



The Jester Warbler

Official Publication of Jester Homeowners Association, Inc.

July 2014

Volume 9, Issue 7

Living with Wildland Neighbors: A Coyote Factsheet

© Pirjo Pellon

People living near a natural area such as the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (BCP) and Water Quality Protection Lands (WQPL) are likely to encounter wildlife. These wildlands provide habitat for many types of animals, some of which you may find more endearing than others. Along with enjoying the beauty of our wildlands, the excitement of hosting a variety of birds at a feeder, or getting the rare glimpse of a fox or a turkey, you may also see or hear coyotes, skunks, opossums, owls, and other wild animals. All of these species play a role in the web of life connecting predators and prey, and the cycling of energy within a healthy ecosystem.

Coyotes are common native residents of wildlands adjacent to urban and suburban areas in North America. Coyotes are diet generalists and opportunistic hunters that typically eat small rodents, insects, fruit (including juniper berries), frogs, snakes, and lizards. In the wild they serve as a keystone species, keeping balance in the natural food web. By managing populations of rodents, rabbits, and other small mammals, coyotes also reduce populations of rattlesnakes and other snakes that prey on these species. This in turn helps increase the nesting success of bird populations. Coyotes also play an important role in helping to control white-tailed deer and feral hog populations, which if left unchecked can cause significant damage to soil and plant communities.

People are more likely to hear a coyote than to see one. Coyotes communicate with each other through howling and a variety of other vocalizations. Highly intelligent and adaptable, coyotes tend to be more active at night, dusk, and dawn to avoid encounters with humans. However, they can be attracted to residential areas by the presence of small mammals, such as squirrels and mice, which feed on seeds, plantings, berries, and garbage. Coyotes will also take advantage of available water sources and/or easily available food such as garbage, pet food, and even small pets. Once attracted to residential areas, frequent exposure to humans may result in a coyote's loss of fear of humans. Coyote attacks on humans are extremely rare in contrast to the 4.7 million dog bites recorded in the United States each year. However, coyotes that associate humans and pets

with food can become aggressive and demanding. They will also defend their territories against dogs and other canines that coyotes may perceive as threats. Female coyotes are especially protective of their young pups during the spring.

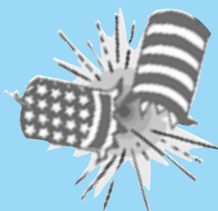
Although their populations may fluctuate, coyotes are here to stay. Eradication programs in North American urban areas have generally proven to be unsuccessful for a number of reasons. First, being intelligent animals, coyotes are difficult to catch, and traps do not discriminate between coyotes and other animals, including pets. Coyotes have also developed a successful survival strategy: when individuals are removed (euthanized) from a population, other coyotes will often move into the vacated territory, and more of the remaining coyotes in the pack may breed, have more litters, or begin breeding at an earlier age. All of these shifts will tend to increase the population over time, and the remaining coyotes do not learn better behaviors. A more effective approach is to eliminate attractions for coyotes to neighborhoods and reinforce a healthy fear of humans among the local territorial animals.

Fortunately, there are a number of steps human neighbors can take to reduce the chance of problem encounters with coyotes and other wildlife:

- Never leave food or water out for feral animals or wildlife.
- Do not leave out pet foods that will attract wildlife. Feed pets indoors or, if feeding outdoors, pick up any leftover food.
- Use containers for garbage that are sealed with a lid and do not leave bags outside of these types of containers.
- Make sure that containers used for compost are sealed and food scraps are not exposed and accessible.
- Coyotes are wary of "novel" objects, so if you see coyotes in or near your yard, periodically move objects around or add new objects.
- Harvest fruits and vegetables as they become ripe and do not allow them to accumulate and create an attraction for coyotes or their prey.
- Trim and clear vegetation that provides cover for coyotes or their prey.

(Continued on Page 3)

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



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!

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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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For lost or found pets, call 338-1519

SIGN UP FOR JESTER EMAIL ALERTS!

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(Continued from Cover...)

- Since coyotes are attracted to birdseed and the birds and rodents that eat it, use hummingbird feeders and other strategies that are less likely to attract rodents or coyotes: avoid mixed seed, store seed in rodent-proof containers, and do not allow waste seed to accumulate on the ground (for examples, see <http://icwdm.org/prevention/birdfeeders.asp>).
- Clean barbecue grills regularly.
- Do not leave small children unattended outdoors if coyotes have been frequenting the area.
- Supervise pets when they are outside. Keep them on a short leash while walking with them. Do not leave cats or small dogs outside after dark.
- Build a coyote-proof perimeter fence (at least 6 feet tall and extending 12 inches underground; for examples, see <http://wdfw.wa.gov/living/coyotes.html>, <http://www.coyoteroller.com/>).

WHAT TO DO IF YOU ENCOUNTER A COYOTE?

If you happen to see a coyote, appreciate it from a distance. In the unlikely event that a coyote approaches you, the best response is to scare it away. Keeping coyotes wary of humans is essential to preventing conflicts with these animals. Be as big and loud as possible by standing tall, waving your arms overhead, keeping eye contact, and shouting. Animals that have lost fear of humans may need more aggressive methods such as scaring the animal with air horns, homemade clappers, banging pots and pans, or stomping feet; spraying with a hose; and/or throwing rocks or other objects toward the animal. Keep “hazing” until the coyote leaves. Hazing should be done cautiously and within reason to avoid conflicts that might not otherwise take place by injuring or cornering a coyote that simply wants to escape (for more details, see <http://www.projectcoyote.org/CoyoteHazingBrochureFieldGuide.pdf>, http://www.humanesociety.org/assets/pdfs/wild_neighbors/coyote_hazing.pdf).

Dog-walkers need to be cautious of coyote dens in the spring because coyote mothers may have pups in brushy areas or dens near buildings and roads. Coyote mothers can become very territorial and protective under these circumstances. During the breeding season (January-March), male coyotes may consider domestic dogs as threats. Keep your dog on a short leash and, if possible, pick up your dog when coyotes are visible. Do not turn your back or run; face the coyote and back away slowly.

Coyotes are an important part of a healthy natural ecosystem. While removing an animal from the environment may seem to be an easy solution, it often leads to an unhealthy balance in the ecosystem and unexpected consequences. If you have any questions about coyotes or living next to the BCP or WQPL, you may contact the City of Austin's Wildland Conservation Division at 972-1662. Issues concerning public health and safety should be reported by calling 3-1-1.

For more information about your coyote neighbors and tips on how to minimize conflicts:

http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/coyotes/tips/solving_problems.html

http://www.humanesociety.org/assets/pdfs/wild_neighbors/coyote_conflict_solutions.pdf

<http://coyotecoeistence.com/>, <http://www.projectcoyote.org/Coexisting.pdf>

<http://www.projectcoyote.org/foxdenver.pdf>, <http://ohioline.osu.edu/b929/pdf/b929.pdf>

http://fortworthtexas.gov/uploadedFiles/Code_Compliance/Animal_Care_and_Control/Coyotes.pdf

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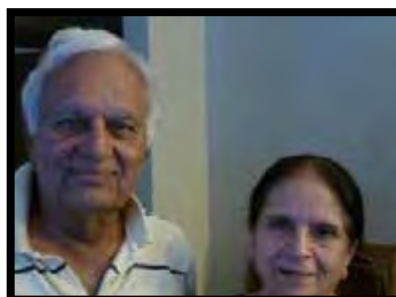
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WELCOME COMMITTEE NEWS

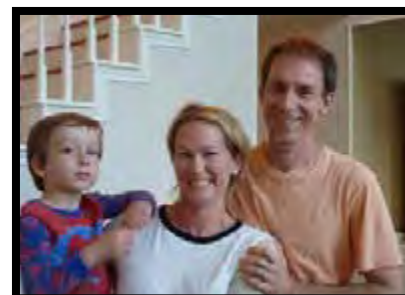
The Welcome Committee has made a few deliveries to new families moving in this summer. Most of the sales from this spring have resulted in delayed move-ins with renovations being completed before the family is in residence. Those of us who have lived through renovations while living in the house can appreciate families wanting to avoid the construction!

Welcome bags were delivered to three new residents. Laj and Sham moved into the 7800 block of Lakewood Dr. after doing some renovations of their own. They moved from another neighborhood in Austin in order to be closer to their son and family. Brett and Erin, with their children Charlie (5 years old) and Ben (21 months old), moved to Jancy Dr. from Charleston, SC. Erin is originally from Houston, and Brett from Minnesota. Roger and Gayland moved to the 8300 block of Asmara from the Mesa Drive area. They're both native Texans.

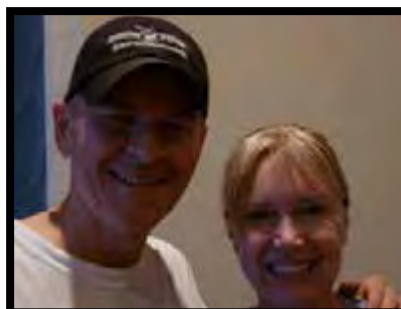
The Welcome Committee enjoyed meeting these new residents. If you live near them, please stop by and introduce yourself! Also, please contact JoAnn Welles at (512) 346-0349 or joann-welles@sbcglobal.net if you've moved to Jester lately and we haven't welcomed you officially. We may have tried to deliver a bag to you but not found you home.



Laj and Sham



Brett, Erin and Charlie



Roger and Gayland

Jester Estates & NW Austin YTD Real Estate Market Update

The Austin area real estate market has remained strong thus far in 2014, as prices continue to steadily rise. Here is a snapshot of how Jester Estates compares to NW Austin, and how 2013 compares to 2014 at this point in the year.

Jester Estates

	2013	2014	
# of New Listings	29	28	-3%
#Closed Listings	20	16	-20%
Med. Sales \$	\$430,000	\$513,500	+19%
Avg. Sales \$	\$449,572	\$483,314	+8%
% of Orig List \$	99.6%	99.6%	
DOM until Sale	18	15	-7%

NW Austin

	2013	2014	
# of New Listings	225	212	-6%
#Closed Listings	153	151	-1%
Med. Sales \$	\$300,431	\$345,000	+15%
Avg. Sales \$	\$325,979	\$360,367	+11%
% of Orig List \$	98.2%	98.8%	+0.6%
DOM until Sale	37	27	-28%

*This information is from the Austin Board of Realtors. Any homes that were sold and not listed in the MLS will not appear in this data. The NW Austin statistics include all homes sold in the MLS area 1N (where Jester is located). Percentages are rounded to the next whole number.

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



July FREE Jester Estates Community BOOTCAMP

When: Sunday, July 20th 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.

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SOLAR TESTIMONIAL

Free Power! (...after you pay for it)

by Kurt Szabo | 7302 Foxtree Cove



I'm new to being a solar guy. It's been a great experience! After my first billing month I have a bit over 200 kWh of credits (or \$30+) on my account with Austin Energy. Nice! Frankly we've had a good amount of overcast, even foggy days this month, remember that weird fog from early April...? As a result, I believe next month I could do even better. On a clear day I make over twice what I use. For this full month I averaged about making about 50% more than I used. Considering the weather, it's really worked out well.

Really, with the rebates and credits, solar power makes an obvious investment. I guess up until recently no one had explained how all that solar power stuff works.

The old saying goes there's only two things for certain in life, death and taxes, well I always mentally added "...and your electric bill". Well I'm happy to say that thanks to my solar panels, my electric bill appears to be leaving that list.

How it works..., you make power while the suns out and sell it to Austin Energy. You sell it at peak price, you then buy it back with Austin Energy's tiered pricing. At the end of the month, if you made more than you used, you save it for next month. It goes for the electric part of your bill. You usually design your system so that you more or less pay the average bill for the whole year, perhaps a bit less to take advantage of those cheap first kilowatts from AE. This way in the summer when you are using lots of electricity for AC you use your surplus and effectively your bill gets averaged out. You can't cash out overproduction, so making more than you use doesn't help your bill.

The other important part of 'does it work for you' is how does it work financially. Austin Energy and the federal government help with about two thirds the original cost of putting on your house, so for me that closed the deal on the dollar side.



WILDLIFE HABITAT

6702 Tree Fern



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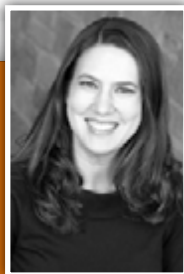
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NATUREWATCH

by Jim and Lynne Weber

INSECT INTERCEPTORS

Powerfully built, bristly flies with notoriously aggressive predatory habits, the many species of Robber Fly in central Texas readily attract attention. Also called assassin flies, these insects range from a half-inch to over an inch long, have overall hairy gray to black bodies, and long, tapering abdomens that are sometimes banded or patterned in a contrasting color. Their wings are usually glassy, but can sometimes be smoky or dark-colored. Robber flies generally have stout, spiny legs, three simple eyes found in a characteristic depression between their two large compound eyes, and a dense moustache of stiff bristles on the face, which can afford some protection for the head and face when the flies deal with struggling prey. Like true flies, robber flies are distinguished by having two wings. Their second set of wings have evolved from typical hindwings into small, knobbed structures called halteres. Often, the halteres of robber flies are brightly colored (think orange) and they are essential to aid them in flight. During flight, the halteres are flapped rapidly and function as gyroscopes, informing the insects about the rotation of their bodies. Halteres comes from the Greek work 'halter', and referred to a double-knobbed device used in Ancient Greece to aid athletes training in jumping exercises.

While dragonflies chase down their prey, robber flies are thought to intercept it. They anticipate their prey's flight path and rapidly act to intercept it in mid-flight. Robber flies also use mimicry to conceal their true nature and use the element of surprise to ambush their prey. Some from the genus *Laphria* mimic bees, and wait for their prey on top of flowers. Others from the genus *Leptogaster* mimic damselflies with much more

slender abdomens and like damselflies, they catch stationary prey while they themselves are in flight. Robber flies in the genera *Proctacanthus* and *Promachus* are known to be particularly large, and can catch and consume insects such as dragonflies that are several times larger than themselves. However, robber flies are not without their own natural enemies, and those include birds, spiders, and even other robber flies.

Once robber flies catch their prey, they stab it with a short proboscis and inject it with saliva containing neurotoxic and proteolytic enzymes. This rapidly paralyzes the prey and liquefies the insides, and the robber fly then feeds by sucking this material back through the proboscis. Adults lay eggs in the soil or in plants, and these eggs hatch into shiny, white legless larvae that develop through several stages before pupating. Typically, the robber flies' lifecycle to adulthood requires one to three years to complete, depending on the species.

Because of their voracious appetites and predatory habit of feeding on other insects, robber flies are considered to be largely beneficial insects, as they do contribute to the maintenance of the natural balance of insect populations. Only the largest have the potential to pinch or bite humans if roughly handled, but they do no harm to plants or crops. While you are outside this summer, look for these intercepting insects as they perch on the stems of plants, on the ground, or flying low. They just might 'rob' your attention!

*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.*



JESTER “Ladies Night Out”

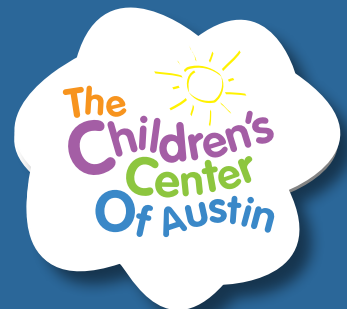
Interest has been expressed in rekindling the Jester Ladies Night Out Group! This is a great way to kick back and have some fun with girlfriends from the neighborhood of all ages! Events will include appetizer potlucks and excursions to area restaurants. Join us for an evening of fun close to home! If 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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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.

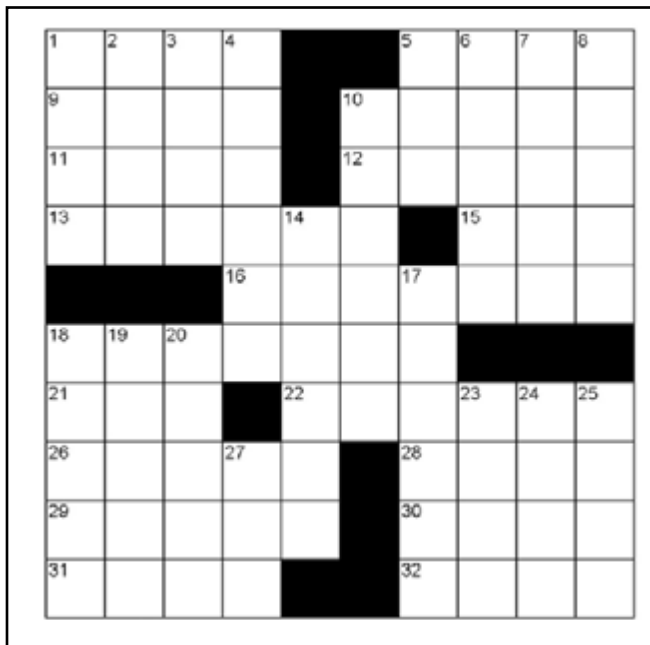
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TEXAS HOLD'EM GROUP - Join the fun and play tournament style Texas Hold'em. We meet once a month. Contact David Singerman to be put on the list. Email david.singerman@kw.com or call 512-207-0930.

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

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

1. Chunk
5. Tramp
9. Run
10. Confuse
11. Cain killed him
12. To that time
13. Fraud
15. Compass point
16. Taught
18. Hides
21. Brew
22. Large meals
26. Sheer, triangular scarf
28. Midwestern state
29. Electronic mail
30. First letter of the Arabic alphabet
31. September (abbr.)
32. Polish

DOWN

1. Attired
2. Earring need
3. Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries
4. Efface
5. Egg layer
6. Many times
7. Capital of Idaho
8. Eyed
10. Combustible material
14. Angry
17. Old Testament prophet
18. Fireproof storage areas
19. Climate
20. Summary
23. Fly alone
24. Matching
25. Secure
27. Whack

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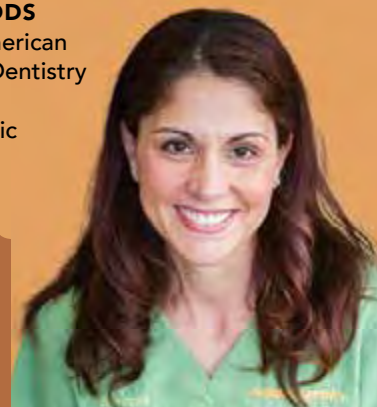
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		9		8		6		
7				6				
			9					5
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						8	7	4
						2		9
	6		7	9		1		
		8	1		4			

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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.



Please remember to pick up after your pets and "scoop the poop"

The Jester Warbler

Official Publication of Jester Homeowners Association, Inc.

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FIT AND FUN

Health Tips for You and Your Children

By: Concentra Urgent Care



Getting fit and staying fit can be a fun process. That's true for individuals, and it's especially true for families.

Fitness is an important topic, especially when your daily routine involves a lot of sitting, whether at work, at school, or at home in front of a computer or TV screen.

The habits that we learn as children are often the habits we carry into adulthood. As parents, we can help our children build healthy habits and find new, fun ways to motivate ourselves and our children to get active.

Below are some ideas for getting off the couch and having some fun while getting fit:

- Take an active vacation: It's tempting every day to think of your vacation as a time to sit and relax. But isn't that what your body does everyday? Instead, you can plan a trip that includes hiking, biking, skiing, and other activities that the whole family can do together.
- Visit a local park: It doesn't have to take a whole day, but you could spend a few hours playing at a park. Take a ball (football or soccer), a Frisbee, or a hacky sack, and play. You can invite some friends to join you, too. And remember: It's not just about the kids moving around –

it's your time, too!

- Hold a block party: Call your neighbors, and block off the closest cul-de-sac for a get together that includes fun and active games. From freeze tag and relay races to hide-and-seek and kickball, there are hundreds of activities to choose from that are fun for everyone.
- Go for a hike: Find a local area where you and your family can go and hike for a few miles. Spend time outdoors, and enjoy what nature has to offer while you all get fit!

For more ideas about fun activities, visit the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance's Web site at: www.aahperd.com.

The Goal: Be instrumental in encouraging children to develop the good habit of moving through space, nurturing their physical power, and getting fit.

For more information about healthy activities, contact your health care provider or your Concentra health specialist. For more information on the importance of fitness for children, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Web site at: <http://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/physicalactivity/>

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

Aug. 28th: Got2Swim 11k Lake Austin. View event details. www.tinych.org/Got2Swim

Sept. 14th: Colin's Hope Kid's Tri! Registration is now open. www.tinych.org/KidsTri

Ongoing: Volunteers needed to distribute water safety packets. info@colinshope.org

Ongoing: Colin's Hope Athlete Ambassadors needed. www.tinych.org/AthleteAmbassador

*Source: Texas DFPS, Watch Kids Around Water



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July Events



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July	Children's Day Art Park (Wednesday mornings, except July 2) <i>Musicians, dancers, storyteller, magicians, mimes and crafts</i>	Symphony Square austinsymphony.org
Saturdays	Splash Party Movie Nights - Catch a flick and take a swim	deepeddy.org
Sundays	Concerts in the Park (except July 6) <i>Free ensemble concerts on the grounds of the Long Center</i>	Long Center austinsymphony.org
Jul. 4	Austin Symphony & Fireworks <i>Enjoy the patriotic music of the Austin Symphony Orchestra</i>	Auditorium Shores austinsymphony.org
Jul. 4 - 6	Rooster Teeth Expo <i>Play new video games and learn how to create online content</i>	Austin Convention Center rtxevent.com
July 9, 23	Blues on the Green (every other Wednesday)	Zilker Park kgssr.com
July 9 -	The Who's "Tommy"	Zach Theatre zachtheatre.org
Aug. 24	<i>Legendary rock opera with hit songs</i>	
July 10	Lionel Richie – All the Hits All Night Long <i>Multi-platinum selling artist with special guest CeeLo Green</i>	Austin360 Amphitheater austin360amphitheater.com
Jul. 11	Rascal Flatts with Sheryl Crow and Gloriana	austin360amphitheater.com
Jul. 11 -	56th Annual Zilker Summer Musical – Oklahoma! (Thur - Sun)	Zilker Hillside Theater 512-479-9491_zilker.org
Aug. 16		
Jul. 12	Bombat Washer Games <i>Play or watch some of the best washer players in the country</i>	Travis County Expo Center bombatwasher.com
Jul. 12 - 20	Peter and the Piper	thelongcenter.org
Jul. 20	Boston – Heaven on Earth Tour, special guest Night Ranger <i>High-energy stage show, musicianship and singing</i>	Cedar Park Center cedarparkcenter.com
Jul. 21 - 27	Go Texan Restaurant Round-Up <i>Participating restaurants donate some proceeds to food banks</i>	gotexanrestaurantroundup.com
Jul. 26	Naturally Fit Games - 20+ sport competitions, Health & Fitness Expo, a Classic Car Show & Family Sport Activities	Austin Convention Center naturallyfitgame.com

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