



# The Jester Warbler

Official Publication of Jester Homeowners Association, Inc.

March 2014

Volume 9, Issue 3

## YARD OF THE MONTH Program to be Launched in Jester

*From the Jester's Homeowner Association*

The Homeowner's Association for the Jester neighborhood has approved a Yard of the Month program. Set to begin in January 2014, the goal of the program is to recognize those Jester residents who consistently demonstrate pride of home ownership through beautifully maintained and landscaped properties. Although there are many of these within the neighborhood, only one property will be chosen each month. With the awardee's permission, a sign will be placed in the winner's yard which recognizes their Yard of the Month status and a picture of their property in the Jester newsletter, the Warbler.

This is your neighborhood program so we encourage all residents to nominate properties they feel are attractive and consistently maintained with a very pleasing public view. The Jester Homeowner's Association Board will review all the submitted nomination properties and vote on the winner from the all the nominees each month. Nominations must be submitted by the end of each month and properties may be nominated more than once but can only win once in a rolling twelve month period.

You can help make this program a success through your active participation. We expect a lot of nominations, even in the winter!

*Please submit your nomination  
by address and include your  
name via e-mail to:*

**JesterHOA\_board@att.net**



## JESTER EASTER EGG HUNT & PETTING ZOO

**Saturday, April 12th  
9:30 am @ Jester Club**

*(Note: This is the weekend  
before Easter weekend!)*

Please drop off one dozen eggs per child  
(filled with candy, money, stickers, etc....  
but no chocolate, please!) Look for  
drop-off signs posted at various locations  
in the neighborhood.



## Protect Austin's Oaks

Avoid all pruning during our temperate months (February 1st – June 30th). It's that time of year again – time to avoid pruning Oak trees until July.

This seasonal avoidance of Oak pruning should be followed in order to avoid the spread of Oak Wilt, a fatal disease that affects Oak trees. Oak Wilt is caused by a fungus that infects the tree and inhibits the transport of water, which in most cases causes the death of the infected tree.

Learn more about the disease and how it spreads. Go to [www.texasoakwilt.org](http://www.texasoakwilt.org). Once the most dangerous season for Oak wilt has passed be sure and always follow the proper guidelines for pruning Oak trees during.

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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](http://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](http://www.JesterNeighbors.com)

Community Registration Code: 3328

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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  
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*Community Registration Code: 3328 -  
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# Welcome

## A New Addition To the Jester Neighborhood

### Francesca Pia Canuto



Veronica and Luis Canuto of Kolache Cove proudly announce the birth of their first daughter, Francesca Pia Canuto on December 13th. Francesca weighed in at 6 lbs, 13 ozs. Our neighborhood joins you in celebrating the arrival of your new bundle of joy!



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# WELCOME COMMITTEE NEWS

The Welcome Committee has continued to deliver Welcome Bags this winter to new families in Jester Estates. All 7 of the Welcome Committee members were able to do deliveries this month so we split up the 10 potential deliveries. There were 12 new sales since the last article but we knew that 2 hadn't moved in yet and were doing renovations.

While doing the deliveries we found two other homes that were clearly in the renovation stage. It's great to see the new residents doing upgrades to houses here in Jester.

We also left 3 bags on doorsteps, on the 7300 block of Holly Fern, to Penni and Eric on the 7300 block of Anaqua and to Chris and Natalie on the 7300 block of Bluntleaf Cove.

We were fortunate enough to find 5 residents at home: They all moved from within Texas, most within Central Texas. They are:

- Jeran and Janet who live on Willheather Glen. They are long time Austinites and are enjoying their new neighborhood and meeting their new neighbors.

- Brad and Liz with 16 month old daughter Collins and dog Penny. They live on the 8100 block of Amelia Cove. Brad's a native Austinite, and they moved from another house in Austin.

- Patrick and Marge, who live on the 6600 block of Beauford Drive, just near the entrance to Jester. Patrick's been in the states for 17 years but was originally from Ireland.

- Debra and her tiny poodle Cricket are in the process of moving from Houston to their new home on the 6700 block of Beauford Drive. Debra's son lives here in town, and she's looking forward to being closer to him.

- Ryan and Kristin with their 8 year old twins Luke and Logan and their 3 year old son Reid have moved from Round Rock to the 6900 block of Jester Boulevard. The boys enjoy sports.

If you're neighbors of these new residents, please stop in and welcome them.

Please contact JoAnn Welles at (512) 346-0349 or joannwelles@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.



*Jeran on Willheather Cove*



*Patrick and Marge on Beauford*



*Debra and Cricket on Beauford*

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## Recycling Reminder NO PLASTIC BAGS IN YOUR BLUE BIN

*by Dale Bulla*

I have noticed that some of our residents are not aware of the restrictions on plastic bags for the blue recycling bins. Even though it is on the label fastened to the lid, some have not noticed that Styrofoam and plastic bags are to go in the trash bin not the recycling blue bin.

I have learned from the single stream folks that any recyclables in a plastic bag will be discarded in the pre sorting process and go to the landfill. Also, there is a good chance that if a truckload has lots of plastic bags, the entire load could be discarded. The plastic bags evidently clog up the whole automated sorting process and it takes quite a while to remove the plastic bags from the huge teeth that shred the recyclables. So please tell your neighbors and friends that plastic bags should go into the trash. You may put your recyclables in paper or cardboard boxes but not plastic bags. Thanks for keeping Jester green!

## Wildlife Habitat

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## NATUREWATCH

by Jim and Lynne Weber

### FLYING CIGARS

While many birds are identified by their patterns, colors, and/or vocalizations, the Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*) is best identified by its silhouette—a smudge gray, streamlined bird, flying deftly overhead and looking a bit like a ‘cigar with wings.’ Its tiny body, curving wings, and stiff, shallow wing beats are as distinct as its high-pitched, chattering call.

Arriving back in central Texas in March after wintering in the upper Amazon Basin of South America, chimney swifts have round heads, short necks, tapered tails, and a wide bill so small it is often difficult to see. Slightly paler on the throat, they are dark gray-brown overall and when backlit against the sky, they can appear to be all black. Chimney swifts fly rapidly with nearly constant wing beats, often banking erratically and twisting from side to side. They frequent lakes, rivers, streams, and fields, where they forage for insects on the wing, often along with swallows.

Spending almost all of its life airborne, chimney swifts have short legs and very small feet and can't perch when they land, so they use their long claws to cling to vertical walls inside chimneys or in hollow trees or caves. Chimney swifts even bathe in flight, gliding down to the water, smacking the surface with their bodies, and bouncing up to shake water from their feathers as they fly away. As European settlers came and built chimneys in America, their numbers surged, but the recent shift to covered, narrow flues has contributed to a decline in their numbers, and they are now classified as a ‘near threatened’ species. As such, many conservation-minded groups are building free-standing towers to provide nesting and roosting locations.

During the non-breeding season, chimney swifts roost together in a single chimney. When breeding, each mating pair occupies any one given chimney, although they may tolerate other non-breeders in their chimney. Using a glue-like saliva from a gland under their tongues, they cement their nests, made of short, dry sticks, to a chimney wall or rock face. Occasionally, an unmated swift may help the breeding pair raise the young, which outgrow the nest after only a few weeks and cling to a nearby wall, often before their eyes are open.

The genus name or *Chaetura*, is a combination of two Greek words: *chaite*, which means ‘bristle’ or ‘spine’, and *oura*, which means ‘tail.’ This aptly describes its tail feathers as the shafts of all ten end in sharp, protruding points. The species name *pelagica* means ‘of the sea’, and is thought to refer to its nomadic lifestyle and migration over the water to and from its wintering grounds.

Like all swifts, these flying cigars consume large numbers of insects each day, including highly maneuverable dragonflies and airborne spiders drifting on silken threads, and they even predate on red imported fire ants. Researchers have estimated that a pair of adults with three nestlings can consume the equivalent of 5000 to 6000 housefly-sized insects per day!



*Send your nature-related questions to [naturewatch@austin.rr.com](mailto: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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# Today's HOT Real Estate Market: What Does It Mean For YOU?

*By Colette Fitzgerald, Realtor®, Broker Associate, CRS  
Jester Estates Resident*

As a Realtor® in Austin over the past 10 years, people have often asked me “So Colette, how’s the real estate market?” My answer is usually the same – “It depends”, which is followed by several questions, like “Are you buying or selling, and in what area?” Based on the recent reports comparing 2013 to 2012, the Austin area has seen a 19% increase in the number of homes sold, and a 10% increase in median home price. Very impressive! We are also #1 in the country on several lists, for example Forbes- #1 Best City for Job Growth. People continue to move here in droves, which has a huge positive effect on our real estate market.

With these accolades and growth, it’s still important to understand the market and how to make it work for you. Here are some important items to consider and my advice on each one.

**1. Inventory is low** – In fact it is at an all-time low according to the Austin Board of Realtors. That is great news for sellers, as many homes are selling quickly, and prices have increased significantly due to supply & demand. But if your plan is to sell then buy your next home in the area, it is essential to have a strategy to limit any major inconveniences. Buying may take longer than expected, and you may have to make several offers before one gets accepted.

**2. Low appraisals** – During an upswing in the market we sometimes run into this challenge. Appraisers are looking for comparable sales during the past 90 days to validate the sales price of a home. When prices are increasing so quickly, sometimes good comparisons are just not there. This is an area where your Realtor can help. We do not have control over an appraiser’s report, but we can make sure he or she knows all the upgrades in your home, the recent appreciation in the neighborhood, and any other factors affecting your home’s value.

**3. Location & Condition** – Location is still the most important aspect of real estate. Certain areas are appreciating and selling quicker than others. Jester Estates has an AMAZING location, not to mention beautiful homes, stunning views, and wonderful neighbors! So we

have a huge advantage. But the condition of a home is still important. Buyers will have a thorough home inspection performed once under contract, so in addition to cosmetic updates it is important to maintain and repair your home regularly. Also, staging your home so that it shows the best it can to potential buyers will help ensure you receive top dollar when selling.

**4. Choose the right Realtor** – Whenever the real estate market picks up, so does the number of new Realtors. So as a buyer or seller, you have many choices. The wrong choice could lead to unnecessary stress and potentially lost money. My advice is to interview a few Realtors and see who you connect with the best. Knowledge, experience and expertise are essential qualities to look for, but remember you will be working closely with your Realtor during a critical transition in your life. It is so important that you communicate well together, that your Realtor really cares about you, and that she or he is protecting your best interest.

The Austin real estate market is expected to continue to strengthen in 2014, and the foreseeable future looks very bright. So when people ask me now “How’s the real estate market?” I still might say “It depends”, but then I would add that it’s the best now that I’ve ever seen.

I would be honored to have the opportunity to earn your business and trust! Please contact me for a complimentary consultation if you are thinking of buying or selling real estate in Jester Estates or anywhere in the Austin area.

**Colette Fitzgerald, Realtor®,  
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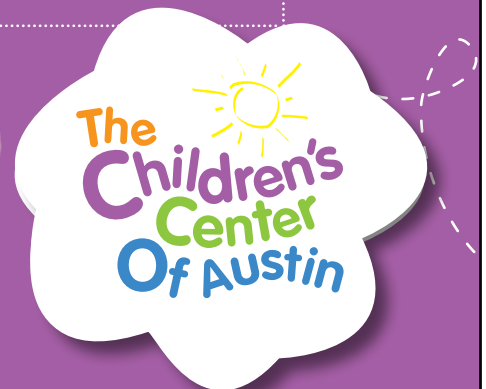
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## **SOCIAL GROUPS** CONTACT INFO

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**CYCLING** - Want to join a Jester road biking group and participate in organized rides? Contact Troy Reish at [troy.reish@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:Shorenm@gmail.com).

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**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](mailto:joann-welles@sbcglobal.net) or call her at 346-0349

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Mar. 1 - May 3	The Cat in the Hat Mischief and mayhem and laughter galore	Zach Theatre <a href="http://zachtheatre.org">zachtheatre.org</a>
Mar. 7 - 16	South by Southwest Music and Film Festival The latest and greatest in music, film, and multi-media	Austin, TX 467-7979 <a href="http://sxsw.com">sxsw.com</a>
Mar. 12 - 15	Heart of Texas Rockfest 100s of artists - free - no wristbands	<a href="http://texasrockfest.com">texasrockfest.com</a>
Mar. 17	St. Patrick's Day Festival Austin Come for fierce Irish tradition and fun for the whole family!	Shoal Crossing Event Center <a href="http://stpatricksdayaustin.com">stpatricksdayaustin.com</a>
Mar. 21	Penn and Teller - Keeping the tradition of magic alive	<a href="http://austintheatre.org">austintheatre.org</a>
Mar. 23	Jim Henson's Dinosaur Train Live! Embraces and celebrates both dinosaurs and trains	The Long Center <a href="http://thelongcenter.org">thelongcenter.org</a>
Mar. 25	Pat Benatar and Neil Giraldo One of rock 'n' roll's most successful duos	The Moody Theater <a href="http://acl-live.com">acl-live.com</a>
Mar. 26	Trisha Yearwood One of the best-selling female artists in Country music	The Moody Theater <a href="http://acl-live.com">acl-live.com</a>
Mar. 28 - 29	Urban Music Festival Mix it up with hip-hop, R&B & DJs at this family-friendly festival	<a href="http://urbanmusicfest.com">urbanmusicfest.com</a>
Mar. 29	Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day Hilarious musical based on the best-selling book	One World Theatre <a href="http://oneworldtheatre.org">oneworldtheatre.org</a>
Mar. 29	Jerry Jeff Walker 2014 Texas Bash	<a href="http://austintheatre.org">austintheatre.org</a>
Mar. 29 - 30	Zilker Garden Festival - Flower festival & plant sale, food, live music, exhibits, children's games, and 100+ vendors	Zilker Botanical Gardens <a href="http://zilker garden.org">zilker garden.org</a>
Mar. 30	Lightwire Theater Presents: Dino Light! Electroluminescent creatures light up the darkness	Paramount Theatre <a href="http://austintheatre.org">austintheatre.org</a>

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