



# The Jester Warbler

Official Publication of Jester Homeowners Association, Inc.

March 2019

Volume 14, Issue 3

## JESTER EASTER EGG HUNT & PETTING ZOO

**Saturday, April 13th  
9:30 am @ Jester Club**

*(Note: This is the weekend BEFORE Easter weekend!)*

Please drop off ONE DOZEN EGGS PER CHILD (filled with candy, money, stickers, etc... but no chocolate, please!)

Look for drop-off signs posted at various locations in the neighborhood a few days prior to the event.

## Jester's Architectural Design

There are 911 lots in Jester, making us a large neighborhood in size. From an architectural control standpoint, we are roughly half the size. Of those 911 lots, 473 lots are classified as Mandatory to adhere to the restrictions of the Jester HOA covenants. The 438 remaining lots are Voluntary and are under the City of Austin code and ordinance requirements. There is a common thread in that we all want to live and enjoy our neighborhood's beauty and maintain the esthetic and monetary values of our homes.

Much of the Covenants and Restrictions of the Jester HOA are vague, without any specific definition, as Jester has developed in many stages over the past 35 years or so; and, updating the Covenants and Restrictions for new technologies, materials, and design elements has been legally difficult to achieve. The Jester HOA Architectural Control Committee (ACC) has often used the

*(Continued on Page2)*



# Jester TOY SWAP

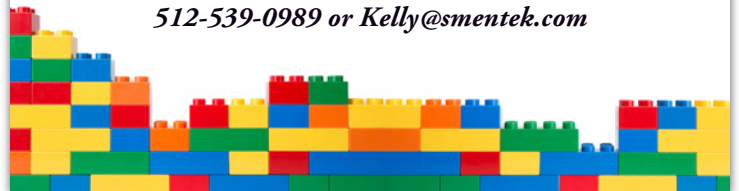
**Sunday April 14th  
from 10am-12pm at the  
Jester Clubhouse parking lot**

**Come join us for this free event!**

**How it works:**

- Bring your gently used or unused children's toys, books, and clothes to donate at 10 a.m. the day of the swap. Please pre-sort them by age.
- Take as many toys, books and clothes as you would like.
- You do not have to bring anything in order to participate so please come by and check it out!
- Anything remaining at the end will be donated to Safe Place.

*For questions please contact Kelly Smentek at  
512-539-0989 or [Kelly@smmentek.com](mailto:Kelly@smmentek.com)*



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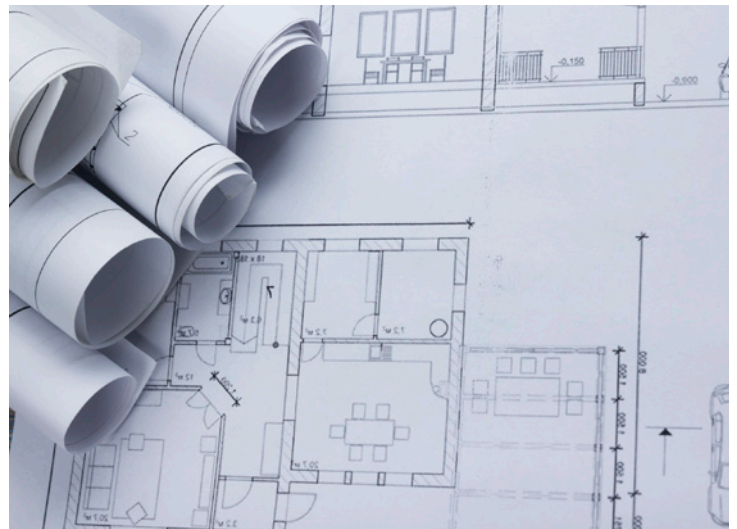
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[www.peelinc.com/articleSubmit.php](http://www.peelinc.com/articleSubmit.php).

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

(Continued from Cover Page)

City of Austin requirements as a measure to provide a standardized basis for all our residents. Nonetheless, our Mandatory residents still need to apply for any external modifications to their property such as painting, major landscaping, fencing, and other activities that could compromise the aesthetic nature and function of our neighborhood. As with both mandatory and voluntary residential lots, good judgement and appreciation for your property will continue to maintain Jester as a very special neighborhood.

Copies of the documents of the Jester HOA are located on our website, [jesterhoa.com](http://jesterhoa.com). The ACC application is located near the bottom of the Contact page of the website.



## JESTERHOA.COM



Visit [www.jesterhoa.com](http://www.jesterhoa.com)  
for HOA documents and  
info on the neighborhood!

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## WELCOME COMMITTEE NEWS



The Jester Welcome Committee had our annual post holiday party last month. We had lots of appetizers, some Prosecco, and a lively conversation. We were lucky enough to have reasonable weather – just missed that last Arctic

cold spell! So we did deliveries of 6 Welcome bags to new residents and were fortunate to find all of them home!

### **We delivered bags to new residents:**

- Monalia and Rahul on Filbert Cove. They're still renovating, but will move in sometime in February.
- Matt and Melissa on Fig Vine Cove. They've both lived in Austin for years.
- Jason and fiancée Teel on Fawnhollow Cove. They'll be married in May. They met in Afghanistan where Jason was a Navy pilot and Tell worked for an engineering company. She has 2 sisters already living in Jester, so their move here was a natural one!
- Charles and his daughter Carissa and dog Casey on the 7600

block of Jester. They just moved from another Austin home, but lived longer in Abilene. Charles is planning some renovations, but is happy to be here, and has found his neighbors to be, well, neighborly!

- Jennifer and Ryan, with their 3 year-old son Oliver, who moved to the 8100 block of Bottlebrush Drive. They upsized from another house in Jester.

- Bill and Mark with their dog Rocky, who moved to the 7300 block of Jester from Central Austin. Although they have longer commutes now, they like the quiet environment and lack of traffic outside their door.

The 7 members of the Welcome Committee have been together for years now. We are: Deb Lewis, Naomi Ritchie, Darla Rowan (co-chair), Jen Schwan, Janice Toreki, JoAnn Welles (co-chair) and Eva Wisser. What we really enjoy is meeting new neighbors, giving them our welcome bags containing lots of neighborhood information and those home-baked cookies. This month, all the new neighbors were so welcoming that our 'work' delivering bags was fun!

If you live near any new residents, please stop by and introduce yourself! Also, please contact JoAnn Welles at (512) 484-7588 or [joann-welles@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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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512.266.6130

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Building 2  
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512.795.8300

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Austin, TX 78746  
512.329.6633

## NATURE WATCH "TREE SERPENTS" by Jim and Lynne Weber



*Rough Greensnake*

One of the most beautiful and harmless snakes in Texas is the aptly named Rough Greensnake (*Opheodrys aestivus*). Its genus is derived from the Greek *ophios* meaning 'serpent', and *drys* meaning 'tree.' It has a 22 to 32 inch long and slender bright green body, which fades to yellow or yellow-green on the sides near its abdomen. Common to the eastern two-thirds of

Texas, this snake is also colloquially called grass snake, green tree snake, and vine snake, but it gets its most recognized common name from its dorsal or topside scales, which are rough or 'keeled', having a ridge down the center rather than being smooth.

Primarily arboreal, the Rough Greensnake is found in open deciduous forest, pastures, and suburban gardens, most frequently those adjoining a watercourse such as a creek, stream, lake, river, or upland ravine. It climbs into bushes, shrubs, and trees, favoring those with horizontal rather than vertical growth, both for protection and to forage for food. It hunts crickets, grasshoppers, and spiders, as well as caterpillars of butterflies and moths. Rough Greensnakes are diurnal, and they sleep at night coiled up on branches of vegetation. Active most months of the year except for December through February, they take refuge in the cooler months hiding

under rocks, logs, or debris.

One of the most curious facts about this snake, and others in this genus, is that they turn blue shortly after death. Yellow pigment combines with blue pigment to give the snake its vibrant green color during life, but when it dies, the yellow pigment breaks down quickly and only the blue pigment remains. Rough Greensnakes may be confused with Smooth Greensnakes (*O. vernalis*), but the latter, while similar in color, is shorter in length, has smooth dorsal scales, and occurs only as a relict population along the Gulf Coast of Texas.

While Rough Greensnakes become active as early as March, they mate in June and July, with females laying clutches of eggs in the second half of summer, typically in a depression under a flat rock. Incubation is short – only 4 to 24 days – since embryonic development begins while the eggs are still in the female's body. These snakes can be most active in August or September, when the young emerge and are foraging for food, often in grassy lawns. Be alert for these snakes when mowing grass at this time of year, as they are beautiful, harmless, and beneficial creatures!

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*, *Nature Watch Big Bend*, and *Native Host Plants for Texas Butterflies* (all published by Texas A&M University Press), and our blog at [naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com](http://naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com).

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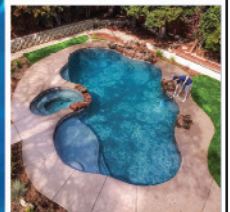
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## Flooding: How to Protect Your Family & Finances

In many areas, flooding is the most common and costly natural disaster—and it can happen here. Just one inch of water in your home or office can cost thousands of dollars in cleanup and replacement costs, including drywall, baseboards, floor coverings and furniture. You may think you're covered, but many homeowners' insurance policies do not cover flooding.

Here are several reasons to talk to an insurance agent now about flood insurance.

- There is usually a 30-day waiting period before coverage begins.
- Coverage is relatively inexpensive.
- Renters can buy flood insurance for personal belongings or business inventory.
- Basement coverage includes cleanup expense and repair or replacement of items such as furnaces, water heaters, washers, dryers, air conditioners, freezers and pumps.
- You do not have to repay flood insurance benefits as you do with disaster-related assistance loans.
- You can receive payments for flood-related losses even if no disaster was declared.

Learn more about flood insurance at [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov).

There are things you can do to prepare your home and family now for flash floods:

- Make a family emergency plan. Emergency preparedness is everyone's responsibility. Write down your plan. Decide ahead of time where you will go if you have to leave and where family members will meet up. Identify an out-of-town emergency contact.
- Get supplies for an emergency kit. Start with three days' water and three days' packaged and canned food. Add a battery-powered radio and extra batteries. Store in waterproof containers with wheels or that you can lift so you can take them with you. For details about preparing an emergency kit, visit [www.ready.gov/america/beinformed/floods.html](http://www.ready.gov/america/beinformed/floods.html)
- Stay informed about what could happen. During storm season, listen to local media for up-to-date reports on weather watches and warnings. Keep a battery-powered portable radio—with a NOAA weather band—handy in case the power goes out. Choose one.

Learn more about preparedness at [www.ready.gov/america/beinformed/floods.html](http://www.ready.gov/america/beinformed/floods.html).



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# Easter Sunday

**Celebrate Easter Sunday  
with Shepherd of the Hills  
Christian Church!**

**Sunday, April 21st**

**Youth-Led Garden Service, 9:00 AM**

**Breakfast, 9:15 AM**

**Easter Egg Hunt, 9:45 AM**

**Ressurrection Service, 10:40 AM**

**6909 West Courtyard Dr. Austin, TX 78730**

***(At the top of Shepherd Mountain)***

**[www.shccaustin.org](http://www.shccaustin.org)**

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## March Events



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

Mar. 2 - Apr. 21	<b>Sherwood Forest Faire - (weekends)</b> <i>A medieval good time for the whole family</i>	<a href="http://sherwoodforestfaire.com">sherwoodforestfaire.com</a>
Mar. 8 - 9	<b>BBQ Austin -</b> <i>Champion teams from all over Texas compete</i>	<a href="http://rodeoaustin.com">rodeoaustin.com</a>
Mar. 8 - 17	<b>South by Southwest Music and Film Festival -</b> <i>One of the most diverse, collaborative and inventive communities</i>	<a href="http://sxsw.com">sxsw.com</a>
Mar. 12	<b>Earth, Wind and Fire</b> <i>Grammy Award winning legendary band!</i>	The Moody Theater <a href="http://acl-live.com">acl-live.com</a>
Mar. 16 - 30	<b>Rodeo Austin -</b> <i>Where weird meets western</i>	<a href="http://rodeoaustin.com">rodeoaustin.com</a>
Mar. 17	<b>St. Patrick's Day Festival Austin</b> <i>An authentic display of Irish culture and pride</i>	<a href="http://stpattricksdayaustin.com">stpattricksdayaustin.com</a>
Mar. 22 - 24	<b>Indycar Classic</b> <i>Open-wheel racing championship</i>	Circuit of the Americas <a href="http://circuitoftheamericas.com">circuitoftheamericas.com</a>
Mar. 22 - 24	<b>Spring Home &amp; Garden Show-</b> <i>Get your home projects solved</i>	<a href="http://showtechnology.com">showtechnology.com</a>
Mar. 23	<b>Mighty Texas Dog Walk</b> <i>Dress to impress – This year's theme – High School Reunion!</i>	<a href="http://servicedogs.org">servicedogs.org</a>
Mar. 23	<b>Jerry Jeff Walker -</b> <i>2019 Texas Bash!</i>	<a href="http://austintheatre.org">austintheatre.org</a>
Mar. 27	<b>Kronos Quartet and Sam Green</b> <i>Oscar-nominated filmmaker &amp; Grammy-winners</i>	Bass Concert Hall <a href="http://texasperformingarts.org">texasperformingarts.org</a>
Mar. 27 - 30	<b>Clyde Littlefield Texas Relays -</b> <i>Outdoor Track and Field</i>	<a href="http://texassports.com">texassports.com</a>
Mar. 30	<b>American Girl Live! -</b> <i>All new musical performance</i>	<a href="http://austintheatre.org">austintheatre.org</a>
Mar. 30 - 31	<b>Urban Music Festival</b> <i>Mix it up with hip-hop, R&amp;B and DJs at this family-friendly event</i>	Auditorium Shores <a href="http://urbanmusicfest.com">urbanmusicfest.com</a>
Mar. 31	<b>Zilker Park Kite Festival</b> <i>Let's go fly a kite</i>	<a href="http://abckitefestival.org">abckitefestival.org</a>

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