

The Jester Warbler

Official Publication of Jester Homeowners Association, Inc.

June 2014

Volume 9, Issue 6



Summer Kick-off ADULT SOCIAL

Wednesday, June 25th
6 - 8 pm
My Place in Jester Village

The HOA invites you to kick off the summer with a gathering at My Place! Come socialize with your neighbors and learn more about your HOA. Light appetizers will be provided and happy hour priced drinks will be available for purchase. We hope to see you there!

Jester Networking Group

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



Parade & Activities Friday, July 4 - 9:30 am

Paint your wagons, decorate your bikes, your pets, and yourself, and join in this festive parade! Gather at Jester Club at 9:30 am (you don't need to be a member of the club to participate). Parade route will be up Jester, around Basil, and back. Games and activities to follow!

Please contact Teresa at 512-751-8000 or tgouldie@gmail.com if you would like to help at this event!

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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!

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Community Registration Code: 3328

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Visit Jester Homeowner's Association website and sign up
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www.JesterNeighbors.com

**Community Registration Code: 3328 -
REGISTER TODAY!**



WELCOME COMMITTEE NEWS

By JoAnn Welles

The Welcome Committee has met twice since our last Jester Warbler article, but haven't had much success in meeting new residents. We hope to be luckier this summer because we enjoy welcoming the new homeowners in person.

Darla Rowan, one of our co-chairs, was able to welcome her new grandson, Ben, this spring. Before his birth, Darla was busy preparing clothes and other goodies for the new baby and his parents. Once Ben was born, Darla flew out to Portland, Oregon to help out and enjoy time with her long-awaited grandbaby.

Back to Jester Welcome Committee deliveries: We were fortunate enough to meet Matt and Heather who moved to the 7800 block of Lakewood Drive from South Austin. They have 2 children, 7 and 9 years old, Melanie and Collin, as well as 3 dogs. So they have a busy household! If you're neighbors of Matt and Heather, please stop in and welcome them.

We also dropped off 7 bags on doorsteps at houses where it was clear the new residents had already moved in, or with residents who were busy when we arrived. If we don't drop bags off, we can end up being months late welcoming new residents. Bags were delivered to new residents on the:

- 8000 block of Bottlebrush
- 7900 block of Jester
- 7400 block of Anaqua
- 6500 block of Winterberry
- 7700 block of Basil
- 6700 block of Tree Fern
- 6800 block of Falcata Cove

Still on our list to deliver are 4 more bags for new neighbors who haven't moved in yet, or that we were unable to contact.

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.

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NO AUTOMATIC SPRINKLERS ON THE WEEKEND

by Dale Bulla

Under current water restrictions we may water only one day per week. Residential fines for stage 2 start at \$75 per violation. Automatic irrigation systems for residential property are to be operated only on Wednesday and Thursday between the hours of 7 pm to midnight and midnight to 5 am. Hose end sprinklers may be used on Saturday and Sunday between the hours of 7 pm to midnight and before 10 am. Hand watering may be used anytime. Lake Travis is in need of help. Remember if you are watering while the sun is shining, you are losing about 50% of your water to evaporation. Let's all do our part so that we don't have to move to Stage 3 or 4 this summer. For more information, go to:

**WWW.AUSTINTEXAS.GOV/DEPARTMENT/
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How Energy Efficient is Your Home?

If your home is more than 10 years old, like most in Jester, chances are you can make some improvements to help make it more energy efficient. Here are some ideas to help lower your home's impact on the environment, and on your bank account!

- 1.** Get a home energy audit. This is a great way for homeowners to determine which parts of their home need attention. An energy professional will inspect your home to determine where efficiency can be improved. These audits typically cost under \$200.
- 2.** Plug up leaks that allow outside air to slip into your house. These leaks may increase your heating/cooling bill considerably and are typically found around your windows and/or doors.
- 3.** Add insulation. About half the homes in the Austin area have insufficient insulation. Energy Star recommends a minimum R value of R38 for ceiling insulation.
- 4.** Install a High-Efficiency Water Heater. Water heating makes up anywhere from 10-25% of the annual energy usage of a home.
- 5.** Install a programmable thermostat. On average these can save you about 10% on your heating/cooling bills and ultimately pay for themselves in a matter of months.
- 6.** Replace old, leaky windows and doors with higher-efficiency models, especially low-e windows which can make a huge difference in your home's comfort and your energy bill.
- 7.** Seal air ducts. Cool air from the AC system can escape through the air ducts and into the attic. An HVAC or Energy Audit professional can tell you how much leakage your system is creating and how to seal it properly.
- 8.** Replace old HVAC equipment. Replacing an outdated HVAC system with a more energy-efficient one is a large but smart investment.

REMEMBER, these improvements to your home will also help increase the value when you decide to sell. Today's buyers are educated and aware of home energy efficiency, and according to the National Association of Realtors it does play a role in a buyer's decision to purchase a home. **Wishing you a cool & comfortable summer!**

Check out my Jester Estates Neighborhood video here: www.make.my/jestervid

June FREE Jester Estates Community BOOTCAMP

When: Sunday, June 22nd 8-9am

Where: Ladera Bend Parking Lot
(near the intersection of 2222 & Jester Blvd., look for the posted signs)

Thank you to everyone who is participating in the Jester Estates free community boot camps. We're having a blast so far and getting fit in the process! Please join us for the June boot camp...no RSVP required, just bring a positive attitude and plenty of water.

Event Sponsored By: Colette Fitzgerald



Let's Cheer On Team USA Together In The 2014 World Cup!!

When: June 12th - 13th

The 2014 Men's Soccer World Cup is coming up June 12th – July 13th in Brazil. Are you interested in joining your Jester neighbors at a World Cup Viewing Party?



Contact me for all the details:
colette@realtyaustin.com

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Know someone thinking of moving to Jester? I can help them too.



Colette Fitzgerald

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JESTER “Ladies Night Out”

Interest has been expressed in rekindling the Jester Ladies Night Out Group! This is a great way to kick back and have some fun with girlfriends from the neighborhood of all ages! Events will include appetizer potlucks and excursions to area restaurants. Join us for an evening of fun close to home! If you have questions or would like to be put on the email list to be notified of events, contact Social Chairman Teresa Gouldie at 512-751-8000 or tgouldie@gmail.com.



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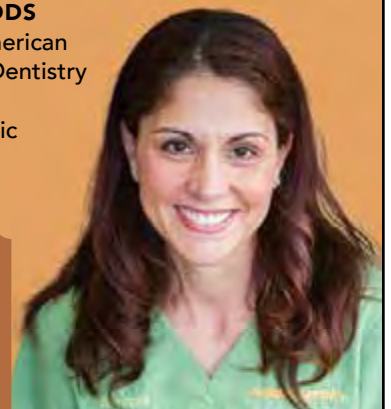
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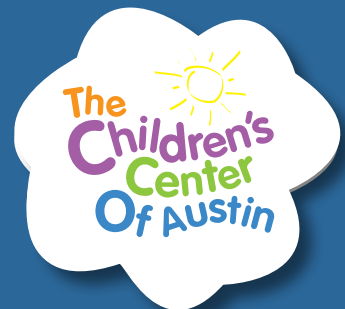
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NATUREWATCH

by Jim and Lynne Weber

OPOSSUMILITIES

Few animals are more important to our backyard ecology than the much-maligned Virginia Opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*). They are nature's sanitation engineers, and are one of the most non-aggressive, disease resistant wild animals. About the size of a large house cat, opossums weigh about 10 to 13 pounds, have pointy snouts, black leathery ears, and are covered in a pelage of long guard hairs and short soft underfur that comes in two color phases, gray and black. Their long scaly tails are prehensile, and along with a clawless big toe on their hind feet that is opposable and thumblike, they are agile climbers that can scale just about any obstacle.

Primarily inhabitants of deciduous woodlands and dispersing along streams and rivers, opossums are common in all parts of Texas, except for the driest areas of the Trans-Pecos. Generally nocturnal, opossums are not picky eaters and will consume almost anything, including table scraps and carrion. They prefer rodents, insects, earthworms, lizards, frogs, fruits, and vegetables, and are one of the only mammals to routinely dine on snakes, even venomous ones. Because of their excellent immune system, slower metabolism, and lower body temperature, they are not as susceptible to venom, and they are resistant to most diseases including rabies. Often, opossums have been blamed for digging holes in lawns and gardens, but they do not dig. Nor will they eat your newly planted flowers, but they will eat the pests that will prey on all parts of your landscape.

Opossums are rather lazy mammals and will leave most larger animals alone. They will rarely fight, and prefer to put on a fearsome display if threatened, by opening their mouth and displaying all 50 sharp, pointed teeth! This is sometimes followed by a low growl or hiss, and in extreme circumstances they will play dead. This is not a voluntary decision for the opossum, but is rather a state of shock that can last an hour or more, which

causes their bodies to stiffen, their breathing to slow down, and drool to trickle from their mouths.

Male opossums are called jacks and females are called jills, and in a typical year litters are produced in February and June. The young, which are called joeys, are born after a gestation of only 11-12 days, and crawl blind and unaided into their mother's pouch, attaching themselves to a nipple until about 7 weeks of age. This peculiar adaptation compensates for the short period of uterine development and assumes some of the function performed by the placenta in higher order mammals. Once detached, the joeys often ride along on their mother's back while she searches for food.

While not the most beautiful of wild animals, opossums are extremely beneficial to the environment. Just consider the opossumilities if they no longer existed to fulfill their role as nature's very own sanitation engineer!

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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From a 2 BR Apartment in Brooklyn to a Home in Jester “The Art of De-Cluttering”

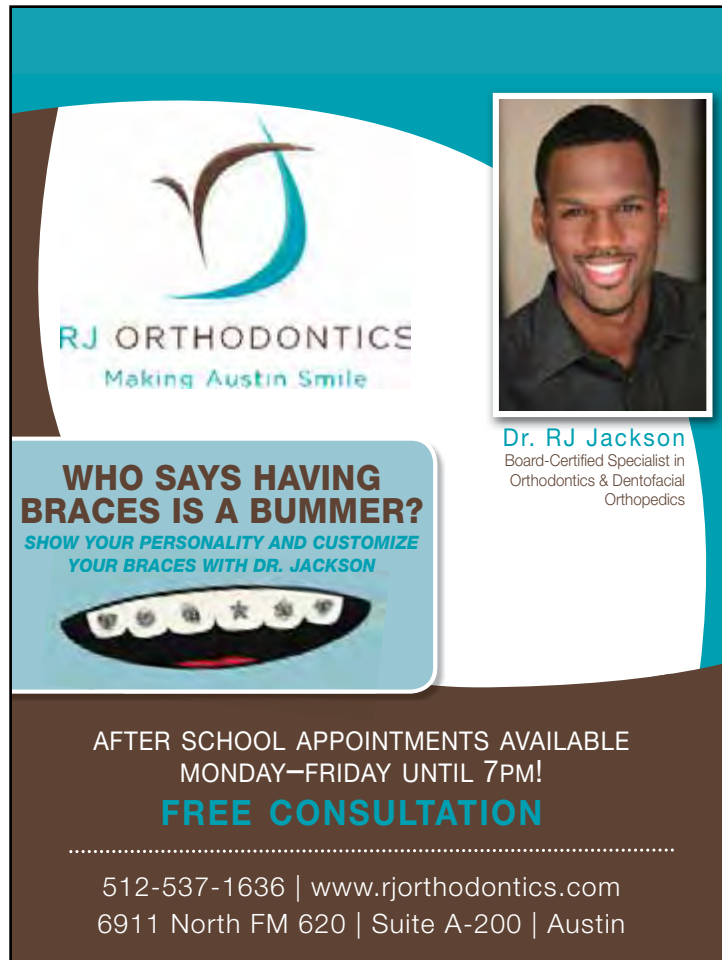
by Holly DeMos

We all like new and better things. We all are lucky enough to live in a place where we can buy those new and better things, as well as live in houses that can store them. In fact, I am amazed that six months after I totally clean out my garage, closets, and toy bins, they all seem to be filling up again, in need of another purge. And purge I will, because I know that it ultimately feels good to do so.

We moved to Jester from a tiny two-room apartment in Brooklyn, New York. We chose a house in Jester Estates because it is one of the top "Green" neighborhoods in Austin. It is great seeing solar panels everywhere, high efficiency cars, and energy efficient properties that also support wildlife. Yet, I see another aspect of green living that would be great for Jester to undertake as well. It is our stuff.

Most houses in Jester seem to have a lot of stuff, mine included. Yet, when I consciously get rid of things every season, and it is

(Continued on Page 12)



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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.

JJESTER 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.

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 Diana Miller at 512-496-0777 or diana0777@att.net.

TEXAS HOLD'EM GROUP - Join the fun and play tournament style Texas Hold'em. We meet once a month. Contact David Singerman to be put on the list. Email david.singerman@kw.com or call 512-207-0930.

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

Jester Estates

(Continued from Page 11)

extremely liberating. I donate items to thrift stores. I sell items to consignment stores. I sometimes post items on Craigslist or Nextdoor Jester (<https://jesterhomes.nextdoor.com>) for sale or to give away. My new favorite donation place is called Free Store Austin (<http://www.freestoreaustin.org/>). This store opened about a year ago and is literally in the business of giving things away for free to promote green living and help people in need. You can find these types of stores throughout the United States (<http://www.greenamerica.org/livinggreen/freestore.cfm>). The phrase people use is called "No Waste" living.

I love that on Bulk Trash Day people scour the neighborhood in the hope of recycling goods that would otherwise be thrown away. I also love seeing posts from my neighbors giving things away or selling gently used items on the Nextdoor Website. I got a free bat house and a basketball hoop from someone who posted on the Nextdoor site. This is truly the spirit of Green Living, and it helps our landfills tremendously. I see it at the core of a true environmentally friendly neighborhood.

Nevertheless, it is hard to let go of things that you have either spent a lot of money on, hold some sort of sentimental value for, or think you may need in the future. But I always try to remember

that letting go ultimately opens up a space, both literally and figuratively, and letting fresh air in to my home and my mind.

De-cluttering your environment can de-stress your life and bring a sense of peace. Recent studies out of Yale, Princeton, and UCLA have shown the negative effects clutter has on your brain (<http://lifehacker.com/how-clutter-affects-your-brain-and-what-you-can-do-abo-662647035>). One main finding was that clutter is sensory overload on the brain that can decrease day to day performance and increase stress.

This summer, in the spirit of Green Living, let's make a commitment to a "no waste" neighborhood and de-clutter, regaining some fresh air and fresh space in our beautiful Jester homes. The landfills will thank us as will our own minds!



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Jester Estates Stork Report

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The goal is to fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. Each digit may appear only once in each row, each column, and each 3x3 box.

The Jester Warbler

Official Publication of Jester Homeowners Association, Inc.

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Bring the World to your Child By Hosting a Foreign Exchange Student

By Vicki Odom

If you've read the newspaper lately, you know that the world can be a scary place: wars, economic crisis, revolutions, climate change, border disputes, refugees, and protests. So, how do we teach our children about the world, and the variety of people in it, when most of the examples we read about in the press are so negative?

One life changing way to broaden your child's world view is to volunteer to host a high school foreign exchange student. Foreign exchange programs have been around for almost 100 years, and their mission has always been the same – to educate people about different cultures through person-to-person exchange. What better message to pass on to your children?

There are quite a few misconceptions about foreign exchange programs – especially around who can host. The biggest misconception is that you must have high school aged children when you host a high school exchange student. Nothing could be further from the truth.

"We welcome host families of all shapes and sizes – families with young children, families with no children, empty nesters whose children have left home, single parents and non-traditional families,"

says Heather Wells, Senior Regional Director for Ayusa, a non-profit promoting global learning and leadership through foreign exchange and study abroad opportunities for high school students. "The key requirements for a host family are to provide a safe and nurturing home environment, genuinely love children, and have a desire to learn more about a different culture."

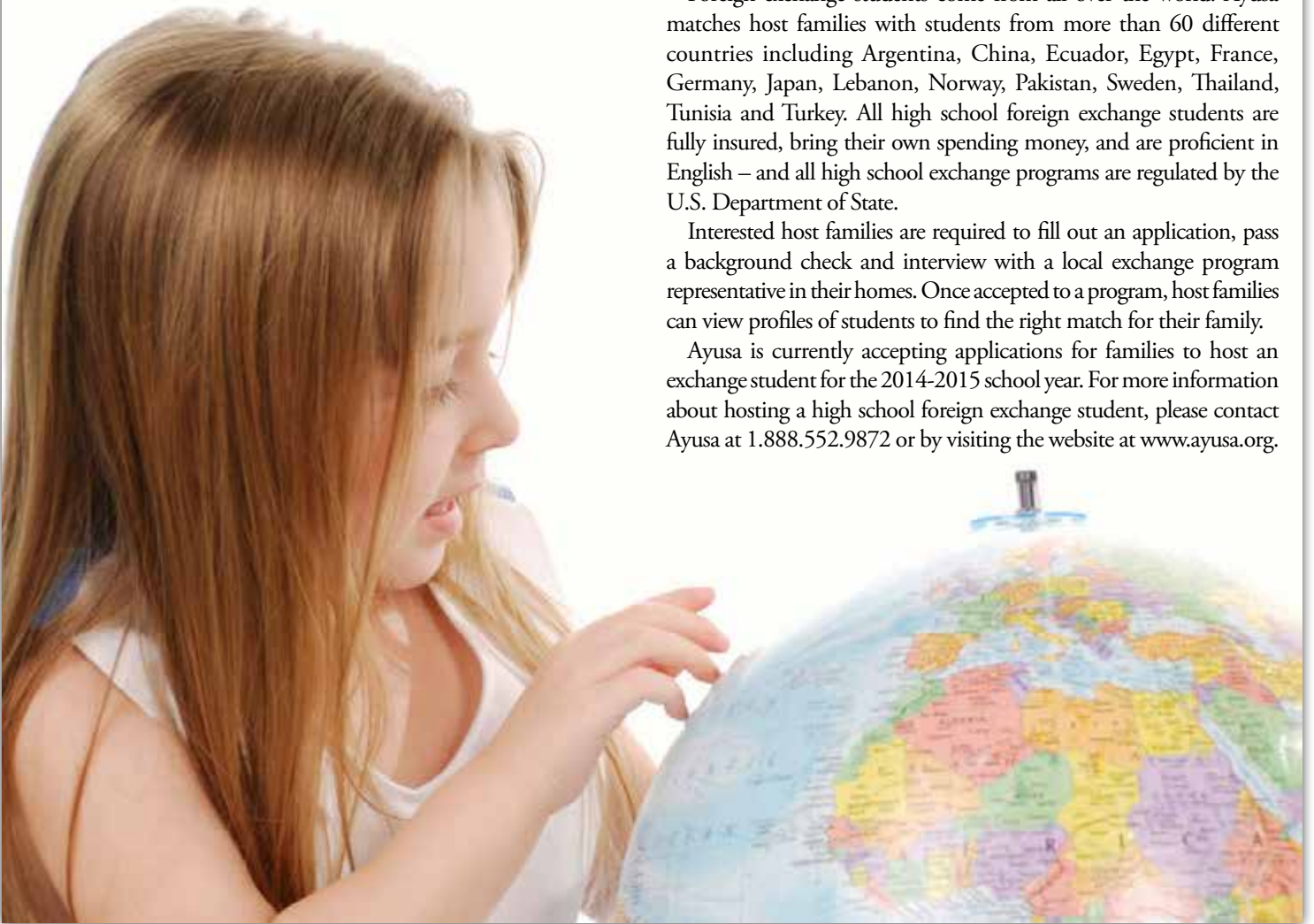
Families with young children find that hosting an exchange student provides their children with an especially unique educational experience in the form of an international big brother or sister. Without even realizing it, children learn about different types of people and different cultural traditions.

Volunteer host families provide foreign exchange students a nurturing environment, three meals a day and a bedroom (either private or shared with a host sibling of the same gender). Each host family and student is supported by a professionally trained community representative who works with the family and student for the entire program. All interested host families must pass a criminal background check and a home visit by an exchange organization.

Foreign exchange students come from all over the world. Ayusa matches host families with students from more than 60 different countries including Argentina, China, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Germany, Japan, Lebanon, Norway, Pakistan, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia and Turkey. All high school foreign exchange students are fully insured, bring their own spending money, and are proficient in English – and all high school exchange programs are regulated by the U.S. Department of State.

Interested host families are required to fill out an application, pass a background check and interview with a local exchange program representative in their homes. Once accepted to a program, host families can view profiles of students to find the right match for their family.

Ayusa is currently accepting applications for families to host an exchange student for the 2014-2015 school year. For more information about hosting a high school foreign exchange student, please contact Ayusa at 1.888.552.9872 or by visiting the website at www.ayusa.org.



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DROWNING IS FAST & SILENT KEEP KIDS IN ARM'S REACH



WATER SAFETY TIPS AT
WWW.COLINSHOPE.ORG



Volunteer - Donate
COLINSHOPE.ORG



May is National Water Safety Month

Ongoing: Volunteers needed to stuff & distribute water safety packets. info@colinshope.org
Ongoing: Colin's Hope Athlete Ambassadors needed. www.tinych.org/AthleteAmbassador
Now-June 21st: Donate \$30, get a free Schlitterbahn ticket! www.tinych.org/tickets
Sept. 14th: Colin's Hope Kid's Tri! Registration is now open. www.tinych.org/KidsTri

Take our Water Safety Quiz. www.colinshope.org/quiz/

Keep your children and families safer in, near and around all bodies of water.

LAYERS OF PROTECTION CAN PREVENT DROWNING



CONSTANT
VISUAL
SUPERVISION



LEARN
TO
SWIM



WEAR
LIFE
JACKETS



MULTIPLE
BARRIERS
TO WATER



KEEP BACKYARDS
& BATHROOMS
SAFER



CHECK POOL
& HOT TUB
FIRST



STAY AWAY
FROM
DRAINS



BE SAFER
AT THE
BEACH



LEARN CPR
& REFRESH
SKILLS YEARLY



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**EXPERIENCE
30 YEARS
YOU CAN
COUNT
ON!**

Choose TERESA for PROVEN RESULTS!

MY 45 DAY ACTIVITY IN JESTER:

Under Contract: Upcoming Listings: SOLD:

- 7305 Holly Fern
- 7805 Moonflower
- 7809 Moonflower
- 8308 Elander
- 7311 Halbert
- 7883 Lakewood
- 8205 Crabtree
- 8308 Jancy
- 8404 Asmara
- 7866 Lakewood
- 7870 Lakewood
- 8300 Elander

For additional information on upcoming listings, go to All About Jester.com

June Events



Compliments of ... Teresa Gouldie 751-8000 Coldwell Banker, United

June - July	Children's Day Art Park (Wednesdays) <i>Wed. mornings, June 11 – July 30 (except July 2), featuring musicians, dancers, storyteller, magicians, mimes and crafts</i>	Symphony Square 476-6064 austinsymphony.org
June - Aug.	Concerts in the Park (Sundays) - Free Ensemble concerts!	austinsymphony.org
June 5 - 8	X Games Competition <i>Featuring more than 200 athletes plus a battle of the bands</i>	Circuit of the Americas xgamesaustin.com
June 6 - 7	Classical Mystery Tour - Live concert with 30 Beatles tunes	austinsymphony.org
June 7 - 8	I Can Do It! 2014 – Austin with speaker Wayne Dyer <i>Awaken to new possibilities and create a life you love!</i>	Bass Concert Hall texasperformingarts.org
June 8	18th Annual Austin Cool House Tour <i>Visit passive solar design and green technology projects</i>	txses.org/solar
June 8	Scooby-Doo! LIVE! Musical Mysteries	thelongcenter.org
June 11 & 25	KGSR's Blues on the Green - Free blues music	Zilker Park kgsr.com
June 12 - July	Nature Nights at the Wildflower Center (Thursdays) <i>Family fun activities with plants, animals and ecology</i>	Wildflower Center wildflower.org
June 15	Father's Day Concert <i>Marches, musicals, and patriotic melodies</i>	Zilker Hillside Theater 345-7420 asband.org
June 17 - 22	Erth's Dinosaur Zoo Live <i>An eye-popping collection of amazingly life-like dinosaurs and other creatures presented in a theatrical performance</i>	The Long Center thelongcenter.org
June 20 - 22	Cedar Park Rodeo <i>Two evenings of professional rodeo action!</i>	Cedar Park Center cedarparkcenter.com
June 24	Trailer Food Tuesday <i>Delicious food with family-friendly entertainment and music</i>	The Long Center lawn trailerfoodtuesdays.com

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