

Official Publication of Jester Homeowners Association, Inc.

February 2014 Volume 9, Issue 2

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

In response to the many emails and "burglary" and "suspicious vehicle" concerns raised in November and December, the Jester HOA hosted a meeting with Officer Jack Eastland, our district representative. About 30-40 people attended on a rainy morning, Saturday, December 20. The discussion was informative to put the situation in perspective and review what residents should do to aid Austin Police Department to protect Jester.

Jack provided crime safety tips that can be downloaded from the JesterNeighbors.com web site. http://www.jesterneighbors.com/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=OVM0MGXsjd4%3d&tabid=3179&mid=4257

A summary of the discussion and Jack's information:

- Jester and west Austin are one of the safest neighborhoods. There have been increased emails and postings on house burglaries. While there have been some burglaries in Jester and Lakewood, there were 2 arrests which Austin Police believed were responsible for about 20 similar cases in Austin.
- Crimeviewer data for Jester shows there are fewer theft related crime reports in 2013 vs 2012 (30 vs 50). It is true that Q4 incidents are up from Q1-Q3 2013. As Jack pointed out, this is seasonal. Q4 2013 incident reports are about the same count as Q4 2012.
- Jack said burglars are opportunistic. They tend to not target homes with people, dogs, or locked doors.
- -Some Jester residents may be perceiving crime to be larger than it is. Jester is communicating more which is good for raising awareness and working with Austin PD. A site to search for incidents where police officers have filed reports (all 911 calls are not listed) is http://www.austintexas.gov/GIS/crimeviewer/CrimeReportSearch.html
- Residents should call 911 when suspicious behavior is witnessed. Descriptions of vehicles, people, why you feel the incident is suspicious, location, and direction they were traveling help detectives by providing pieces of information. Police cannot stop someone without probable cause.
- Jack and the Jester HOA will keep in touch on this topic. Jack can be reached at 512 974 5549 jack.eastland@austintexas.gov

The Jester Board is in the process of forming a 2014 Security Committee that will work to get new "Neighborhood Watch" signage and other security related matters. Thank you all for your involvement, email alerts and efforts to be good neighbors! Keep in mind that our efforts may have increased patrols in this neighborhood, so please be extra careful to not speed and wear your seat belt.

Jester is a Great place to live, Diana Miller President

JESTER HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION AND JUAL MEETING Thursday, Feb 20th at 7 PM Social Happy Hour will Follow the Meeting Registration starts at 6:30 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

PET REGISTRY • SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS: ONLINE & VIA EMAIL • ONLINE SUGGESTION BOX: MAKE SUGGESTIONS TO THE ASSOCIATION BOARD • IMPORTANT HOMEOWNER ASSOCIATION **DOCUMENTS...& MUCH MORE**



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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!**

I Need Help **Updating Our Green** Neighborhood Website by Dale Bulla

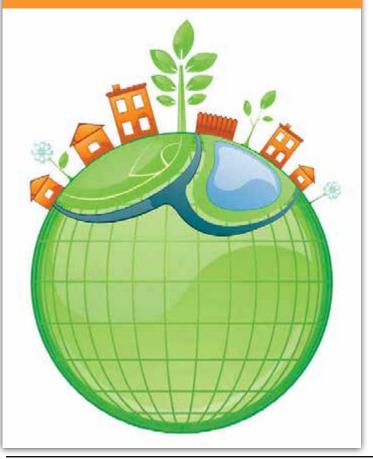
It is that time of the year for us to update our Green Neighborhood website with the City of Austin. Each January we add figures to the number of Certified NWF Habitats, solar panels, plug-in and hybrid vehicles, etc. If you have had your yard certified this last year or if you have purchased solar panels, a partial zero emission vehicle, zero emission vehicle, hybrid vehicle, please call me or send me an email so I can add this info to our city website. NO personal information will not appear on the website, just numbers. Each year our numbers seem to get better and better as we continue to green our neighborhood. Check out our green neighborhood website:

http://www.austintexas.gov/content/1361/FAQ/3002

Click on "Who are Austin's certified Green Neighborhoods?" and scroll down until you see Jester.

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Dale Bulla | 512-345-9528 | dale-bulla@pobox.com





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Austin Energy Power Saver Program

by Dale Bulla

Are you aware of the "Power Saver Program" through Austin Energy? There are rebates, loans, inspections and free home improvements offered through this program. Here are two examples:

Home Energy Analysis – homes aged ten years or more need an energy analysis. An energy analysis will tell you how efficiently your home uses energy. This knowledge can result in lower electric bills, a more comfortable home and improved air quality for better health. By going through one of the City of Austin's Participating Companies you can receive rebates up to 20% of certain improvements.

Duct Diagnostic – ducts in the average 10–15 year old home leak 15% to 40% of the home's heating and cooling right into the attic. Leaking ducts can also affect air quality in your home. They can pull dust and other pollutants into your air system.

For additional information on these programs and other offers go to the Austin Energy website at www.austinenergy.com



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NATUREWATCH

by Jim and Lynne Weber

Early Bloomers

February is a time of change in central Texas, with temperatures often ranging from the 20s to the 80s, and it is precisely these large swings in temperature that create challenges for local wildlife. Finding food is essential, and for the little things like insects that emerge in early spring, they rely heavily on the early bloomers in our native landscape.

Elbowbush (Forestiera pubescens), also commonly called Stretchberry or Spring Herald, is a multi-branched deciduous shrub with smooth gray bark, long arched branches, and light green leaves. It is most conspicuous, though, in late January and early February, when small, yellow, petal-less flowers begin to burst in small clusters on the bare twigs. Common in open woodlands, brushy areas, and near streams, its early flowering period provides nectar for native bees and small spring butterflies, namely the Gray Hairstreak and Juniper Hairstreak. It gets its common name from branches that typically form in right angles to one another, it produces a quarter-inch, fleshy, dark blue fruit often devoured by wildlife in the summer, and its leaves turn a unique chartreuse color in the fall.

Texas Redbud (Cercis canadensis var. texensis) is a well-known landscape tree, popular for its early spring pink-purple blooms that appear on bare branches before the leaves emerge. Found on the limestone soils from southern Oklahoma through central Texas to northeastern Mexico, this small tree is more drought-tolerant than its eastern cousins, and its blooms continue as the heart to kidney shaped glossy leaves develop. It is an important early spring plant for many pollinators, including bees and moths, and is one of the larval host plants for Henry's Elfin butterfly. Flat, reddish-brown fruits form in late summer and prolong into winter, and in the fall its leaves turn reddish gold.

Often mistaken for Texas Redbud at a distance, Mexican Buckeye (Ungnadia speciosa) is a small to medium multi-trunked tree with



Elbowbush



Mexican Buckeye



Texas Redbud



Mexican Plum

light gray to brown bark, and leaves up to 12 inches long having a central axis supporting 2 to 6 paired leaflets. In late February and early March, just before or with the appearance of the leaves, clusters of bright pink fragrant flowers are borne from the axils of the previous growing season. This plant also beckons the early Henry's Elfin butterfly, allowing it to feed on the flower nectar and lay its eggs on the emerging foliage. Native bees begin to produce fragrant honey from the flowers, and moths nectar on them at night. The fruit is a distinctive 3 lobed capsule containing 1 to 3 dark brown to black shiny seeds, often persisting into the winter, and its leaves turn a golden brown in the fall. A member of the Soapberry family, this plant is not a true buckeye but is called such due to its similar-looking capsules and seeds.

Mexican Plum (Prunus mexicana) or Bigtree Plum is a singe-trunked tree with very fragrant, showy white flowers that appear in February before the emergence of the leaves. It is the common wild plum of the forest-prairie border from Missouri and eastern Kansas to Texas. Mature trunks are a satiny blue-gray with darker, horizontal striations fairly typical of fruit trees. Its leaves are oral-shaped, thick and wrinkled, with serrated margins, and turn orange to reddish purple in the fall. The plums ripen from July to September, and while often consumed by birds, humans, and other mammals, it is the blooms that feed a multitude of insects and the leaves that provide food for the larva of the Tiger Swallowtail butterfly and Cecropia silkmoth.

Why not plant these early bloomers in your landscape, as they not only provide year round food for local wildlife year, but they are also our heralds of the coming spring!

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.

WILDFIRE SAFETY REMAINS A FOCUS IN JESTER

By Jeffrey Shapiro, Jester Firewise Committee Chairman

While we can continue to hope for rain this Spring, another wildfire season is quickly approaching, and the prevailing dry conditions at the start of 2014 aren't encouraging. Everyone in Jester needs to be aware that the beautiful wildlands that surround us also pose a firesafety risk.

SPECIAL FIREWISE PROJECT: A particular safety concern of the Jester Firewise Committee and the Austin Fire Department has been the single route of access to the back half of the neighborhood. If a wildfire were to impede Jester Boulevard, there is no alternative escape route or access for incoming fire apparatus. Accordingly, wildland areas along Jester Boulevard warrant special focus, and during the week of January 13th, the fire department, with special permission of Balconies Preserve conservators, conducted a fuel

management project in the Preserve near the Jester Club property (vicinity of Jester and Redbay).

The goal of this project was creating a "buffer" zone to reduce the threat to Jester Boulevard and adjacent private property from a wildfire in the Preserve. However, the work also helps to protect endangered species habitat and other natural resources in the preserve by reducing the risk of a fire extending from private property into the Preserve.

The project was significant in a number of ways. First, it served a pilot project for the Preserve, which has traditionally been off limits for such work. Jester was selected for this project because we have demonstrated a community-wide commitment to wildfire safety on our side of the property line (remember our successful "30-feet for Firesafety" project last year?). Second, the Jester project will be showcased region-wide as a demonstration of "best practices" fuel management and an illustration of how attractive and wildlife friendly properly managed landscaping can be, in addition to being fire safe. If this project is viewed as successful by Balconies Preserve stakeholders, it will help clear the way for future projects to be conducted here and in other areas of the Preserve.

Jester owes a big "THANK YOU!" to the Austin Fire Department, and particularly the fuels management team that performed the work near the Jester Club. I encourage all Jester residents to check out how nice it looks vs. the previous overgrown appearance (see before and after photos...contrary to popular belief, Firewise landscaping doesn't



Jester Boulevard at Redbay before the project



Redbay Court being made Firewise (notice limbed-up trees and removal of ground level brush)

mean clear-cutting your lot!). We also owe appreciation to Austin Resource Recovery (who hauled off the "biomass" removed by the AFD team) and to the folks at the Austin Watershed Protection Department and the Austin Water Utility for their support of our pilot project.

JESTER RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR FIRESAFETY: I would also like to announce that Jester has been awarded national recognition as a "Firewise Community" based on our ongoing efforts to improve wildfire safety. Nationwide, there are less than 1,000 communities with this distinction. Firewise Community status is significant because it improves our ability to qualify for funded fuel management projects, such as the one being done around the Jester Club.

THE NEXT "30-FEET FOR FIRESAFETY" EVENT: I also want to let everyone know that the Jester

Firewise Committee has been working with the City of Austin to gain approval for a repeat of last year's "30-feet for Firesafety" event before March 1, which marks the beginning of "bird season." This event will require special pickup arrangements with Austin Resource Recovery, and we are trying to set that up. Watch for a special announcement via the Jester neighbors' email blast (register for this at www.jesterneighbors.com) and signs posted at the neighborhood entrance, if we get the necessary approvals. Specially trained Jester residents are available to provide you with a FREE Firewise risk evaluation of your property, which will give you good suggestions on how you can improve the chances for your home to survive a wildfire. To make a request, go to http://tinyurl.com/jesterfirewise. Questions...email us at firewise@jesterneighbors.com.

SPECIAL MESSAGE FOR THOSE WHO LIVE ALONG THE CANYON EDGE: It's come to our attention that some homeowners along the canyon edge are clearing slopes and disposing of trimmings by piling them at the bottom of the slope. Please know that this actually INCREASES fire danger by providing a big source of dead wood that will send burning embers up the slope and into the neighborhood. These embers not only put your property at significant risk of ignition, but they also greatly increase the danger of igniting homes much further into the neighborhood. PLEASE DON'T DUMP TRIMMINGS AT THE BOTTOM OF YOUR LOT!

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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 kershawk@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!

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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- 2. Eggs A form of well-absorbed protein, healthy fats and Vitamin D (found in the egg yolk). Eggs also contain lecithin, which promotes healthy liver function, thereby helping the body to burn fat.
- 3. Salmon High in omega-3 fatty acids, salmon reduces inflammation in the body and lowers LDL and triglyceride levels while raising good HDL levels. Salmon also has a beneficial effect on leptin (hunger hormone) levels in the body, which means it helps to suppress your appetite.
- 4. Nuts Another source of fiber and rich in omega-3s, these fats help to regulate blood sugar and protect the heart and the immune system.
- 5. Grapefruit & Berries These fruits contain slow-digesting carbs and are rich in fat-fighting fiber. Strawberries, raspberries, blueberries and blackberries all are loaded with soluble fiber and antioxidants that protect blood vessels and promote healthy blood

flow.

- 6. Avocado It's got fat, yes, but the good kind! The monounsaturated fats found in avocado are burned readily for fuel during exercise and actually encourage fat burning. Good source of fiber and antioxidants.
- 7. Leafy Greens Broccoli, specifically, is a fibrous carb that can make you feel full quickly—one reason why it's a great food for getting lean. Broccoli also contains phytochemicals that can help enhance fat loss.
- 8. Cinnamon Helps to reduce blood sugar levels, which in turn prevents the body from storing sugar as fat. Add it to your oatmeal and yogurt to enhance flavor without adding calories.
- 9. Green Tea Drink this! Not only is green tea packed with antioxidants, it also contains catechins, a phytochemical that helps speed up metabolism and burn more fat.
- 10. Beans & Legumes Great sources of protein and they normalize insulin levels and help keep your blood sugar steady throughout the day. Black beans, Garbanzo beans, red beans and lentils are all great to incorporate into your diet.



Jester Estates

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February Events

Complime	its of Teresa Gouldie 751-8000 Cold	well baliker, United	
Feb. 7 - 8	Monster Truck	Travis County Expo Center	
Feb. 9	Peking Acrobats	The Long Center	
	Breathtaking, gravity-defying showmanship, rooted in	thelongcenter.org	
	ancient Chinese traditions		
Feb. 15	Peter Pan - Adapted version of this classic tale empowers	One World Theatre	
	children to create their own world of make-believe	oneworldtheatre.org	
Feb. 15	Faerie Luminaries - Create fabulous faerie woodland	Zilker Botanical Garden	
	luminaries to take home and hang on woodland trails	zilkergarden.org	
Feb. 19 - 22	Austin Energy Regional Science Festival	Palmer Events Center	
	One of Texas' largest regional science fairs, with almost	sciencefest.org	
	3000 students from 3rd through 12th grades		
Feb. 19 -	Wicked	Bass Concert Hall	
Mar. 9	Broadway's biggest blockbuster	texasperformingarts.org	
Feb. 21	The Guess Who	One World Theatre	
	One of the most celebrated bands of all time	oneworldtheatre.org	
Feb. 21	Preservation Hall Jazz Band	Paramount Theatre	
	One-night-only evening of jazz	austintheatre.org	
Feb. 21	Gala of Royal Horses	Frank Erwin Center	
	World-renowned equestrian tour comes to North America	uterwincenter.com	
Feb. 21 - 22	The Cat in the Hat - Mischief and mayhem and laughter	Zach Theatre	
	galore, bring the kids – they'll clamor for more!	zachtheatre.org	
Feb. 21 - 23	Austin Jugglefest - Three days of circus art, juggling and	juggling.place.org/	
	unicycling with demos, workshops & plenty of games	jugglefest	
Feb. 22 - 23	That Takes the Cake!	thattakesthecake.org	
	Sugar art show, classes and cake competition		
Feb. 26 -	Varekai Cirque du Soleil	Cedar Park Center	
Mar. 2	A dream-like forest with fantastical creatures	cedarparkcenter.com	
Feb. 28	Lily Tomlin	Paramount Theatre	
	One of America's foremost comediennes	austintheatre.org	
servi	serving JESTER Just a Little Closer to Heaven!		
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The Jester Warbler - February 2014