



The Jester Warbler

Official Publication of Jester Homeowners Association, Inc.

November 2017

Volume 12, Issue 11

Holiday Happy Hour

WEDNESDAY NOV 15

6 - 8 PM

SCOREBOARD IN JESTER VILLAGE

The HOA invites you to kick off the holiday season with a gathering at Scoreboard. 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!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Santa aboard a Firetruck In Jester!

**Saturday, December 2nd
9:00 am - Jester Club**

You do not have to be a member
to participate

Jester Ladies Holiday Limo Ride

Wednesday December 6th
7 pm

RESERVE YOUR SPOT BY NOVEMBER 22ND!

Join us in celebrating the holidays by participating in our limo ride! We drive by incredible light displays on our way to Mozart's for their amazing light show. 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 Debra Ellsworth at 512-627-5323 or debra@ellsworthteam.com.

Wildfire Safety Notice Volunteers Needed in Jester

by Jeffrey Shapiro

It's not just California...Jester is a high-risk wildland-urban interface community, and like California, this year's wet spring/summer gave us a lot of plant growth that will dry out at some point. Remember the Steiner Ranch and Bastrop fires in Sept. 2011? That was exactly one year after tropical storm Hermine came through and triggered a lot of plant growth. Good news! Austin and Travis County have an active wildland-urban interface fire safety program that includes many communities, and Jester was among the first. We did a lot of prevention and education work a few years ago, but many of our committee members have since relocated elsewhere. WE NEED YOUR HELP! WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF A WILDFIRE STRIKES JESTER? I am in the process of planning an event that will simulate what will

(Continued on Page 2)

JESTER HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONTEST

by Rossi Byrne

As the Holiday Season rapidly approaches, don't forget to light your houses. We have 5 different categories and wonderful prizes for each of them!

Judging of the houses participating in the contest will take place from December 10th to December 14th. To make sure we don't miss your house you can email your address to rossibyrne@gmail.com make sure to put in the subject JESTER HOLIDAY LIGHTS.

LET'S BRING SOME CHEER TO JESTER WITH
HOLIDAY LIGHTS!!

Jester Estates

(Continued from Cover)

happen if a wildfire exposes Jester using a state-of-the-art "sand table" simulator, which will be set up to physically mimic the Jester region terrain. On top of the terrain model, a projector will display active results, showing the speed of fire progression based on wind, moisture and other factors. The model is also capable of showing the expected effect of measures that homeowners can take to minimize risk in the "home ignition zone." No homes in Jester are completely safe from wildfire risk, even homes that are far from the canyon edge, but there are things that you can do to greatly increase your home's chance of survival. If the plan goes as expected, it is my intent to live stream the sand-table exercise for residents to view on the Web. There may also be limited space for people to attend in person at the broadcast location if we can find a suitable space nearby. As part of the program, we hope to be able to take/answer questions, and we'll offer guidance on protecting your home. Afterward, if we can recruit some volunteers, we may be able to offer in-person evaluations of individual properties in the neighborhood, as we did for over 100 homes a few years ago. We are also working to schedule another "30-feet for fire safety" event with a special pickup from Austin Resource Recovery. If you're interested in helping, AND I REALLY NEED SOME HELP!!! please send an email to firewise@jesterneighbors.com

with your name and contact information.

For those who may be interested, Austin Fire Department is planning to conduct a training program for "Home Ignition Zone" (HIZ) evaluation volunteers...neighbors who are trained to assist homeowners in the community with evaluating wildfire ignition risk and offering tips on risk reduction.



CHOCOLATE CLASS 101

Gather friends and family for a chocolate-filled holiday activity and an education in CHOCOLATE! Host a private chocolate class in your home with Professional Chocolatier, Claire McKenzie. You will start your chocolate journey learning how cocoa beans become a chocolate bar. You will then awaken your palette with a chocolate tasting. A demonstration will be given on how to make a simple ganache (gah nosh) recipe and then you will create and customize your very own 1/2 lb box of hand-rolled truffles to take home and enjoy!

Prepare to have fun and get messy!

Classes start November 9, 2017 and end December 31, 2017

*must have minimum of 6 students to hold a class *kid friendly ages 6+ *aprons and gloves will be provided

Available days and times:

Thursdays 6-8pm

Fridays 7-9pm

Saturdays 1-3pm and 7-9pm

Sundays 1-3pm and 6-8pm

\$50 per student

Call 512-553-2195 or email clairezmckenzie@gmail.com to reserve your private class

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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 BEER TASTING GROUP

The launch of the Jester Beer Tasting Group at Coffee Shark on September 27th was a great success! Thanks to owner and Jester resident Matt Allen for hosting such a fun event.

Mark your calendars for the next one on Wednesday November 8th from 7 – 9 pm at Coffee Shark. Hope you can make it!







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Jester Estates

Jester Wine Group Party - Sept. '17

We had a fabulous time with neighbors we knew, as well as meeting new neighbors. The Group enjoyed a variety of wines from Spain starting with whites on through reds. Our neighbors like to make great food too. Our palettes were satiated and happy!

Thank you so much to everyone who came! I was having so much fun I neglected to take this photo until after some folks left.

Our next Wine Group evening will be hosted by Justin & Kim Weisman on Jan. 27. Mark your calendar!

If you would like to host sometime or be added to our email list, let me know: debra@ellsworthteam.com



JESTER WINE TASTING GROUP MEETS AGAIN!

The next JESTER WINE TASTING party will be on **JANUARY 27, 2017.**

Attention Jester wine lovers! Join us for food, wine and fun and enjoy a sampling of wines from various regions.

THE JANUARY HOSTS ARE:

Justin & Kim Wiesman
8308 Jancy Drive
512-751-2418

WHEN:

Saturday, January 27, 2018
7:00pm – 10:00pm

BRING:

\$15.00 for wine

A dish such as appetizer, salad, side dish, dessert
We will supply the entrée and the wine.

RSVP: wiesmank@gmail.com

Cheers



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www.austinhoaringservices.com

Blake Miller State Farm

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Coffee Shark

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WELCOME COMMITTEE NEWS

Wow! Is it really fall when it feels just like summer? Several of our new Jester residents have moved from much cooler climates, so I'm sure they think we'll still be 90 degrees in January! And we may be!

We did deliver Welcome Bags to several new neighbors this month. Sarood, Breck and 11 weeks old Alice moved to the 7500 block of Jester Boulevard from San Francisco. They did some remodeling before they moved in, but fortunately didn't do it while living in the new home! Eddy and Gayle moved from the near end of Anaqua, very close to Deb Lewis, one of our Welcome Committee members. They moved to the 8000 block of Bottlebrush Drive. They already knew the information in the Welcome Bag but were especially happy to get the cookies and Coffee Shark gift cards.

Liron and Myer moved to the 7800 block of Moonflower Drive from New York City with their young daughter Ella and even younger son Adam. The cookies in the Welcome Bag were devoured as we stood at the door! Having to drive everywhere and the relatively large size of Austin houses are two major changes (not to mention the heat) from NYC. Bill, Suzanne, and their son Matthew, a senior at Anderson High, moved to Anaqua Drive. They also have children attending Texas Tech and Indiana University plus one who graduated from UT and introduced them to Austin.

If you live near any new residents, please stop by and introduce yourself! Also, please contact JoAnn Welles at (512) 484-7588 or jawelles1@gmail.com 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 your home.



Breck and Sarood with daughter Alice on Jester



Suzanne and Bill on Anaqua

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GREEN TIPS FOR SAVING MONEY ON YOUR WATER BILL

by Dale Bulla

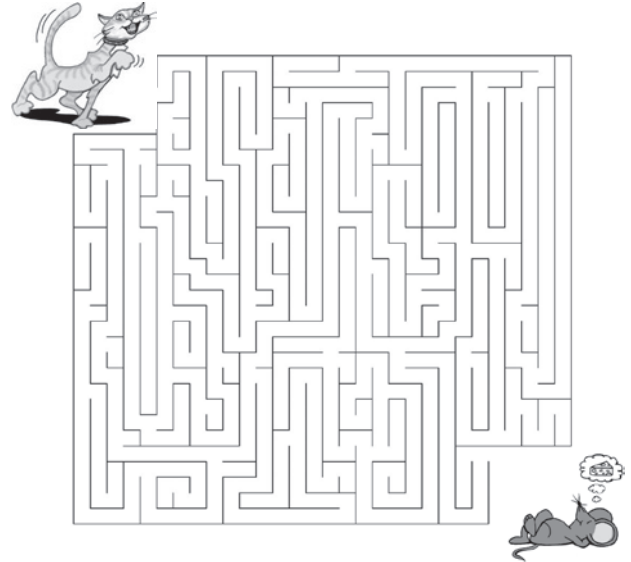


Wastewater Averaging Starts Next Month

It's that time of the year again. Many folks are not aware that their wastewater or sewer bill is averaged over three months in the winter when outside watering is at a minimum. Irrigation during the winter months is usually 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.

Kidz Maze Mania

The cat is looking for his old friend, Harry the mouse. Help the cat get through the maze to find Harry as he sleeps.



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512.795.8300

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JESTER HOA HAS A NEW WEBSITE!

The HOA has a new updated, website. Besides HOA documents and contact information, it will keep you informed on the social events throughout the year.

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NATURE WATCH

A THISTLE EPISTLE

by Jim and Lynne Weber



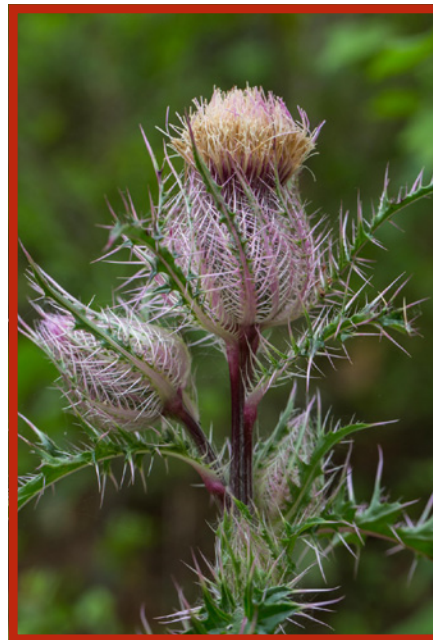
A Mexican Yellow butterfly nectaring on a Texas Thistle.

As one of the most wrongly maligned and misunderstood group of wildflowers, native thistles have never been truly embraced, not even by wildscape gardeners or habitat restoration practitioners. While these plants play a significant role in our ecosystems, they have been a direct casualty of habitat loss, first by plow-based agriculture and followed by the continual development of roads and cities. Further, recent invasions of non-native, exotic thistle species and the inability to discern them from the superficially similar native species, have contributed to their unjustified reputation and ongoing demise.

Native thistles are a beautiful and important group of plants, with subtle blue-green foliage, fascinating stem and leaf architecture, and long-lasting pastel blooms that nourish many species of insects and birds. The nectar they produce is utilized by many species of bees, wasps, butterflies, moths, flies, beetles, spiders, katydids, and hummingbirds, which demonstrates the wide diversity of animals supported by native thistle flowers. In late summer and early fall, they are an essential nectar source for migrating Monarch butterflies. Their persistent seed heads provide the favorite food of goldfinches (both Lesser and American) and other songbirds such as the Carolina Chickadee, and the silky fluff attached to mature seeds is used to line their nests in the spring.

While there are many plants with spines that are erroneously called 'thistles', true thistles belong to the genus *Cirsium*. Of the 62 native species in North America, the most important species in our area are the Texas Thistle (*Cirsium texanum*) and the Yellow Thistle (*Cirsium horridulum*). The Texas Thistle, also called Southern Thistle or Gray Woolly Twintip, is an upright, unbranched or sparingly branched plant, 2 to 6.5 feet tall, with

grayish-green foliage that is spiny and woolly-white below. Violet-pink to deep lavender-rose composite flower heads top the stems from April to August, and are surrounded by bracts that bear a silvery strip down the middle. Texas Thistle is also the larval host plant for the Painted Lady and Mylitta Crescent butterflies. Yellow Thistle, as perhaps foreshadowed by its scientific name, has a host of other, undeserved common names such as Horrid Thistle and Terrible Thistle. It has a branching, densely hairy stem rising from a 2 foot wide basal rosette, 1 to



The blooms of the Yellow Thistle are surrounded by a whorl of spiny bracts.

5.5 feet tall, with long grayish-green spiny leaves and several large flower heads. Blooming May to August, these composite flower heads are up to 3 inches wide, surrounded by a whorl of spiny, hairy, leaf like bracts, and are frequently red-purple, pink, or white instead of the namesake yellow. In the first year of growth this plant remains a low-lying rosette, and 'bolts' in the spring of the following year to reach its full height. Yellow Thistle is an excellent attractant for Sphinx moths and is the larval host plant for the Little Metalmark and Painted Lady butterflies.

It's time to bring back our native thistles, so this fall consider planting them in your wildscape. These species have evolved with our native pollinators in our natural habitats over thousands of years. As a result, they benefit us by helping to sustain a healthy ecoweb, protecting our water quality, sequestering carbon in our soils, and adding a sublime beauty and structure to our landscapes. And that's our epistle to the thistle!

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 books, *Nature Watch Austin* and *Nature Watch Big Bend* (both published by Texas A&M University Press), and our blog at naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com.



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Happy Thanksgiving,

Teresa



November Events

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Nov. 1 -	A Tuna Christmas	Zach Theatre
Dec. 31	<i>Texas-sized jolly holiday comedy</i>	zachtheatre.org
Nov. 7	PJ MASKS LIVE! - Favorite children's series heroes	acl-live.com
Nov. 12	Jack Hanna Into the Wild Live!	austintheatre.org
Nov. 12	Herman's Hermits - A must-see concert experience	oneworldtheatre.org
Nov. 15 - 19	A Christmas Affair 200+ national merchants sell original art, jewelry and crafts	Palmer Events Center jlaustin.org
Nov. 17 - 19	2017 Wizard World Austin Comic Con Where pop culture comes to life	Austin Convention Center wizardworld.com
Nov. 18	Chuy's Christmas Parade - Bring a new, unwrapped toy to donate. Giant balloons, marching bands, floats and more!	Congress Ave. chuysparade.com
Nov. 19	Gladys Knight - Experience the "Empress of Soul" live	austintheatre.org
Nov. 22 - 23	Operation Turkey - Volunteer to cook or deliver Thanksgiving dinners to the homeless and less fortunate	operationturkey.com
Nov. 22 -	A Christmas Carol	Zach Theatre
Dec. 31	<i>Austin's most rockin' holiday tradition</i>	zachtheatre.org
Nov. 24	Santa on the Terrace Free photo with Santa overlooking the best view in Austin	The Long Center thelongcenter.org
Nov. 24 - 25	Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer: The Musical	thelongcenter.org
Nov. 24 - 26	Ben Hur Shrine Circus	benhurshrine.org
Nov. 24 -	Blue Genie Art Bazaar - Thousands of original works	bluegenieartbazaar.com
Dec. 24	<i>ranging from serious art to fun items</i>	
Nov. 29	Peppa Pig Live! - Action-packed live family show	acl-live.com

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