

Official Publication of Jester Homeowners Association, Inc.

April 2014 Volume 9, Issue 4

Spring Garage Sale

Sat, May 17th @ 8am

JHA is sponsoring a Jester Garage sale on Saturday May 17th 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.



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.



JESTER PAGE TURNERS

by Kathryn Grober

Members of the Jester Page Turners book group recently met with author Earl Russell to discuss his new book "Cold Turkey at Nine: The Memoir of a Problem Child." The author read excerpts from the book followed by questions and discussion. It was a rare opportunity for the book group to question an author in person about the writing process, his intentions as a storyteller and to gain a deeper understanding of the book.

Earl and his wife Ellen live in Jester Estates. Earl is a writer, blogger and retired professor whose writings have appeared in the New York Times and the Austin American Statesman. His memoir is his first book for a general audience and it covers a time span of over six decades.

Author and Jester Resident Earl Russell discusses his book with Jester Page Turners. Front row from left to right: Author - Earl Russell, Ellen Russell and Naomi Ritchie. Back row: Karen Kershawk, Kathy Grober, Nicky Shore and Catherine Bailey



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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

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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Mail (or drop off) your pet info to:



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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!

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Scoop the Poop

by Dale Bulla

The average dog creates about a half pound of excrement a day. With an estimated 100,000 dogs in Austin, that's about 50,000 pounds of dog waste deposited throughout town daily. A small amount of pet waste in a water body can make the water unsafe for swimming and aquatic life. For more information: http://austintexas.gov/department/scoop-the-poop.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PROTECT OUR PARKS AND WATERWAYS?

Bring it! Bring your own bags to the park or on walks (or grab one provided in the Mutt Mitt dispensers here and in many parks)

Bag it! Use the bag as a glove to scoop the waste, then turn the bag inside out and tie to seal. No mess.

Dispose of it! Place the bag in a trash can.

We Need Help From Responsible Jester Pet Owners!

In walking our neighborhood, I regularly see this sight on the streets and sidewalks of Jester. Please help keep our environment clean by picking up these "packages" and putting them in a nearby trash bin. If all of us do this, it will keep these plastic bags from washing onto the storm sewers and then into our creeks.

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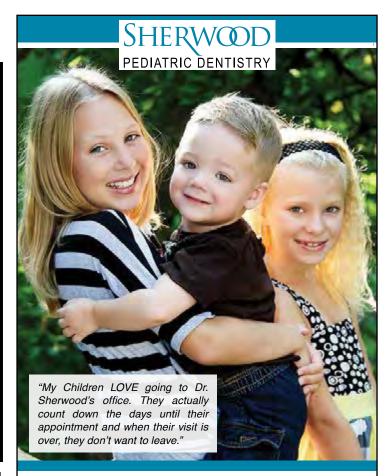


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NATUREVVATCH

by Jim and Lynne Weber

Ghosts in the Graveyard

Commonly found growing in rural areas including graveyards, Twistleaf Yucca (Yucca rupicola) is sometimes called 'ghosts in the graveyard', for when in bloom the clusters of white flowers on thin stalks appear as floating apparitions. But this common plant, which is widespread in our area, has a much more uncommon, mysterious association with a rarely seen butterfly called the Yucca Giant-Skipper (Megathymus yuccae).

Flying in the spring, the Yucca Giant-Skipper is a medium-sized, robust-bodied butterfly with a fast, powerful flight. Above, its dark forewings are elongated with a variable pale yellow outer band, and a yellow marginal border can be seen on the hindwings. Below, the hindwings are a dark blackish brown with a violet-white frosting and prominent triangular white spot along the leading margin. Males and females are similar, but females are generally larger and males have wider, more rounded forewings. Although fairly common, this species is like a ghost in the butterfly world, as sightings of adults are rare.

The most fascinating aspect of these butterflies is how they depend on the Twistleaf Yucca to carry out their life cycle. Males perch on low vegetation or on the ground near twistleaf yuccas, awaiting passing females. Producing only one generation per year from February to May depending on location, the cycle begins when the female butterfly lays a single egg on the leaf of a Twistleaf Yucca. The young larvae (or caterpillar) feeds on the leaves of this plant and constructs small, individual silken shelters to protect itself as it grows.

Once larger, older larvae bore deep into the plant crown and feed within the root, constructing a prominent silk tent at the opening of the burrow. Active tents can be discovered by looking for larvae excrement (called 'frass') that is pushed out of the tent opening before the larvae pupates. In the spring, the adult butterfly emerges from the tent opening and allows its wings to dry before it takes flight and begins the search for a mate. Adult yucca giant-skippers do not visit flowers to feed, and it is unknown how long they live, or if they utilize other food sources.

Look closely and take care when performing your winter landscape cleanup, so as not to unwittingly destroy the tents that may be present on your Twistleaf Yucca plants. These ghosts of the graveyard may just be harboring ghosts of their own!

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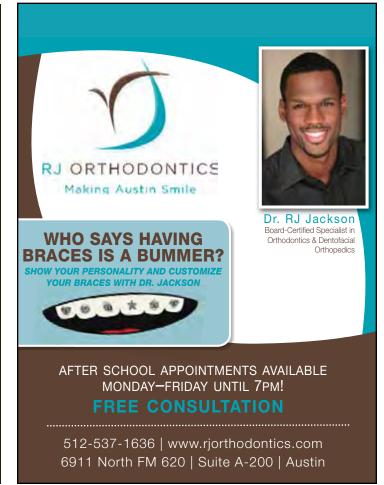
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Peggy Morse Maxwell Designer 512-296-3120 Peggymorse@ymail.com

6505 Winterberry Drive Austin, TX 78750







Jester Estates Home Values Rising Quickly

In addition, homes are selling much faster due to the high demand in the northwest Austin area, coupled with

the low inventory of homes for sale. As you can see, the

median number of days on the market has gone down by

Every home is unique and should be evaluated

individually to determine today's market value. If you

are interested in a complimentary analysis for your

home please contact me today. I would be honored to

Interested in a pre-MLS or private sale? We have buyers! Realty Austin is a locally owned & operated company, and we have the #1 home search website in the Austin area. We are working with several families looking to purchase a home in our area. Please contact me if you are considering selling your home. I may already have a family that would

almost a full month.

be of service.

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

The Austin real estate market has grown at a record pace over the past year. As a homeowner you may be wondering how that has affected the home values in our neighborhood. I recently completed an analysis on homes sold in Jester Estates, comparing Mar 2012 – Feb 2013 vs. Mar 2013 – Feb 2014. I am happy to share the good news with you!

The overall trend for the neighborhood is terrific. This year over year comparison shows the average home price in Jester increased by 8.4% in one year. That is nearly twice the average annual appreciation we've seen over the past 10 years!

	Mar 2012-Feb 2013	Mar 2013-Feb 2014
# of Homes Sold	51	49
Median Days on Mkt.	39	11
Price Range	\$296,000-725,000	\$375,000-630,000
Avg. Sq. Ft.	2887	2947
Avg. Price Per Sq. Ft.	\$161.07	\$169.07
Avg. Sold Price	\$449,044	\$488,909

be a great fit.

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RESIDENTS FACEBOOK PAGE
http://Ez.com/jesterestatesfb

Selling something, need help, lost a pet, want to share ideas & meet more of your neighbors??? Join the Jester Estates Residents Facebook group to easily stay connected with your neighbors. Enter the link above and click JOIN GROUP. It's that easy.

Colette Fitzgerald, Realtor®, Broker Associate, CRS Realty Austin

Colette@realtyaustin.com 512-294-1781
Ez.com/colettefitzgerald





FREE JESTER ESTATES COMMUNITY BOOT CAMP

Sunday, April 27th 8-9am Ladera Bend Parking Lot

(Jester Blvd. & 2222- look for the signs that we will post)

Are you interested in keeping fit and having fun, without even leaving the neighborhood? One of my passions besides real estate is health & fitness, and I

know a lot of Jester residents share that passion!

So please join us for the first ever free community boot camp, led by Julienne & Stephen Colon with Lifestyle Revolutions. All Jester Estates residents and your guests are welcome. The more the merrier!

**Please bring a yoga mat & water.

** No RSVP required

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The Jester Warbler - April 2014



JOIN US FOR GOLF AND A GREAT CAUSE!

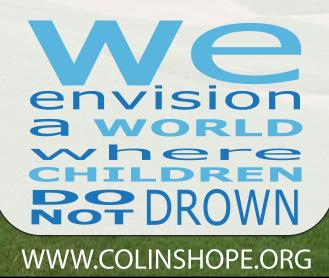
DATE: Wednesday, April 30th
11:00 am Registration - 1:00 pm Start
LOCATION: Flintrock Falls Country Club
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COST: \$165 per golfer*
*Includes lunch, dinner and lots of swag

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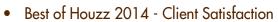


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MATT WILSON BAND 'Back by Popular Demand'

For Spicewood Arts Society Concert, 7 p.m., Fri., April 11

Austin Pianist And Band Mates Known For Warmth, Wit & Showmanship

Might as well call it the Matt Wilson Band "Welcome-Back Concert." The 7 p.m., April 11 event at the Spicewood Vineyards will be Austin pianist Matt Wilson's third performance for the Spicewood Arts Society in the past four years. His appearance rightfully reinforces the phrase "back by popular demand."

"Our audience loves this consummate performing musician," admits Janey Richardson, president of the Spicewood Arts Society (SAS), a 14-year-old, nonprofit arts organization. "He and his band mates are known for their warmth, wit and white-gloves showmanship. Their musical catalog is deep and . . . well, fun!" (www.mattwilsonband.com)

Indeed, the Matt Wilson band serves up classic soul, R&B, rock 'n' roll, blues, funk and gospel – a mix of treasured tunes delivered in a reverent yet relevant way. But the Austin-based band also has its own deep well of original material as well, including four albums in the past decade.

The performance will be at the 225-seat Spicewood Vineyards Events Center (1419 Burnet CR 409), about 18 miles from Marble Falls, 35 miles from Downtown Austin and three miles off Texas Hwy. 71. (http://www.spicewoodvineyards.com/)

The concert is included in the 2013-14 SAS Season Ticket Package. Individual performance tickets are still available at www. spicewoodarts.org for \$45 each.

This past May, Wilson released "Vol. 2000-2010" (Fable Records), an uplifting, 10-track set of soul-gospel-by-way-of-Broadway inspired pop-rock tunes of fan favorites culled from the band's previous four albums. The difference is pristine studio versions of the band's live-show original music.

"Matt is a singer-songwriter with a big voice and a downhome keyboard flavor," Richardson noted. "The Texas State Senate has even honored him with a resolution for his achievements in the area of fine arts."

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.

<u>3. Location & Condition</u> – 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®, Broker Associate, CRS Realty Austin

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Jester Estates

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WHAT CAN YOU DO TO REDUCE GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE?

by Dale Bulla

If you are one of those persons that care about the climate and would like to do something, here is a suggestion you can do today and perhaps save some money in the future while lowering your carbon footprint. Austin Energy has a Green Choice program available to all of its customers. By signing up, all of your electricity will come from non-fossil fuel sources such as wind and solar. You will pay a bit more per kilowatt-hour but your fuel cost will be locked in until your contract expires. So you will have no increase in that portion of your bill for the duration of your contract regardless of any increases in fuel prices. Our church has been a "Green Choice" participant since its inception in 2000. For more information, go to:

http://www.austinenergy.com/energy%20efficiency/Programs/ Green%20Choice/





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April Events

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Apr. 3 - 6	Sesame Street Live "Make a New Friend"	Frank Erwin Center
	Explore the universal fun of friendship	uterwincenter.com
Apr. 6	Capitol 10K	Barton Springs / S. Congress
	Silly to seriouswalk it, jog it or run it – just don't miss it!	cap10k.com
Apr. 11	Peace*Love*Happiness Concert	The Backyard
	Headliners – Los Lonely Boys - concert proceeds benefit	thebackyard.net
	The 100 Club of Central Texas	
Apr. 12	George Lopez	Bass Concert Hall
	One of the premier comedians in the entertainment industry	texasperformingarts.org
Apr. 12	Louisiana Swamp Thing and Crawfish Festival	305 S. Congress
	Vibrant celebration of dancers, Cajun food, Zydeco music	roadwayevents.com
Apr. 13	East Austin Urban Farm Tour	eastaustinurbanfarmtour.
	Guided farm tours, restaurant tastings, beer, wine & spirits	com
Apr. 18 - 24	Pinocchio	Zach Theatre
	Step into Geppetto's workshop in this imaginative retelling	zachtheatre.org
	of an ageless classic	
Apr. 24 -	Austin Fashion Week	fashionweekaustin.com
May 3	One of the premier fashion events in the country	
Apr. 25 - 27	Austin Food and Wine Festival	Various Locations
	The best chefs and wineries pair their best!	austinfoodandwinefestival.com
Apr. 26 - 27	Monster Jam	Frank Erwin Center
	See custom-designed machines approx. 12' tall x 12' wide	uterwincenter.com
Apr. 26	Eeyore's 51st Annual Birthday Party	Pease Park: eeyores.com
Apr. 27	Symphony Under the Stars	The Backyard
	A Pops orchestra directed by John Mills	thebackyard.net
Apr. 29	Willie Nelson - with Folk Uke and the Peterson Brothers	thebackyard.net
corn	ing IESTER Lust a Little Class	ser to Heaven!

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