



The Jester Warbler

Official Publication of Jester Homeowners Association, Inc.

September 2013

Volume 8, Issue 9

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The Jester Board met on Monday, June 24th, and received reports from the Treasurer, Social Committee, and Firewise Committee. Other topics at the meeting included Jester Wild median landscaping needs, updates planned for Jester website email contact information, and a discussion on speed bumps in Jester. The HOA will research getting "No Solicitation" signs for the neighborhood as well as contact Lakewood's HOA to see if such signs have proved effective and/or if they have adopted any other practices to deter solicitation there.

The Firewise Committee was represented by Janice Toreki. She reported that nearly 50 homes have received fire safety assessments done by the Austin Fire Department and trained neighborhood volunteers. There is still opportunity to have home assessments done if you sign up on

(Continued on Page 4)



GARAGE SALE

Fall Garage Sale

Register your location so you can get maximum exposure!

JHA is sponsoring a Jester Garage sale on Saturday October 5th 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, October 5th
8:00 AM

BE A GOOD JESTER NEIGHBOR

by Alyssa Drury

As Summer comes to a close, we hope you have enjoyed this time with family, friends, kids at home, traveling, or just enjoying all that Austin has to offer. With the start of a new season, we would like to take this opportunity to share a few friendly reminders to keep Jester safe and looking its best this Fall.

Be mindful of speeding: we are all witness to residents speeding throughout the day up and down our hills, especially during the busy rush hours...please always drive at the designated 30 mph speed limit at all times...and always watch out for children playing on the sidewalks or in front yards, and especially as they are walking to and from their bus stop locations with school now starting.

Handling of garbage cans: we have received many complaints about garbage cans that are being left out in front of homes either too long after our trash pick-up day or even throughout the entire week...please take care to return your garbage can to inside your garage or behind a fence or other covered area to help perpetuate a sense of tidiness in our neighborhood...a neighborhood that is well-maintained and free of trash, debris, and unsightly garbage cans in front yards is beneficial to all of us homeowners...furthermore, the City of Austin states:

"Garbage carts must be returned to their storage area on private property by 10 p.m. on the designated collection day. They should be placed at the curb by 6:30 a.m. on collection day but not prior to 8 p.m. the evening before."

For more information on trash collection or to file a complaint about someone who is negligent with their garbage cans, please contact the City of Austin at 3-1-1 or visit: <http://www.austintexas.gov/page/common-code-violations>

Solicitation: please continue to be aware of the many solicitors that frequent our neighborhood...we are in the process of researching how to better address solicitation in Jester as it has become a nuisance to our many residents...if you notice a solicitor who seems suspicious or a suspicious-looking vehicle as someone is going from door-to-door, do not hesitate to contact 9-1-1

Thank you, as always, for your support of the neighborhood. We all strive to make it a beautiful and safe environment for our families and the new families looking to join us in Jester. Enjoy all the excitement that Fall brings from back-to-school activities to college football, and hopefully...some cooler weather on the horizon!

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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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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!**

Presidents Corner (Continued from Cover Page)

the HOA website. She also mentioned that Jeff Shapiro completed the application for the neighborhood "Firewise Community" certification from the City of Austin. Stop by to check out the new sunshade at the Jester Club pool, and remember there are lots of rewards for club members who help recruit new members to join. Please contact jesterclubmanager@yahoo.com for more details.

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Diana Miller, President

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JESTER WILDLIFE HABITAT



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If you have recently had your yard certified and have put up a habitat sign, let me know and I will take a picture of the sign in front of your house for a future Warbler.

If your yard has been certified in the past but you have just put up your sign, let me know that too. We want every one of our 176 certified yards to show off their love for habitat with a sign, which is the best way for neighbors to get on board to protect our environment and keep Jester a Green Neighborhood.

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Nature Watch by Jim and Lynne Weber

DIVINE PORCUPINES

What has feet like a bear, claws like a badger, teeth like a beaver, fur like sheep's wool, and barbed spines like a cactus? Why none other than the Common Porcupine (*Erethizon dorsatum*)! Found across most of North America and in west Texas east to Travis and Williamson counties, porcupines are truly fascinating creatures. Even their scientific name is descriptive, translating to 'the irritable back' or 'one who rises up in anger.'

Porcupines are the second largest rodent (only the beaver is larger) and are nocturnal mammals, appearing blackish overall with a small head, chunky body, a high arching back, short legs, and a thick, muscular tail. Their back, sides, and tail are covered with an average of 30,000 quills that are yellowish-white with dark, barbed tips. These quills or hollow spines are one of three types of hairs that cover their body, the others being coarse guard hairs and a dense, bristly undercoat.

Contrary to popular belief, porcupines do not throw their quills, but they most certainly use them for defense. When a porcupine senses danger, it lifts its quills to a vertical position, waggles its tail from side to side, and if the threat persists it will whirl around and present its backside, all while advancing in a backward position. Teeth chattering and tail thrashing continue, and that is when loose quills about to be shed are dislodged. Luck plays a part if some of these quills find a target, but no aiming or throwing occurs. Porcupine quills are normally flattened against their bodies unless the animal is disturbed or involved in mating. Once lodged in their attacker, however, they are painful and very difficult to remove. They often work their way into the skin and may even cause death if they puncture vital organs or embed in the face and prevent their attacker from feeding.

In our area porcupines are rarely seen, but they do exist mainly along streams and rivers, and in brushy, upland juniper habitats. They enjoy rock crevices and caves as den sites, and may even use hollow logs or the upturned root system of a large tree. During the warmer months, they often travel between dens, and while they don't hibernate in winter, they do stay close to one den in winter. In spring and summer they eat herbaceous ground vegetation, and in the cooler months they hunt for mistletoe and the inner bark of various trees. In fact, even though they are near-sighted and appear awkward in their movements, porcupines are expert tree climbers and can move about on small branches and twigs to feed on tender new growth. Interestingly, porcupines are the only native North American mammals with antibiotics present in their skin. They prevent infection should a porcupine fall out of a tree and stick itself with its own quills when hitting the ground.

Porcupines mate in late summer and early fall, peaking in late September and early October. Typically, only one young porcupette is born in April or May, fully covered in quills that harden just hours after birth. Soon after, they learn to climb trees, going up headfirst and learning to back down after a few headfirst tumbles. Porcupines reach maturity after a few years, and may live close to 10 years in the wild. How divine!

*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.*

Welcome

A NEW ADDITION
TO THE JESTER NEIGHBORHOOD!



*James and Jenny Ryan of Berrycone Cove
announce the arrival of their son, Jacob Sawyer
Ryan, born on July 27th. Jacob weighed in at 7
lbs, 4 ozs and was 19.75" long. Jacob is the first
child for James and Jenny.*



Jacob Sawyer Ryan



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WELCOME COMMITTEE NEWS

It was another huge month for the Welcome Committee with 7 deliveries completed out of a potential 10 new neighbors. The other residents weren't home or hadn't moved in yet. It was quite a summer! In fact, it's been quite a year. Fortunately the members of the committee enjoy meeting the new neighbors and welcoming them to Jester. We also see the results of many beautiful renovations.

Deliveries were made to:

- Mark and Trix on the 7200 block of Foxtree Cove. They moved up the hill from the Lakewood neighborhood.
- Chase and Carrie with children Reese and James, and dog Hazel on the 7300 block of Anaqua. They moved from Colorado. They've probably found July and August Texas heat different than what they had in Colorado!
- Cheryl and Jeff with their 2 children and dog on the 7900 block of Jester. They moved from North Carolina.
- Sarah and Jeff with daughter Samantha on the 7300 block of Halbert.
- Sangram and Akanksha and boys Laksh and Nishk on Cat Tail Cove.
- Saira and Dave with their children Olivia (7) and Alex (4) on the 8200 block of Crabtree.

We also left a welcome bag on the doorstep of a new resident on Fawnhollow Cove. They weren't home but we heard from a little birdie (actually a neighbor) that they're newlyweds and have already moved in.

If you have a new resident on your block, and many of us do, please introduce yourself and see if there are any questions you can answer. We love hearing that new residents have been welcomed before we are able to deliver 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.



Mark and Trix



*Sarah and Jeff with daughter
Samantha*



Jeff and dog Louis



*Saira and Dave with children
Olivia and Alex*

Jester Estates Stork Report

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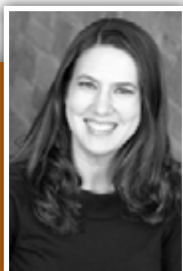
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SOCIAL GROUPS

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.

HILL 2013 KINDERGARTEN GROUP - This group is helping connect Jester families with others who also have children entering Hill Kindergarten in the Fall 2013. Email Jester resident, Kevin Fricke at Kevin@lonestarmedia.com to be added to our email distribution list.

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@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 Nicky Shore at Shoren@me.com.

KAYAKING - Have some fun with this great water sport!

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

SOLAR TESTIMONIAL FOR 7202 FOXTREE COVE

by Dale Bulla

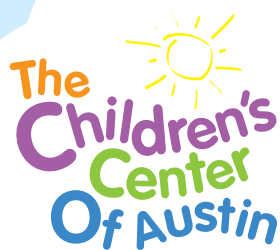
Our first 3 kilowatt hour solar panels were installed in 2004 and we added 2.2 kWhs in 2009. Other than the replacement of an inverter we have not had additional expenses and have enjoyed no electric bills for the last 4 years. When we bought our electric Nissan Leaf car in 2011, we thought that we would finally have to pay a little but we are still producing more electricity each year than we use.

In 2012, we produced 697 more kilowatt hours of electricity than we used for a total bill of -\$9.30 for the entire year. Yes, that is a minus in front of the number. Because of the new solar credits from Austin Energy, \$.128 per kWh, which began last October, our current electricity credit balance is -\$118.45, as of June. This is even with driving our electric car, which now had almost 20,000 miles, so we are driving on sunshine. If we were to buy these solar panels today, they would cost less than half of what we paid for them.

There are now programs available with little or no money down and using the savings from your electric generation to pay off the low interest loan. We have over 30 homes in Jester now with



Solar PV. If you are one of these Jester residents and would like to share your solar experience, for a future testimonial, let me know.


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A FOCUS ON BACKPACK SAFETY TIPS

By: Concentra Urgent Care

WEAR BOTH STRAPS

The use of one strap causes one side of the body to bear the weight of the backpack. By using two shoulder straps, the weight of the backpack is evenly distributed.

WEAR OVER STRONGEST MID-BACK MUSCLES

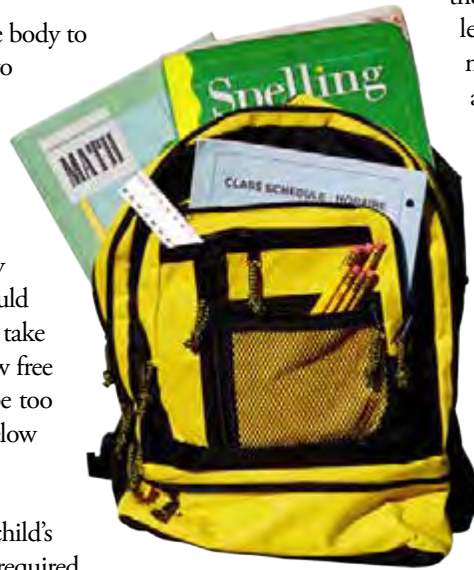
Pay close attention to the way the backpack is positioned on the back. It should rest evenly in the middle of the back. Shoulder straps should be adjusted to allow the child to put on and take off the backpack without difficulty and allow free movement of the arms. Straps should not be too loose, and the backpack should not extend below the low back.

LIGHTEN THE LOAD

Keep the load at 10%-15% or less of the child's body weight. Carry only those items that are required for the day. Organize the contents of the backpack by placing the heaviest items closest to the back. Some students have two sets of books, so as not to have to carry the heavy books to and from school.

PROPER BACKPACK USAGE

While a backpack is still one of the best ways to tote homework, an overloaded or improperly worn backpack gets a failing grade, according to the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA). Improper backpack use can cause injury, especially to children with young, growing muscles and joints. Injury can occur when a child, in trying to adapt to a heavy load, uses harmful postures such as arching the back, leaning forward or, if only one strap is used, leaning to one side. According to physical therapists, these postural adaptations can cause spinal compression and/or improper alignment, and may hamper the proper functioning of the disks between the vertebrae that provide a shock absorption. A too-heavy load also causes muscles and soft tissues of



the back to work harder, leading to strain and fatigue. This leaves the back more vulnerable to injury. A heavy load may also cause stress or compression to the shoulders and arms. When nerves are compressed, the child may experience tingling or numbness in the arms.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A BACKPACK

Physical therapists recommend the following features when selecting a backpack:

- A padded back to reduce pressure on the back and prevent the pack's contents from digging into the child's back
- A waist belt to help distribute some of the load to the pelvis
- Compression straps on the sides or bottom of the backpack that, when tightened, compress the contents of the backpack and stabilize the articles
- Reflective material so that the child is visible to drivers at night

THE RESULTS

Worn correctly and not overloaded, a backpack is supported by some of the strongest muscles in the body: the back and abdominal muscles. These muscle groups work together to stabilize the trunk and hold the body in proper postural alignment.

HOW A PHYSICAL THERAPIST CAN HELP

A physical therapist can help you choose a proper backpack and fit it specifically to your child. Children come in all shapes and sizes, and some have physical limitations that require special adaptations. Additionally, a physical therapist can help improve posture problems, correct muscle imbalances, and treat pain that can result from improper backpack use. Physical therapists can also design individualized fitness programs to help children get strong and stay strong – and carry their own loads.

For more information on backpack safety, visit the American Physical Therapy Association at www.apta.org.

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September Events

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Sept. 5 - 15	Grease -- The one that you want is back!	citytheatreaustin.org
Sept. 8	Asleep at the Wheel: On Screen and On Stage! <i>Documentary film debut about the 9-time Grammy-award winning Western Swing band, followed by a full concert</i>	The Long Center thelongcenter.org
Sept. 10	Bryan Batt -- Star of TV's Mad Men, "Batt On A Hot Tin Roof"	zachtheatre.org
Sept. 13 - 15	A Midsummer Night's Dream - Ballet Austin	thelongcenter.org
Sept. 14	Dripping with Taste Wine & Food Festival <i>Wineries, restaurants, chefs, caterers, artisans, and musicians!</i>	drippingwithtaste.org
Sept. 14	Jerry Jeff Walker	acl-live.com
Sept. 14	The Color Run -- The Happiest 5K on the Planet!	thecolorrun.com/Austin
Sept. 18	2013 Honda Civic Tour featuring Maroon 5 with Kelly Clarkson and PJ Morton	Austin 360 Amphitheater austin360amphitheater.com
Sept. 19 - 26	Fantastic Fest: 8-day Film Festival <i>Featuring a range of genres: full feature and short films</i>	fantasticfest.com
Sept. 21 - 22	Menopause the Musical <i>Parodies from the classics of the '60s and '70s and '80s</i>	The Long Center thelongcenter.org
Sept. 22 - 23	Piccadilly Circus <i>Man & beast together in perfect harmony. Agile acrobats! Motorcycle Madness! Comedic circus clowns!</i>	Travis County Expo Center 512-854-4900 quarteroff.com
Sept. 26	Steve Miller Band -- One of rock music's all-time greats	acl-live.com
Sept. 27	"The Color Purple" -- The Musical about Love	uterwincenter.com
Sept. 28 - 29	Old Pecan Street Fall Festival <i>Musicians, food vendors, artists and craftspeople turn 6th street into a lively street fair</i>	6th Street 512-443-6179 oldpecanstreetfestival.com

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