



The Jester Warbler

Official Publication of Jester Homeowners Association, Inc.

December 2014

Volume 9, Issue 12



HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONTEST

Spread holiday cheer by lighting up our neighborhood! This year's judging will take place between December 10th and 14th, so make sure your homes are dazzling and bright!

To ensure our judges drive by ALL homes with lights/decorations in Jester, please register your address, or nominate your neighbor's house, by emailing Teresa at tgouldie@gmail.com or calling 512-751-8000.



Santa is Coming to Jester Aboard a Firetruck!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13TH
9:00AM - JESTER CLUB

(You do not have to be a member to participate)

The Austin Fire Department has graciously agreed to send Santa aboard a fire truck to visit with our Jester children and grandchildren.

ACTIVITIES, CAROLING & MORE!
BRING YOUR CAMERAS!

GREEN TIPS



DECEMBER

by Dale Bulla

WASTEWATER AVERAGING STARTS

Many folks are not aware that their waste water or sewer bill is averaged over three months in the winter when outside watering is at a minimum. Irrigation during the winter months is not necessary because the plants are dormant and are not growing. From November to the end of February, the lowest three months of water use are averaged and that amount will be your wastewater cost for the next twelve months. So remember that every drop you save through February, will save you all next year.

GREEN NEIGHBORHOOD UPDATE

It is that time of the year when we update our Green Neighborhood webpage with the city of Austin. If you have added solar panels, purchased a plug-in or hybrid vehicle, had your yard certified as a wildlife habitat or added rainwater collection, please let me know so I can bring our statistics up to date on the website. To view our webpage, go to www.austintexas.gov/content/1361/FAQ/3002. Click on Who are Austin's certified Green Neighborhoods? Scroll down until you see Jester.

Thanks for all you do to keep the Jester air and water clean.

Dale Bulla

dale-bulla@pobox.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!

www.JesterNeighbors.com

Community Registration Code: 3328

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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 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.

TEXASHOLD'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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HALLOWEEN PARADE

by Teresa Gouldie, Social Chairman

Our Halloween Parade drew a big crowd this year as our neighborhood children gathered at Jester Club dressed in some incredibly imaginative costumes. Led by a decorated golf cart, the children and their parents provided a sea of color as they marched up Jester, around Basil and back to the club. Upon their return, the children were treated to refreshments and an assortment of games and activities, including the ever-popular “prize walk”. A great time was had by all! A special thank you, as always, goes out to Terri Milan and Jester Club for providing the location. Thanks also to the amazing teenagers who got up early and helped with

the event: Ellie Barmish, Hailey Nichols, Dana Bruhis, Caroline Pham, Isabel Cameron, Sandra Weber, Claudia Guerra, Megan Lucas and Clio Harralson. Our adult volunteers included Eva and Jon Wissner, Roger and Gayland Williams, Lloyd Terry, Ed Mokarzel, Jerome Schaffler, Andrew Chen and Jordan Yeats. Thanks to all of these great people for creating memories for our Jester children!

We are in need of volunteers for our “Santa on a Fire Truck” event on December 13th. Please contact me at tgouldie@gmail.com or call me at 512-751-8000 if you can participate.





WILDLIFE HABITAT

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This is being reprinted from the November issue as the address in the last issue was printed incorrectly.



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

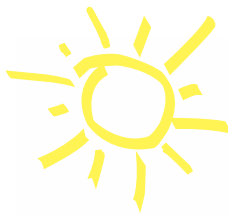
Join us in celebrating the holidays by participating in our limo ride! We drive by incredible light displays, and take a photo in front of the huge Christmas tree at the Capitol. We also make a quick stop at the sing along piano bar on 6th Street. It's LOADS of FUN and a great way to meet your neighbors!

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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4308 N. Quinlan Park Rd.
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CCOA-JESTER
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NATUREWATCH

by Jim and Lynne Weber

THE SEVEN-FACED BIRD

Most often, the traditional star of holiday meals in the United States is the domestic turkey. Interestingly, this bird is only one of two wild bird species native to North America (the other is Muscovy Duck) that have been bred specifically for human consumption. Wild turkeys (*Meleagris gallopavo*) were first domesticated in Mexico, and then exported to Europe. European settlers brought domesticated turkeys back to the New World, but would also hunt the wild birds they found. Currently, there are more than 7 million wild turkeys in North America, a pretty astounding fact when they were almost extinct by the 1930s due to overhunting and deforestation of their preferred habitat.

Adult wild turkeys are large birds with long reddish-yellow to grayish-green legs, with each foot having three toes in front and a shorter, rear-facing toe in back. Their body feathers are generally blackish to dark brown, with a coppery sheen that becomes more pronounced in mature males. The toms or gobblers, as the males are called, have a large, featherless, reddish head, red throat, and red wattles on both the throat and neck. The long, fleshy object hanging over the male's beak is called a 'snood', and the tail feathers are all one length. Juvenile males are called jakes, and they have shorter wattles and a tail fan with longer feathers in the middle. Males also have a spur behind each of their lower legs, which they use when fighting. Wild turkeys show a strong sexual dimorphism, with the males being significantly larger than the females or hens. The hens have duller feathers overall, mainly in shades of brown and gray. Young females are called jennies, and the very young of both sexes are called poults.

In Japanese and Korean, the turkey is called 'shichimencho' and 'chilmyeonjo' respectively, both of which translate to 'seven-faced bird.' This reflects the ability of the male wild turkey to change the color of its facial skin and wattles in a matter of seconds due to excitement or emotion. While the birds' head color can range from red to pink to white to blue, certain changes represent certain moods. When the male is excited his head turns blue, and when he is ready to fight it turns red.

Unlike their domestic counterparts and despite their weight, wild turkeys are agile fliers. While their powerful legs can get them running up to 25 mph, their top speed in flight is 55 mph. In their ideal habitat of open woodland or wooded grasslands, they fly beneath the canopy top and sleep up in trees. They can live an average of 3-5 years in the wild, eating a varied diet that includes grains, insects, berries, and even small reptiles. Their daytime vision is three times better than a human's and they see in color, but they have poor vision at night.

There are 6 different subspecies of wild turkey in North America, showing differences in coloration, habitat, and behavior. In our region, the Rio Grande Wild Turkey (*M. g. intermedia*) is dominant, naturally ranging through Texas to Oklahoma, Kansas, New Mexico, Colorado, and Oregon. Having slightly longer legs than other subspecies, it is better adapted to a prairie habitat, with a more greenish-coppery sheen and buff-colored feathers on the tail tips and lower back. This subspecies prefers brushy areas near streams or rivers, and forests of scrub oak, pine, and mesquite.



Male Wild Turkey



Female Wild Turkey

Either way you slice it, as you celebrate the holidays this year, reflect on the wonders of the 'seven-faced bird,' appreciate their history with humans, and keep an eye out for wild wattle and snood!

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 blog at naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com for additional topics.

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JESTER NETWORKING GROUP

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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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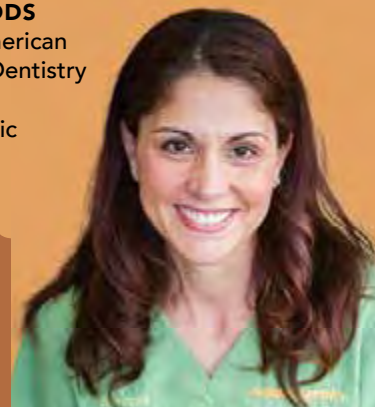
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Include type of pet, name, male or female, description, age, medications, veterinarian's name, whether it is microchipped, and pet owner's name, address, and contact information.

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!

JESTER Hilltop Toddlers

Join this newly formed group for parents of children who are looking for new friends, play-dates and things to do with their pre-school age children.

To join, send an email to Rachelle Abercrombie at hilltoptoddlers-subscribe@yahoo.com.



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December Events

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Nov. 26 -	A Christmas Carol A Rockin' New Musical	Zach Theatre
Dec. 28	<i>Spectacular holiday carols and surprising time-bending classics</i>	zachtheatre.org
Nov. 28 -	This Wonderful Life -	Zach Theatre
Dec. 28	<i>Martin Burke plays all 37 characters from the beloved holiday film</i>	zachtheatre.org
Dec. 5 - 21	THCW – 2014 Holiday Wine Trail	texaswinetrail.com
	<i>The most coveted wine trail of the year with 36 wineries</i>	
Dec. 5 - 21	A Charlie Brown Christmas – Music of Vince Guaraldi	The Paramount Theatre
	<i>Featuring music from this holiday classic and more</i>	austinthatre.org
Dec. 6 - 23	The Nutcracker - an evening of magic!	balletaustin.org
Dec. 6 - 24	Gingerbread Workshops	The Thinkery
	<i>Create a candy-covered holiday tradition</i>	thinkeryaustin.org
Dec. 7 - 21	Austin Trail of Lights at Zilker Park	austintailoflights.org
Dec. 9 - 14	Anything Goes - Saucy & splendid musical comedy	texasperformingarts.org
Dec. 16 - 24	Armadillo Christmas Bazaar	Palmer Events Center
	<i>Austin arts event with an eclectic selection of unique gifts</i>	armadillobazaar.com
Dec. 18	Trans-Siberian Orchestra Winter Tour 2014	Frank Erwin Center
	<i>Virtuoso musicianship and over the top production</i>	trans-siberian.com
Dec. 21	Disney Junior Live on Tour! Pirate & Princess Adventure	Frank Erwin Center
	<i>"Sofia the First" and "Jake and the Never Land Pirates"</i>	uterwincenter.com
Dec. 29 - 30	Cirque Dreams Holidaze	Cedar Park Center
	<i>Broadway musical, holiday spectacular and family show</i>	cedarparkcenter.com
Dec. 29 - 30	Behind the Mask - Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber combined with hits by Kander and Ebb and more	Palmer Events Center
		austinsymphony.org
Dec. 30 - 31	Willie Nelson and Family New Year	Moody Theatre acl-live.com
Dec. 31	Austin's New Year - Free family-friendly event... & fireworks!	Butler Park austintexas.gov

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