anna with cousin Elsa on the 8400 block of Asmar



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JOIN US FOR GOLF AND A GREAT CAUSE!

DATE: Tuesday, April 30th

11:00 am Registration - 1:00 pm Start

LOCATION: River Place Country Club

FORMAT: 4-person scramble

COST: \$165 per golfer*

*Includes lunch, dinner and lots of swag

Dinner provided by:

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Register online at:
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Questions about the event?
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jancy.darling@colinshope.org
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8100 Bee Caves Road
Austin Tx 78746
512-329-6633

www.childrenscenterofaustin.com

A New A/C Really Is An Improved A/C!

by Lorraine Bier

After 20 years of faithful service, my A/C was due for replacement; I wanted to swap it out on my schedule, not on a super-hot day. Also, I was hoping for improved cooling and lowered bills. Most people don't think about it, but the improvement drive that produces fancier personal computers and phones is going on for EVERYTHING, including A/Cs. (As a rule of thumb, expect that any of today's gizmos will be noticeably better than those 10 years or older.) Furthermore, Austin Energy's rebate program offers sufficiently large incentives to overcome my reluctance for dealing with the city.

When the A/C company representative came to write a quote, he told me something that surprised me: my A/C ductwork was not configured correctly. My system had too small a return air grill, making it work too hard like breathing through a straw, and too many ducts branched from a point away from the main plenum, goofing up the air flow. These types of duct system problems are more common than most people know.

If you have a higher priced home with lots of nice upgrades, you probably have a higher SEER (more efficient) A/C system. However, it doesn't mean that your ductwork is laid out correctly and is in good shape. Over time, even the best laid out ductwork will spring leaks, either because the sealing mastic or tape fails or because critters get in and gnaw on it or because someone in the attic knocked into something. Problems with ductwork can result in cooling the wrong spaces (like the attic), pulling in bad air (like from the house frame), or just losing air flow efficiency. Our neighborhood is old enough that it's time to think about duct maintenance.

So I got my new A/Cs and my duct work fixed up and now I can get my living room cooler than 80 degrees. I see some improvement on bills. I got my rebate check from Austin Energy fairly painlessly. You can too- check www.austinenergy.com – they've got specials going that are worth looking, including free energy analysis reports.

As a side note- if you've bought your house in the last couple of years, you should have gotten an efficiency report that included percentage duct leakage, so you can check. If you've lost track of yours, check with Austin Energy for a copy.



SCOOP THE POOP

It's the Law!

Austin City Ordinance 3-3-7 states "It shall be unlawful for any person to fail to promptly remove and dispose of, in a sanitary manner, feces left by a dog or cat on property, public or private, other than the premises of the owner or handler of such dog or cat." The potential fine is \$200.

Please be neighborly (and obey the law!) by picking up after your dog!



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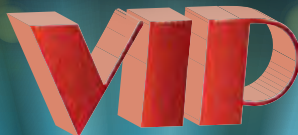
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SOCIAL GROUPS

CONTACT INFO

BUNKO - If you'd like to join or be put on the list as a sub, contact Vallie Marana at valliemarana@gmail.com or 925-408-5206 (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 UNCORKED - Wine lovers of Jester, unite! Join our ever-growing group of wine lovers. Contact Karen Kershaw at kershaw@me.com.

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@yahoogroups.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.

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



Saturday, April 27th, 11 am

**6th ANNUAL LAKE TRAVIS SPRINGFEST RETURNS TO BEE CAVE AT A NEW
VENUE; THE BACKYARD LIVE OAK AMPHITHEATER**

The **Lake Travis Chamber of Commerce** will bring **SpringFest** back to Bee Cave at a new venue, **The Backyard at Bee Cave**. Presented by **St. David's Emergency Center**, **SpringFest** will be bigger and better than ever. The one day community festival filled with shopping, food, music and fun for the whole family is always the last Saturday in April.

SpringFest kicks off at 11AM on Saturday, April 27th. "It is the BIGGEST time in the smallest town with vendor and merchant shopping galore, a KidZone the size of a football field, a boat expo featuring the latest and greatest in watercraft and a BBQ cook-off to determine this year's **Lake Travis Rib King**. **New this year is a Craft BrewHaus with specialty craft beers from the Hill Country and Austin**", says **SpringFest** Chair, Will Mitchell.

"We look forward to another electrifying event in Bee Cave," says Laura Mitchell, IOM, President of the Chamber. "This amazing festival is a fun event for all ages filled with great music, a huge KidZone and unique shopping."

Everyone is welcome, and **admission is FREE!** Parking will be \$10 per car. For more information on live music show times, vendor and BBQ cook-off applications for **SpringFest**, visit **LakeTravisSpringFest.com**.



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April Events

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| Apr. 6 | Texas VegFest <i>Plant based meals, kids' activities, sampling, & live music</i> | Fiesta Gardens texasvegfest.com |
| Apr. 6 | A Taste of Health: Austin Chef Showdown <i>Free food and free entry. Sample the best tasting healthy food by 15 Austin restaurants!</i> | Palmer Auditorium austinchefshowdown.com |
| Apr. 6 - 7 | Zilker Garden Festival <i>Family-friendly event with vendors, garden talks and more</i> | Zilker Botanical Garden zilker garden.org |
| Apr. 7 | Capitol 10K <i>Silly to serious...walk it, jog it or run it – just don't miss it!</i> | Barton Springs / S. Congress statesman.com/cap10k |
| Apr. 10 | Bon Jovi "Because We Can – The Tour" <i>All American rock band supporting their newest album</i> | Frank Erwin Center uterwincenter.com |
| Apr. 12 - 13 | Zoppe Italian Family Circus <i>Acrobatics, equestrian show, canine capers and clowns</i> | Long Center - West Lawn thelongcenter.org |
| Apr. 13 | Pat Benatar & Neil Giraldo <i>Grammy and American award winners perform</i> | The Moody Theater acl-live.com |
| Apr. 14 - 15 | Art City Austin - Original artwork & award-winning live music | artallianceaustin.org |
| Apr. 15 | Chicago <i>The first American band to chart Top 40 albums in five decades</i> | The Moody Theater acl-live.com |
| Apr. 19 - 21 | Austin Auto Show <i>Consumers to compare styling and pricing of virtually every major vehicle line under one roof in just a few short hours</i> | Austin Convention Center 479-0425 autoshowaustin.com |
| Apr. 26 - 28 | Austin Food and Wine Festival <i>The best chefs and wineries pair their best!</i> | Various Locations austinfoodandwinefestival.com |
| Apr. 27 | Eeyore's 50th Annual Birthday Party | Pease Park: eeyores.com |
| Apr. 27 | Carrie Underwood "Blown Away Tour" | cedarparkcenter.com |
| Apr. 28 | Willie Nelson & Family - With Lucas Nelson and Promise of the Real, Paula Nelson Band, Folk Uke | The Backyard thebackyard.net |

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