



The Jester Warbler

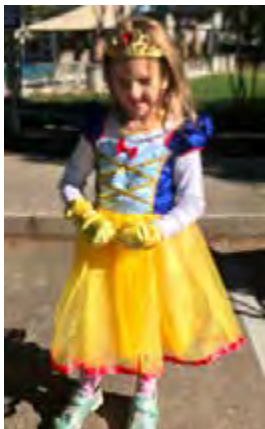
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JESTER HALLOWEEN PARADE

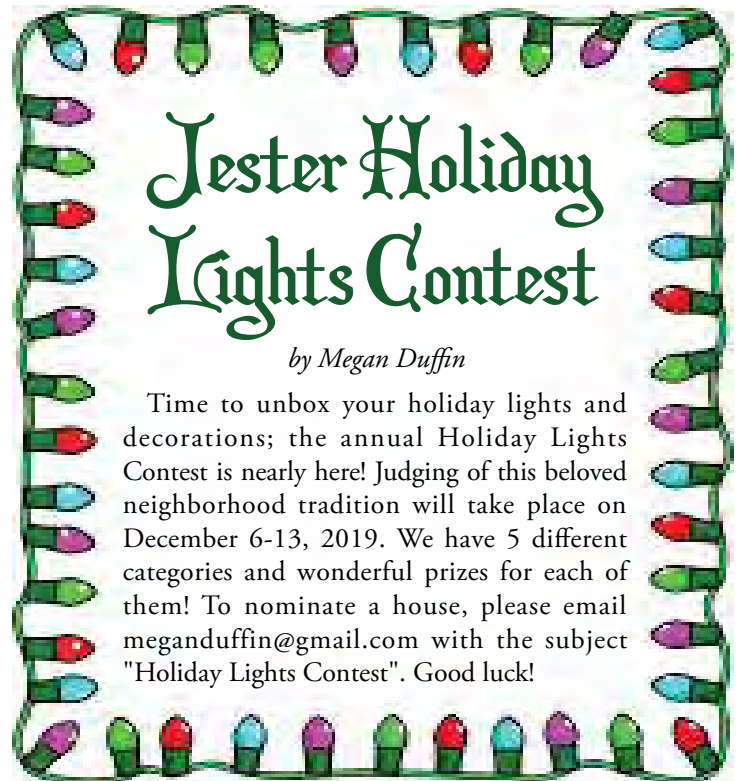
by Teresa Gouldie, Social Chairman



The Jester Homeowners Association hosted its annual Halloween Parade on Saturday, October 26th. Excited neighborhood children and grandchildren were dressed in an incredible array of creative costumes. Led by a decorated golf cart, the participants provided a sea of color as they marched up Jester, around Basil, and back. Thanks to all residents on the parade route who came out of their homes to wave and cheer the children on. Our Jester kiddos definitely LOVE an audience!

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!

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Jester Holiday Lights Contest

by Megan Duffin

Time to unbox your holiday lights and decorations; the annual Holiday Lights Contest is nearly here! Judging of this beloved neighborhood tradition will take place on December 6-13, 2019. We have 5 different categories and wonderful prizes for each of them! To nominate a house, please email meganduffin@gmail.com with the subject "Holiday Lights Contest". Good luck!

Ho! Ho! Ho!

Santa is Coming to Jester Aboard a Firetruck!

**Saturday, December 7th
9:00 am - Jester Club**

You do not have to be a member to participate.

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



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

WELCOME

Welcome Committee News

FALL means change and I usually enjoy the change to cooler weather and getting ready for the festive holidays. However one change that I did not welcome this year, was JoAnn (co-chair of the Welcoming Committee) and Claude (her husband) moving from Jester. You have probably met them while walking their two dogs, Tucker and Zeke, in the neighborhood or left Easter Eggs at their home on Beauford Drive for the Jester Easter Egg Hunt.

Joann has been the “voice” of the WC in the Warbler since 2007. She has a real talent for writing up our deliveries and keeping us organized. She will be missed as co-chair, our friend and neighbor. We wish Joann and Claude all of the happiness in their new home and safety in their upcoming travels.

Deb and I were able to make the following deliveries on a perfectly gorgeous Sunday afternoon. Please welcome some of our new neighbors to Jester:



Mauricio, Paola and their 4 year old daughter, Luciana, who have moved to the 7300 block of Bluntleaf Cove. Like many new buyers, they have made extensive renovations to their new home. This beautiful and friendly family have

moved from Columbia and are very enthusiastic about living in the USA.



Sara and Lynn have moved to the 6800 block of High Hollow from Maryland. They are retired and are looking forward to exploring Jester and Austin. One neighbor has already made Sara and Lynn feel like family – literally, their son is their

next door neighbor!



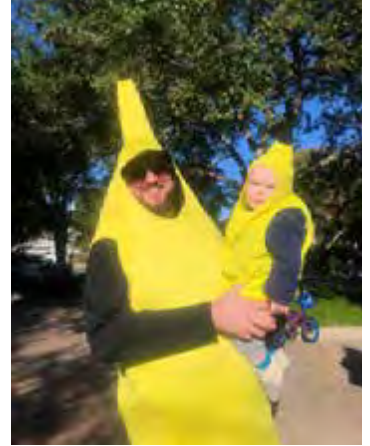
We had a delightful visit with Victor who has moved to the 6800 block of Beauford. He has two rescue cats - Oliver (tabby) and Bennu (black). Victor has moved from Chicago to Austin because of work. He is delighted with all things Austin, especially the weather and the friendliness of Jester neighbors.

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(Halloween Parade...Continued from Cover Page)

A special thank you, as always, goes out to Terri Milan and Jester Club for providing the location and Billy Gouldie of Kenfield Golf Cars for providing the golf cart. Thanks also to the amazing teenagers who got up early and helped with the event: Claire Vusseur, Talia Chase, Kassia Barajas, Tessa Goeser, Camryn Bradley, Jess Rugeley, Dillon Breen, Bennett Buchanan, Raphael Jabour, David Anders, Kate Perry, Sarah Mitchell and the Moore family – Caroline, Kevin, Kaitlin, Sean and Liam. Our adult volunteers included Gary Johnson, Eva Wissner, and Albert Pitesa.

We are in need of volunteers for our “Santa on a Fire Truck” event on December 7th. Please contact me at tgouldie@gmail.com or call me at 512-751-8000 if you can participate.





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Christmas Party and Luncheon

Sunday, December 8th, 12:00 PM

Christmas Carol Service

Sunday, December 15th, 10:40 AM

Christmas Service

Sunday, December 22nd, 10:40 AM

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Tuesday, December 24th, 7:00 PM

6909 W. Courtyard Dr. Austin, TX 78730

At the top of Shepherd Mountain

www.shccaustin.org



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NATURE WATCH *Tolly Holly*

by Jim and Lynne Weber



One of the brightest colors in the winter landscape belongs to the red berries of our native species of hollies. While approximately 600 species exists worldwide in the genus *Ilex*, in our area we have Yaupon Holly (*Ilex vomitoria*) and Possumhaw (*Ilex decidua*). The first is naturally found in both dry and wet habitats, while the second thrives in generally moist woods. Each, however, has their own unique characteristics, and they are hinted at in their scientific names.

Yaupon Holly is a large evergreen shrub or small tree with small, shiny alternate leaves that have rounded toothed edges. Little white flowers appear in April and May, followed by quarter-inch bright red fruits in fall and winter. The species name *vomitoria* means exactly what it sounds like, as early Europeans witnessed Native Americans consuming large amounts of a 'black drink' to induce vomiting as part of a purification ritual. Steeped from toasted leaves and bark of this plant, this tea-like drink contained large amounts of the stimulants caffeine and theobromine, and is related to yerba mate, which is a traditional and still popular South American drink brewed from a different but related holly species.

Possumhaw is also a large shrub or small tree with simple alternate leaves that are round at the tip and tapered at the base, but as suggested by its species name *decidua*, it is deciduous and loses its leaves in the winter. That's when Possumhaw shines, however, spending most of the winter season with its' bare branches adorned by bright red-orange berries. Sometimes referred to as Winterberry, Deciduous Holly, or Swamp Holly, it is the larval food plant for the Dusky-blue Groundsreak butterfly.

Grouping both of these hollies in your landscape along with Carolina Buckthorn, Mexican Buckeye, Texas Redbud, Littleleaf Mulberry, and Spicebush creates a colorful and natural understory for an attractive woodland garden. Hollies are dioecious, meaning each plant is either male or female. The male plant provides the pollen, which is carried by bees up to a half-mile to a female plant, and used to pollinate it. The berries on the female plant, while slightly toxic to humans, provide an important winter food source for small mammals and many different bird species, such as American robins, cedar waxwings, and northern mockingbirds.

Hollies have long been associated with the holiday season, with the roots of this tradition beginning in Europe and eventually brought to the New World. Over hundreds of years ago, druids considered holly to be a sacred plant, and associated it with the Roman God Saturn and the celebration of the winter solstice. Plant some of our native hollies in your yard, and both you and the wildlife will enjoy a jolly holly season!

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* (published by Texas A&M University Press), and our blog at: naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com.

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We also stopped in to visit with Matt, Natalie and Jeff in the 8100 block of Pampas Cove but, sadly, no one was home. We did leave our bag of goodies at the front door. We are sorry we missed meeting you guys!

If you are a new homeowner in Jester, we may have tried to deliver one of our WC bags to you. We do not leave bags at the door unless we are sure that you have moved in and are likely to return soon. If you know of a new neighbor or are a new neighbor who has not been visited by our friendly crew, please contact Darla Rowan at darlar@austin.rr.com.

Speaking of our friendly crew (Deb, Janice, Eva, Missy and me), we are looking for new volunteers to help with deliveries. Our group of merry "Welcomers" have been reduced by three because of health and work issues and moving i.e. Joann. If you are interested in volunteering for 1 – 2 hours only once a month, then please contact me at darlar@austin.rr.com. Just give it a try, if you do not have fun and find yourself smiling, then we will give you a fresh baked cookie and a thank you for trying.

Free Native Plant Seedling Adoption Event!



WHEN: On Saturday, Dec. 14, from 9am -12 pm (or until all the seedlings are gone – due to limited quantities, only 2 to 4 plants per household).

WHERE: In front of the tennis courts at the Jester Club (7809 Jester Blvd, Austin, TX 78750).

WHY: The City of Austin's Balcones Canyonlands Preserve staff wants to encourage citizens to "Go Native" with their landscaping choices. Come get some free plants for your yard. Natives require less water, benefit local wildlife, and look great, too!

WHAT TO BRING: An empty plastic grocery bag or small bucket. We will gently transfer your seedlings from their containers into a paper wrapping you can place in our bag or bucket, allowing you to get them safely home. Species information and planning instructions will be included.





*Help Keep Our
Neighborhood
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info on the neighborhood!

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Happy Holidays!

May the sparkle of the holidays shine for you all year long!

December Events

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

thru Dec. 29	A Christmas Carol	zachtheatre.org
Dec. 5 - 8,	Luminations	Wildflower Center
12 - 15	<i>Thousands of luminaries lighting the gardens</i>	wildflower.org
Dec. 7	AWE Annual Holiday Women's EXPO	Courtyard Austin
	<i>Meet new people and discover local businesses</i>	NW Lakeline
Dec. 7 - 22	Gingerbread Workshops	Thinkery
	<i>Create a candy-covered holiday tradition!</i>	thinkeryaustin.org
Dec. 7 - 23	The Nutcracker - Ballet Austin presents an evening of magic!	balletaustin.org
Dec. 10 - 23	Austin Trail of Lights	austintrailoflights.org
Dec. 12 - 22	Of Mice & Music - A Jazz Tap Nutcracker	thelongcenter.org
Dec. 13 - 24	Armadillo Christmas Bazaar	Palmer Events Center
	<i>One of Austin's longest running art and music festivals</i>	armadillobazaar.com
Dec. 17 - 18	Sesame Street Live! Let's Party!	HEB Center
	<i>A sunny and funny street celebration</i>	hebcenter.com
Dec. 19	Rock the Holidays - Free community concert featuring Panoramic Voices with The Invincible Czars & musical guests	Blanton Museum
		panoramicvoices.org
Dec. 20 - 21	Robert Earl Keen's Countdown to Christmas	Moody Theatre
	<i>"The road goes on forever..."</i>	acl-live.com
Dec. 24	Cirque Musica presents Holiday Wishes	HEB Center
	<i>Bringing the holiday story to life</i>	hebcenter.com
Dec. 29	Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer: The Musical	hebcenter.com
Dec. 29 - 30	Steely Dan	Moody Theatre
	<i>Music performance</i>	acl-live.com
Dec. 31	Austin's New Year	Auditorium Shores
	<i>Free family-friendly event... & fireworks!</i>	austinsnewyear.com

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