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November 2014 Volume 9, Issue 11

THANKS TO MY JESTER NEIGHBORS

by Chris Holland

I have wanted to write this note for some time now so when given the opportunity to do so in the November Warbler I knew it was the most appropriate time – a time of Thanksgiving...a time of year when we pause to give thanks for our lives, our families, and our friends.

I have learned a beautiful lesson this year that has inspired and uplifted me at a time of greatest angst in my life. It was my home on Jester Blvd. that burned just before Christmas last year, and from the beginning amid the chaos of fire engines and first responders, I came to realize that friends exist and abound everywhere even before you've ever met them!

We see each other in the neighborhood and pass each other by with a friendly wave and smile with nary a thought behind those friendly gestures, but what I learned and experienced was that, most importantly, when the need arises to take that deeper into a realm of true caring and neighborly love and support – my Jester friends came running from everywhere.

It brings tears of gratitude to my eyes even now as I write this... thinking back on that day and those ensuing – how wonderful

individuals, couples and families stepped forward outwardly and behind the scenes to offer their homes, a place at their holiday table, donations from their own belongings, monetary gifts, hugs, words of support and encouragement - and most of all prayers.

There were no boundaries that day when this neighborhood rose up and surrounded me with love and support – and I was blessed to understand what it meant to really "see" and "care" and "respond" to those in need – the outpouring was spontaneous and heartfelt leaving my soul uplifted in a time that could have been filled with despair.

There are so many to thank that I will not endeavor to list them for fear of leaving someone out who perhaps didn't even sign their name to a contribution – someone I don't even know about who behind the scenes prayed for my daily strength – it is out of respect for those I may not know or whom I would forget to mention that I will simply offer my most heartfelt thanks for carrying me through such a challenging time - for looking out for me, for caring about my precious little yorkies, and for just having my back in so many ways –

(Continued on Page 4)



6 - 8:00 PM
MY PLACE IN JESTER VILLAGE

The HOA invites you to kick off the holiday season with a gathering at My Place. Come socialize and network with your neighbors and get into the holiday spirit! Light appetizers will be provided and happy hour priced drinks will be available for purchase. We hope to see you there!



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		216	101	ıı

Diana Miller	(H) 512-496-0777
	diana0777@att.net

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Glen Brown......(H) 610-504-8999gm.brown5@att.net

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Warbler Co-Editor and Email Alert

Diana Miller......diana0777@att.net

Jester Club

......512-794-8867

..... jesterclubmanager@yahoo.com, www.jesterclub.org

Homeowner's Association Mgmt - Goodwin Mgmt

Office: Mailing Address: 11149 Research Blvd, Suite 100 P.O. Box 203310

Austin, TX 78759 Austin, TX 78720-3310

Newsletter Information

Co-Editors

Publisher

Peel, Inc......www.PEELinc.com, 512-263-9181 Advertising......advertising@PEELinc.com, 512-263-9181

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Interested in submitting an article? You can do so by emailing diana0777@att.net or by going to:

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All news must be received by the 12th
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Jester Homeowner's Association Website!

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SOCIAL GROUPS

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 evergrowing group of wine lovers. Contact Glen Brown at 610-504-8999 or jesterhoa_board@att.net.

JESTER MOMMIES - We're the Jester group for moms who would like to get to know other neighborhood moms. We go to local restaurants or enjoy evening activities nearby, usually without our kids. Interested in the next outing? Contact Suzi Brown Paulsen at oksuzi@hotmail.com.

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





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(Continued from Cover Page)



I am excited to be returning to my home sometime before Christmas and so looking forward to being in the presence of my Jester friends and family — as I was explaining to someone just the other day I realized that Jester is not just a place to live....it is a warm, beautiful neighborhood full of wonderful loving human beings — it is a way of life!

May you all truly be Blessed with the love of friends and family this holiday season and may your lives be filled with Joy!

With much gratitude and so much more meaning than the words thank you can express - your neighbor, Chris Holland



Anna, Michael and Alva Truchard welcomed baby Emma on September 30th.

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NATUREWATCH WHAT GALL!

by Jim and Lynne Weber

In nature, galls refer not to brazen behavior but to abnormal outgrowths on the surface of certain life forms. Plant galls, or cecidia, can be caused by various parasites from fungi to bacteria as well as by insects and mites. In the United States there are over 2000 species of gall-inducing insects, and the majority are reported to form galls on oak trees.

The formation of a gall begins with the hatching of the eggs of certain wasp species laid on the plant. It progresses when the larvae (or the adult female) injects chemicals into the plant, and the tissue swells in reaction, forming a spherical microhabitat around the larvae. The gall's purpose is twofold, providing the larvae with nutrients and protecting them from predators. Once fully grown, the all-female, adult insects bore an exit hole out to the surface of the gall and disperse.

While usually forming in the spring when the most rapid plant cell division occurs, galls initially appear light green in color but become even more noticeable in the fall when oak trees drop their leaves. Dull, dry, and brown, the spent galls are often scavenged by mammals searching for leftover food as winter approaches.

Gall-inducing insects are usually species-specific and sometimes even tissue-specific (branches, leaves, buds, roots) in the plants they select. In central Texas, most of the gall-inducing insects are gall wasps, and while they are closely associated with several species of our native oaks, they can also be identified by the types of galls they produce.

In general, you may find leaf galls with orangish 'hair' formed by the Hedgehog gall wasp, and sticky, spongy galls on twigs with seed-like structures inside formed by the Wool sower gall wasp. On live oaks, you can find woody twig and stem galls formed by the Mealy oak gall wasp, and leaf galls formed by the Wooly leaf gall wasp. The oak apple wasp, however, prefers our red oaks and forms spherical, spongy-filled galls.

Gall-making insects are generally not considered pests, and some galls are even considered attractive and are used in flower arrangements and other crafts. While certain species may cause some aesthetic damage to a plant such as leaf discoloration or early defoliation, most of these insects do not permanently damage the host plant, but just use them to further their own purpose. What gall!

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, check out our blog at:

naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com



Hedgehog gall on white oak (photo by J. Hahn)



Hedgehog gall on white oak (photo by J. Hahn)



Hedgehog gall on white oak (photo by J. Hahn)

JESTER LADIES HOLIDAY LIMO RIDE

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 10TH @ 7 PM RESERVE YOUR SPOT BY DECEMBER 3RD!

Join us in celebrating the holidays by participating in our limo ride! We drive by incredible light displays, and take a photo in front of the huge Christmas tree at the Capitol. We also make a quick stop at the sing along piano bar on 6th Street. It's LOADS of FUN and a great way to meet your neighbors!

Bring a decorative wine glass for a gift exchange. We share the cost of the limo, and the amount is determined based on the number of ladies participating.

For more information, contact Social Chairman Teresa Gouldie at 512-751-8000 or tgouldie@gmail.com.





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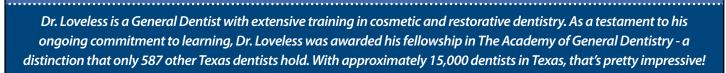
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WELCOME COMMITTEE NEWS

Fall has seen a slowdown in the deliveries for the Welcome Committee, but we were still able to deliver 4 Welcome bags to new residents.

Bags were delivered to:

- Susan and John on the 7600 Block of Jester Blvd. They closed several months ago, but we were just able to connect with Susan. They came to Jester from Virginia by way of California.
- Susan and Bob on the 7100 block of Rusty Fig Drive. They are bravely doing renovations as they live in the house. Most of us know what that's like! They moved from Steiner Ranch for convenience but also to downsize as they're empty nesters.
- Becky and John with son Alex and daughter Tina on the 7100 block of Beauford. They moved from River Place. Alex attends LASA, the Liberal Arts and Science Academy.
- Christian and Raquel on Jester Wild. This is their first house together and they're enjoying the area.

If you live near any of these new residents, 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.







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www.JesterNeighbors.com Community Registration Code: 3328 -

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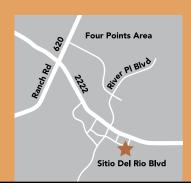
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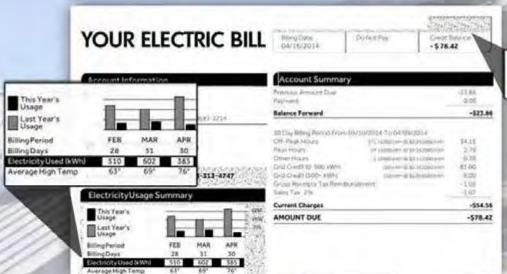
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What does it mean to be green? "Green" is more than just a color. It also means taking special steps to protect the environment — the water, the land, and the air we breathe. Why green? Plants are green, and without them the Earth wouldn't be such a lovely home for us human beings. Every day, people make choices that affect the amount of trash and pollution that gets produced in our world. What can you do? A whole lot, actually. Here's a four-step guide to being green:

- Reduce the amount of stuff you use and throw away.
- · Reuse stuff when you can.
- Recycle cans, bottles, paper, books, and even toys.
- Enjoy the Earth walk in the woods, plant a tree, and eat some of the delicious food it produces.

REDUCE IT!

When you use less of something, you do a good thing for the Earth. For instance, a shorter shower means you used less water and less fuel since your house uses fuel to run the water heater that warmed up the water. Here's a list of other stuff you can reduce:

- Turn off lights you're not using. Better yet, encourage your parents to switch to compact fluorescent light bulbs. They last longer and use less energy. They do need to be disposed of properly, though, so make sure your mom or dad helps if one breaks.
- Turn off the water when you're brushing your teeth.
- When you can, walk or ride your bike instead of driving in the car. You'll use less gas and get some exercise!
- Unplug the chargers for your phone and MP3 player when you're not using them.
- Put your computer to "sleep" instead of leaving it on with the screensaver running.

REUSE IT!

Sometimes people call ours a "throwaway society." That means that we're a little too willing to throw away old stuff and buy new stuff. Many times, even if you no longer need something, someone else just might. For instance, if your baby brother outgrows his plastic basketball hoop, why not give it to another family who has a little kid? That's one less plastic basketball set that they need to buy. It's also one less large plastic toy that needs to be produced, packaged, and shipped to the toy store. Here are some additional ways to reuse the stuff you have:

- Use rechargeable batteries for your handheld computer games, MP3
 players, cell phones, and digital cameras.
- Choose reusable travel cups instead of disposable paper or plastic cups.
- Take your own bags preferably reusable ones when you go to the grocery store.

- Drink tap water instead of buying bottled water. If you don't like how your tap water tastes, a low-cost filtration system could make a difference. Get a reusable water bottle so you can take it with you.
- Organize a swap among your friends. What can you swap? Books, toys, even clothes. It's a way for everyone to get something new without spending any money and without throwing a bunch of stuff away. Set aside some items for your swap when you're cleaning your room!
- Take paper from your computer printouts and use the other side for more computer printing or just to draw or doodle on.

RECYCLE IT!

Recycling has never been easier. Many communities will pick it up right in front of your house and some towns even require it. Tell your mom or dad you want to become "Chief of Recycling" for your household. That means you'll organize the recyclable items in bins, remember to put them on the curb on recycling day, and help remind others which items can be rinsed and recycled.

By separating plastic bottles, cans, bottles, and more, you're reducing the amount of trash that goes to the landfill. What's a landfill? A big mountain of trash, where all the trash trucks go to dump their loads. Recycled goods go instead to a recycling center, where they can be crushed, broken down, and later turned into new cans, bottles, and paper.

What else can be recycled? Sometimes water can be. For instance, some communities take used water — like from the washing machine and shower — and clean it up so it's safe to use for watering the grass and flowers.

ENJOY IT!

It's true that trash and pollution are problems, but the Earth remains a huge and glorious place that's ready for you to explore. You can start locally by visiting the naturally beautiful spots in your city and state. Go for a hike, visit local nature centers and gardens, climb up mountains, and explore lazy creeks.

Experience the outdoors in all sorts of weather — from a sunny day at the beach or lake to a wintry adventure when it snows. And if you're planning a family vacation, suggest a trip to a national treasure, such as the Grand Canyon, Yellowstone Park, or Chincoteague Island to roam with the wild ponies.

But before you travel the globe, take a look at your own backyard. Is there a spot where you could plant a tree or put in a little fruit or vegetable garden? If so, get out there and get your hands dirty. Then you can watch with pride as your tree takes root and your garden plants grow from sprigs to big plants full of ripe, red tomatoes or tiny, succulent blueberries. Who knew being green would taste so good?

Reviewed by: Mary L. Gavin, MD Date reviewed: September 2013

This information was provided by KidsHealth, one of the largest resources online for medically reviewed health information written for parents, kids, and teens. For more articles like this one, visit www.KidsHealth.org or www.TeensHealth.org. ©1995-2006. The Nemours Foundation

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November Events

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

The Jester Warbler - November 2014