

Official Publication of Jester Homeowners Association, Inc.

September 2019

Mark Your Calendars Now FOR OUR HALLOWEEN PARADE SATURDAY, OCT. 26TH AT 9:30 AM!

WELCOME COMMITTEE NEWS

The Welcome Committee has delivered 6 Welcome Bags since our last article! We were excited to meet so many new neighbors. For several of them, the reason to move here was to be closer to family, something we hear about quite often.

Bags were delivered to:

1) Andrew, Meg and their 20 months old daughter Florence. They moved to their new home on the 7700 block of Jester Boulevard. We have been watching this house for some months; clearly there was a renovation in progress. We're glad they're in their home now!

2) Juliet, Tyler and their 2 daughters, Kathryn and Allison, and also Caramel, their dog. They moved to the 7800 block of High Hollow from the Northwest Hills area, to be closer to Juliet's parents, who live here in Jester.

3) K.C., Dionne and their daughters, Maya and Calista, with Norman, their dog. They moved from North Austin to the 7400 block of Anaqua Drive.

4) Carolyn, who moved to Guava Cove from Oklahoma City to be closer to her son and his family. She's very busy with her grandchildren's activities, both here in Austin and farther afield.

(Continued on Page 2)

GREEN TIPS FOR SEPTEMBER

Volume 14, Issue 9

By Dale Bulla



Small Steps to Big Solutions for Air Quality

The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission is recommending solutions for Air Quality improvements in Central Texas. With the ozone standard redefined, we all can benefit from reducing our emissions to avoid non-attainment so here are some of their recommendations.

1. Exchange your gas mower for an electric. Running a gasoline mower for one hour is about equal to the emissions of driving 100 miles.

2. Postpone filling your gas tank on hot sunny days until late in the afternoon or in the evening to reduce the time ozoneforming pollutants can "cook" in hot weather.

3. Don't overfill or "top off" your car's gas tank. Even if you don't spill gasoline, ozone-causing fumes escape.

4. Use an energy-conserving synthetic motor oil. These oils can improve your mileage by 1 or 2 percent.

5. Keep your tires properly inflated. Just 4 pound of underinflation can cost you ½ mile per gallon.

6. When trading in your car check out a plug-in since there are lots of choices out there and some are zero emission vehicles.

For more ideas, go to the following links: http://austintexas.gov/airquality

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Juliet, Tyler and girls on High Hollow

5) Amy, Jack, Kaitlyn and Emily, who have moved to their new home on Ligustrum Cove. They've lived in Austin for the past year. They walk Parker, a Golden Doodle, often and have met other evening walkers in the neighborhood.

6) Ashley and Jeff, who moved into their new home on the 7000 block of Anaqua Drive. They're both Baylor grads, and moved closer to their family with their three children Jalen, Jaziene and Benjamin. They've been busy updating their home.

Welcome everyone!

If you live near any new residents, please stop by and introduce yourself! Also, please contact JoAnn Welles at jawelles1@gmail.com or call her at 512 484 7588 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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All news must be received by the 12th of the month prior to the issue.





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NATURE WATCH by Jim and Lynne Weber

A DIFFERENT KIND OF Longhorn



The Cerambycidae are a family of longhorn beetles, typically characterized by extremely long antennae, often as long as or longer than the beetle's body. Also called longicorns, over 400 species have been described in Texas alone. The scientific name of this beetle family is named after the shepherd Cerambus, a mythical Greek figure who was transformed into a large beetle with horns after an argument with nymphs. Most of these beetles can fly well and are be found on tree trunks, logs, flowers, or at lights at night. Some even squeak when held, making a rocking motion with their head which rubs tiny ridges against the inside surface of their thorax.

Two of our more common longhorn beetles are the Cottonwood Borer (Plectrodera scalator) and the Long-jawed or Horse-bean Longhorn Beetle (Trachyderes mandibularis). The Cottonwood Borer is one of the largest insects in North America, reaching 1.6 inches in length and 0.5 inches in width. It has a bold black and white pattern on its body with long black antennae. The white portions of the pattern are actually microscopic masses of hair. Adults are active by day, feeding on leaf stems and shoots of cottonwood trees. The female bores small holes in the base of the tree to lay her eggs. The larvae take up to 2 years to mature, then they pupate for about 3 weeks in a root below ground, and once metamorphosis is completed, they chew their way out of the root and dig their way to the surface.

Long-jawed Longhorn Beetle has a glossy black or dark brown body with 4 generally large but sometimes reduced yellow to yellow-orange markings, and segments of its antennae and legs alternating between black and yellow-orange. It can grow to a length of 1.3 inches and is generally common from March to November. Its species name comes from the fact that the males have much expanded jaws or mandibles. Active during the day, adults are mostly found near wounded trees as they feed on oozing sap, and its larvae feed on native hackberries as well as non-native ficus and tamarisk species.

This large family of longhorns includes beetles called sawyers, pruners, and girdlers in addition to borers. Most are found in dead or dying wood, and some mine live plants. While many of these beetles are considered to be occasional pests, it should be noted that they literally help shape the forest canopy and assist in recycling dead wood into precious soil. All the more reason to appreciate this different kind of longhorn!

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, 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.







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The Jester Warbler - September 2019 8

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