



# The Jester Warbler

Official Publication of Jester Homeowners Association, Inc.

April 2018

Volume 13, Issue 4

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The Jester Homeowner's Annual meeting was held on Tuesday, February 20th. We had approximately 45 people in attendance and appreciate everyone's efforts to participate.

The Safety Committee update included the subjects of the Beauford hump installation, maintaining speed compliance, removing the white pylons, and the park crosswalk. The Beauford hump installation has since been cancelled. Measured data from our radar signs showed that speeds have been well maintained at 3 of the 4 signs but a 1mph speed reduction is needed at the Clove Cove sign, near the old humps. We will pursue removal of the pylons there with ATD if speeds are well maintained at that location 6-9 months from now. ATD is currently evaluating options for a crosswalk at our park and has concluded that a center median will be needed. See another article in this Warbler for a more

detailed Safety Committee update.

Two Board positions were up for election. Congratulations goes to Edward Mokarzel and Chris Holland who were nominated and elected to continue serving on the Jester HOA board. We would also like to thank Wayne Hicks for his service on the board thru January of this year. We have elected Susanne Paul to complete his term.

The Board wants to become more seamless and plans to use the Jester website as a vehicle for interesting articles and notices that pertain to our neighborhood.

Please contact Board members listed inside this issue if you would like to become more involved in Jester.

**JESTER IS A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE!!**

Diana Miller



**GARAGE SALE**

**Spring Garage Sale**

*Register your location so you can get maximum exposure!*

JHA is sponsoring a Jester Garage sale on Saturday May 5th at 8 am. Ads will run in the American Statesman on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday promoting this neighborhood-wide sale. Please email Teresa at [tgouldie@gmail.com](mailto:tgouldie@gmail.com) or call her at 512-751-8000 if you would like to register your garage sale location. Maps with lists of garage sale addresses will be available at the entrances to Jester.

**Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>  
8:00 AM**

## HOA Safety Committee Update

*by Susanne Paul*

The HOA Safety Committee began a neighborhood-wide speed awareness campaign last fall and, thanks to the efforts of our residents, speeds in Jester dropped significantly. Along Jester Blvd 85th-percentile speeds of 39 and 40mph in the past dropped to 32-34mph. In response to this success our HOA requested that ATD do an updated speed test on Beauford. Provided that speeds there are found to be compliant, our request was that ATD cancel the

planned installation of 4 speed humps on Beauford, install radar signs instead, and allow us to remain hump-free for as long as speeds remain compliant. Initially ATD was unwilling but when the Safety Committee spoke at City Council Alison Alter expressed support for our approach and she intervened with ATD. Shortly thereafter ATD conducted a secret speed test over 2 days on Beauford using unmarked cars at 4 locations. Measured 85th percentile speeds were

*(Continued on Page 2)*

## NATURE WATCH

### LITTLE ARMORED ONE

by Jim and Lynne Weber

Spanish for 'little armored one', the armadillo is one of the most interesting mammals in North America. All but one of the 20 different species of armadillo live in Latin America, but the Nine-banded Armadillo (*Dasypus novemcinctus*) makes its home as far north as Texas (except for the western Trans-Pecos), Oklahoma, and Louisiana. In fact, this armadillo is the official state small mammal of Texas!



*Nine-banded Armadillo*

A cat-sized, insect-eating mammal, armadillos have bony plates that cover their back, head, legs, and tail, protecting them from predators. No other living mammal wears such a shell, but contrary to popular belief, the Nine-banded Armadillo cannot roll into a ball and encase itself with its shell. Only the Three-banded Armadillo can accomplish this, by curling its head and back feet inward and contorting its shell as protection. No amount of armor can protect them from the cold, however, and because of their low metabolic rate and lack of fur and body fat stores, cold weather can wipe out whole populations of these little creatures.

Armadillos have a pointy snout and small eyes, and are prolific diggers. They dig for food and dig many burrows, mostly along creekbeds in Central Texas, and they do not survive in areas where the soil is too hard to dig. Armadillos spend up to 16 hours a day digging, mainly active in the dawn and dusk hours, looking for beetles, ants, termites, and other insects. Their eyesight is quite poor, but they use their keen sense of smell to locate food, and utilize their long, sticky tongues to grasp berries, caterpillars, grubs, fungi, and sometimes even carrion.

Armadillos are quite fond of water, visiting water holes and streams to drink, feed, and even take mud baths. Their specific gravity is high, which means they normally ride low in the water when swimming. For short water crossings, they often just walk underwater across the bottom, but for deeper and longer crossings they voluntarily ingest air to inflate themselves and increase their

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31-32mph. Based on this result, Robert Spillar, director of ATD, granted our request for cancellation of the Beauford humps and installation of radar signs instead.

Jester is privileged to remain one of the few hump-free neighborhoods in Austin. But along with that privilege comes the responsibility to maintain good speed compliance. The HOA Safety Committee continues to be committed to this on all of our streets. We will monitor data from the radar signs and adjust our speed awareness activities to the measured speeding levels. The less speeding, the less residents will need to hear about speed awareness and the less invasive measures will be. We will reach out to Beauford residents to see if there are other solutions to their safety concerns and to find the best locations for radar signs there. We will repeat our speed awareness event as needed. We would like to see a 1mph reduction in speeds at Clove Cove (by the old speed humps) and if that is achieved we will pursue having the white pylons, the last vestige of the humps, there removed too.

If we all chip in we can do this together. Here are some things that you can do to help:

1. Forget views from the past that driving 33-35mph in a 30mph zone is acceptable
2. Maintain your speeds at or below 30mph
3. Be especially vigilant at the location of the old speed humps
4. Ask your visitors and contractors not to speed and tell them that means 30mph – not 33mph
5. Don't pull over to let speeders pass
6. Leave a bad rating for Uber/Lyft drivers who speed here and tell them you will
7. Spread the word about the importance of speed compliance

There is one more subject for update. Our residents broadly requested a crosswalk at the Jester park and we are working with ATD to make that happen. The location would be at the Nutmeg Cove intersection, near the tennis courts. ATD has determined that a center median is necessary due to the excessive road width. Normally ATD would build that with pylons and premanufactured curb but a financial contribution from our residents could allow that to be concrete and landscaped instead.

The Safety Committee invites residents to raise specific safety complaints with us anywhere in the neighborhood and is open to continued discussion about how to best maintain a safe and happy neighborhood.

**RSVP**

512-338-8880  
- OR -

DIANA@CRUISEHOLIDAYS.COM

### RIVER CRUISE INFORMATION NIGHT

DATE: APRIL 10, 2018 TIME: 6:00-8:00

ANDERSON TERRACE EVENT VENUE

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## ATTENTION JESTER WINE LOVERS!

The next **JESTER WINE TASTING** party will be on  
**May 5, 2018 (Cinco de Mayo).**

Join us for food, wine and fun and enjoy a sampling of wonderful wines. Bring your palate and your appetite.

**THE MAY HOSTS ARE: DELL & DENNIS PASSOVOY**  
**ADDRESS: 8333 JANCY DR. (END OF THE CUL-DE-SAC)**  
**PHONE: (512) 502-8804**

**WHEN:**  
**SATURDAY, MAY 5, 2018**  
**7:00 – 10:00PM**

### WHAT YOU SHOULD BRING:

\$15.00 per person (to cover the wine)

A dish to share (such as an appetizer, salad, side dish, or dessert)

The Passovoy's will supply the entrée and the wine.

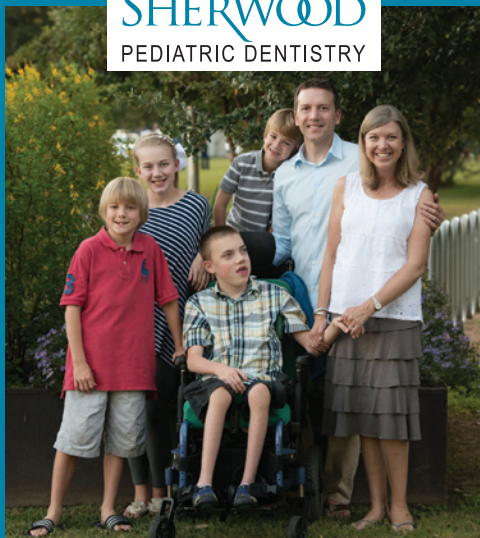
They will also provide wine glasses.

**RSVP: DELL@PASSOVOY.COM**

### WE NEED HOSTS!

If you would like to host a future wine party,  
please email: [debra@ellsworthteam.com](mailto:debra@ellsworthteam.com)

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## ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

Interested in submitting an article? You can do so by emailing  
[diana0777@att.net](mailto:diana0777@att.net) or by going to:  
[www.peelinc.com/articleSubmit.php](http://www.peelinc.com/articleSubmit.php).

*All news must be received by the 12th  
of the month prior to the issue.*



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for HOA documents and  
info on the neighborhood!

NOT AVAILABLE  
ONLINE

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buoyancy by retaining the air in their digestive tract!

Armadillos are thought to be a pair during the breeding season, sharing the same burrow. Due to their bony shells and the underside location of their genitalia, copulation occurs with the female lying on her back. While breeding occurs in July, the embryo remains in a dormant state until November. Always of the same sex, identical quadruplets develop from the single egg, and four young are born in a grass-lined burrow in March.

While the Nine-banded Armadillo is a unique mammal whose range is expanding northward, there is reason to be concerned about their conservation status in Texas. Encroaching human civilization, overgrazing, and progressive climatic change may be keeping them on the move, and many mammalogists agree that armadillos are rare at best when compared to populations of a few years ago. This decline also appears to be correlated with increasing populations of feral hogs, as well as the propensity for people to make trinkets from armadillo shells. Perhaps our state motto should read 'Don't Mess with Texas Armadillos!'

Send your nature-related questions to [naturewatch@austin.rr.com](mailto: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 (published by Texas A&M University Press), and our blog at [naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com](http://naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com).



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DUE: April 30, 2018

Be sure to include the following so we can let you know!

Name (first name, last initial): \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_



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**Teresa Gouldie**

Jester Resident / Broker

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*“We chose Teresa for her proven track record in Jester. We found her responsive and available, and always able to clarify questions. The process was simple and straightforward.”*

*Teresa also represented us in the purchase of our new home. The meeting she arranged with the builder was extremely productive. We appreciate her professionalism and skills in negotiating, both in our sale and in our purchase. We highly recommend her.”*



## April Events

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

Apr. 8	<b>Edible Austin Children’s Picnic: A Real Food Fair</b> <i>Plant a sq ft garden, enjoy bites from local food vendors, live music</i>	Rosewood Park <b>edibleaustin.com</b>
Apr. 13 - 14	<b>Beethoven’s Fifth - Da-da-da-DUM!</b>	<b>thelongcenter.org</b>
Apr. 13 - 15	<b>Art City Austin</b> <i>Featuring 150 artists from across the country</i>	Palmer Events Center <b>artallianceaustin.org</b>
Apr. 18 - 21	<b>Moontower Comedy Festival</b> <i>100 performers, 12 venues</i>	The Paramount Theatre <b>austintheatre.org</b>
Apr. 20 - 22	<b>Austin Reggae Festival</b> <i>Local and national bands jammin’ for the Central Texas Food Bank</i>	Auditorium Shores <b>austinreggaefest.com</b>
Apr. 20 - 22	<b>Austin Auto Show</b> <i>Some of this year’s most anticipated car models on display</i>	Austin Convention Center <b>autoshowaustin.com</b>
Apr. 20 - 22	<b>Moto GP</b> <i>One of the most thrilling motorcycle race experiences</i>	Circuit of the Americas <b>circuitoftheamericas.com</b>
Apr. 21	<b>Austin Nature Day</b> <i>Build ephemeral art, paint with an animal, &amp; more</i>	Austin Nature & Science Center <b>austintexas.gov</b>
Apr. 21 - 22	<b>Monster Jam - Family-friendly, action-packed motorsport</b>	<b>uterwincenter.com</b>
Apr. 25 - 29	<b>Disney On Ice presents - Reach for the Stars</b>	<b>hebcenter.com</b>
Apr. 27 - 29	<b>Austin Food &amp; Wine Festival</b> <i>Food &amp; Wine hosts this epicurean adventure</i>	<b>austinfoodandwinefestival.com</b>
Apr. 28	<b>Eeyore’s 54th Annual Birthday Party</b> <i>A free family-friendly event benefitting local charities</i>	Pease Park <b>eeyores.org</b>
Apr. 28 - 29	<b>Wiener Dog Races</b> <i>It’s worth the drive</i>	Buda City Park <b>budalionsclub.com</b>
Apr. 28 - 29	<b>Dragon Boat Festival and Race</b> <i>Dragons race on Lady Bird Lake</i>	<b>atxdragonboat.com</b>

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