

# THE JESTER



# WARBLER

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MAY 2025

## JESTER HOA ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE — FULL OF SURPRISES!!

If you missed the Jester HOA's annual meeting in April, you missed a lot!

HOA President, Ron Herzfeld opened the meeting with the financial report by Christian Patrik. Ron then announced the need for a new Social Committee Chair. Then reports were heard from the Welcome Committee, by Chair Carol Philipson, followed by Peggy Hutchison, Landscaping Chair who proudly announced the completion of the new plantings at the Jester/2222 entry monument. Firewise Committee Chair Carol Philipson, reported that only a 330 out of 950 of residents have had their FireWise Evaluations since Jester joined the FireWise Alliance in 2013 and urged more residents to register to learn to about reducing wildfire risk to their home as well as about evacuation. Safety Committee chair, Chad Roesle, requested more volunteer Block Captains for Jester Neighborhood Watch. To find out more, come to the upcoming Block Captain meeting April 29, 6:30-7:30 at Red Lotus Asian Grill.

The floor then opened to questions, which included finances, safety concerns and a few surprises:

*Surprise 1:* Chris Debrill, of Austin Fire Department's Wildfire Division, shared an informative presentation. Chris' video and discussion covered wildfire risk along with ways to mitigate them, and then answered various questions. To schedule your FireWise Evaluation email [firewise@jesterhoa.org](mailto:firewise@jesterhoa.org)

*Surprise 2:* Our city council representative, Marc Duchon of District 10, joined the meeting echoing Chris Debrill's concern for wildfire risk. Marc also answered questions from the floor regarding many different issues, including how the Capital of Texas Highway/360 expansion will affect the Lakewood entrance.

*Surprise 3:* Charlie Bright stepped up to become a new Board Member, leaving one Board Member position open. If you are interested in making Jester better, you can as a Board Member; contact [jesterhoaboard@jesterhoa.org](mailto:jesterhoaboard@jesterhoa.org)

The Jester HOA Board meeting every 3rd Tuesday at the Red Lotus Asian Grill, and they are open to all, so drop in to find out what's involved in being a Board member and to ask questions or make suggestions you might have to improve beautiful Jester.

## Easter In Jester

We had a great turnout at this year's Jester Egg Hunt and Petting Zoo! Lots of families participated in the egg hunt and the petting zoo was a HIT, as always! Thank you to all who donated eggs and helped make the event a success! And an extra special shout out to our Anderson NHS members for volunteering!



(Continued on page 2)

**JESTER ESTATES  
NEIGHBORHOOD**

**GARAGE SALE**

**MAY 17, 2025**  
**8:30 AM - 2:00 PM**

**CLOTHING** VINTAGE, BOHO,  
**BABY GEAR** ACCESSORIES  
**FURNITURE** TOOLS & MORE!  
**KITCHENWARE**

Jester Estates, Austin, TX 78750



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## JESTER FIREWISE UPDATE

### Better Late Than Never

By now, the majority of Jester residents have heard about the FireWise evaluations. If you don't yet know, the Jester Firewise Committee is comprised of trained volunteers who help homeowners reduce wildfire risk to their homes as well as evacuation. Unfortunately, only about 5% of residents have scheduled and completed their evaluations.

Many think about it, like Cathy Malerba. Cathy, a resident for 17 years, had thought about it many times, and finally decided to learn what she could do to protect her home and family should a wildfire ignite. Cathy's home borders the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve, and she and her husband have been proactive by trimming trees, as well as hardscaping adjacent their home with larger rocks. Too bad, Cathy hadn't learned that that trees should be trimmed 10' from the home before her tree work was completed. Open vents were another issue, similar to the last three evaluations. Open vents without screening allow embers, insects and in some cases, mice or rats enter the home, and 1/8" screening is recommended.

Caitlin Houstoun also decided it was finally time to learn about mitigating her risk and about evacuation. Caitlin was also proactive with landscaping. Planters were used, and spaced on either side of the windows with crushed granite instead of flammable mulch. Caitlin also had open vents, and one had no flap. Caitlin's home, fortunately, is located in an area with two options for evacuation. Turning off the AC, turning on lights, unlocking and opening gates and preparing a "Go" Bag are just some of the important things she learned to do when notified of a wildfire. Knowing what to do before evacuation can prevent costly mistakes.

Neither Cathy or Caitlin had heard of [WWW.WARNCENTRALTEXAS.ORG](http://WWW.WARNCENTRALTEXAS.ORG), a free warning notification system. It will give instructions if there is fire and/or other nearby emergency situation that may affect you. Both Caitlin and Cathy took many notes and were surprised to learn so much in only 45 minutes.

Register for your FREE FireWise evaluation at [firewise@jesterhoa.org](mailto:firewise@jesterhoa.org) or at [www.jesterhoa.com](http://www.jesterhoa.com).





## JESTER'S FIRST NEW NEIGHBORS IN 2025

Carol Philipson

Hi everyone! Meet the DiLullo's, Jester's new neighbors. Andrew & McKenzie (plus first baby on the way) and their two fur babies, Milo & Poncho already love Jester. Moving from downtown Austin, where very few people went out of their way to meet them, they were pleasantly surprised after living in Jester a short time, how many friendly neighbors stopped by to welcome them. Even though their house is still pretty bare, you could feel they are full of love for Austin and a family neighborhood like Jester.

BTW, If you know of a new neighbor, please email me their contact info at [social@jesterhoa.org](mailto:social@jesterhoa.org). I know we have more new neighbors, but I am having difficulty receiving their information from real estate agents.



## CALLING ALL WRITERS, ARTISTS & THE LIKE!

Interested in submitting articles or other content for The Warbler?

We welcome submissions of all kinds from neighbors of all ages!

Just reach out to our Editor, Hope Teel Colt, at [hopeteel@gmail.com](mailto:hopeteel@gmail.com).

## REMINDER: KEEP YOUR PETS LEASHED!

For the safety of our community and furry friends, please remember to keep your pets on a leash when out and about. Leashes help prevent accidents, protect local wildlife, and ensure that everyone can enjoy our shared spaces comfortably. Thank you for being a responsible pet owner and helping keep our neighborhood safe and enjoyable for all!



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Angi



*Welcome to Jester!*



## NatureWatch

By Jim and Lynne Weber

### Furtive Fledglings

As the temperature rises and late spring turns to early summer, many bird species are in the throes of caring for newly hatched nestlings (still in the nest) or fledglings (just out of the nest). As you hike through our oak-juniper forests in the western part of Austin, you just may run across young families of our endangered bird, the Golden-cheeked Warbler (*Setophaga chrysoparia*).

Adult Golden-cheeked Warblers arrive at their breeding grounds by mid-March, returning largely to the same areas each year and nesting from April to May. They are socially monogamous, with the males arriving before the females to establish their territory. Courtship behavior, rarely observed, involves the female collecting nesting material as the male sings a soft, twittering version of his song, flicking and spreading his wings and tail and sometimes bringing nesting material to the female.



The female chooses the nest site, often in a branched fork of an Ashe Juniper or Live Oak tree, and the nest is built in 4 days, camouflaged by bark strips from mature juniper trees and secured by spider silk. Females lay 3-4 eggs and for the first 3 days she broods or sits on the eggs continuously, being attended to and fed by the male. The eggs hatch in approximately 12 days, and the nestlings are altricial or born helpless and requiring significant parental care.

However, they leave the nest only 8 or 9 days after hatching, staying in the vicinity of their attendant parents, but usually huddled together and partially hidden in the trees. They continue to be cared for by both parents, who actively search for caterpillars and other insects in the foliage to bring directly to the fledglings.



in their ability to fly and learning to forage for themselves. As they become even more independent, the young join the adults in mixed-species flocks in the woodlands before migration begins in July and early August.

If you hear or see a Golden-cheeked Warbler family foraging and feeding in our mixed woodlands, consider yourself lucky. Of the nearly 360 bird species that breed in Texas, the Golden-cheeked Warbler is the only one that nests exclusively in Texas, so each one is a native Texan!

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, look for our books, Nature Watch Austin, Nature Watch Big Bend, Native Host Plants for Texas Butterflies, Native Host Plants for Texas Moths, and Naturalist's Austin, all published by Texas A&M University Press.

## GET READY TO RUMMAGE!

### Jester Neighborhood Garage Sale is May 17th!

Mark your calendars, bargain hunters and decluttering dynamos! **The Jester Homeowners Association** is thrilled to announce our annual neighborhood-wide garage sale on **Saturday, May 17th!**

Get ready to transform your gently used treasures into someone else's must-have finds. This is the perfect opportunity to **shed those unwanted items** that have been gathering dust and offer them at fantastic, discounted prices to eager shoppers right here in our community. Imagine the joy of giving your no-longer-needed belongings a new life while making a little extra cash!

This fantastic event is made possible by the generous efforts of your fellow Jester volunteers, fostering a spirit of community and sustainability. Let's make this year's garage sale the best one yet!



## Want to be part of the Jester-wide shopping map? It's easy!

If you'd like your address to be included on the official Jester neighborhood garage sale map, making it easy for eager shoppers to find your amazing deals, please email [patriciafriar@gmail.com](mailto:patriciafriar@gmail.com) with the following information:

- **Your Name:**
- **Your Address:**
- **Your Email Address:**
- **A little something to entice shoppers!** Let everyone know what kind of goodies you'll be offering. For example, you could say: "Loads of baby gear!", "Antique furniture and vintage finds!", "Huge selection of DVDs and books!", or "Stylish Boho dresses and accessories!". Be creative and highlight your most exciting items!

To help you make the most of your garage sale, here are a few helpful tips:

### Gather Your Goods:

- **Declutter thoroughly:** It's time to be honest! Go through every nook and cranny – closets, drawers, attic, garage – and be ruthless about what you no longer need or use.
- **Variety is key:** A diverse selection of items will attract a wider range of buyers. Think clothing, household goods, toys, tools, books, furniture, and more!
- **Clean everything:** A little elbow grease goes a long way! Dust, wipe down, and wash your items to make them more appealing to potential buyers.
- **Make minor repairs:** Fix those loose buttons, tighten those screws. Small repairs can significantly increase the perceived value of your items.

### Pricing Strategy:

- **Be realistic:** Remember, your goal is to declutter and make a bit of money, not get rich. Price items to sell!
- **Research:** Take a quick look at online marketplaces or think about what similar items might sell for at other garage sales to get a realistic price range.
- **Price clearly:** Use price tags on every single item. Masking tape and a permanent marker are your best friends! Consider using different colored tags for different price points for easy organization.
- **Be prepared to negotiate:** Haggling is part of the garage sale fun! Decide on your absolute lowest price beforehand so you're ready to politely negotiate.
- **Consider price breaks:** Encourage multiple purchases by offering deals like "buy 3 get 1 free" or consider lowering prices in the afternoon to move remaining items.

- **Consider accepting different payment methods:** While cash is the easiest, having a mobile payment app like Venmo or PayPal can attract more buyers. Just be aware of any potential transaction fees.

### Organization & Display:

- **Set up early:** Give yourself plenty of time to arrange your items attractively before the shoppers arrive.
- **Use tables and displays:** Borrow or rent extra tables, clothing racks, and shelving to showcase your items effectively and keep things organized.
- **Group similar items together:** Create logical sections for clothing, books, toys, etc., to make it easier for shoppers to browse.
- **Make it visually appealing:** Presentation matters! Arrange items neatly, use hangers for clothes, and display items at different heights to catch the eye.
- **Create a "free" box:** This can be a great way to get rid of those less desirable items and might even draw more people to your sale!

### Gather Supplies:

- **Cash box and change:** Make sure you have plenty of small bills and coins to make change for your customers.
- **Bags and wrapping materials:** Shoppers will need bags for their purchases. Having some extra plastic bags or even newspaper/bubble wrap for fragile items is a thoughtful touch.
- **Calculator or smartphone with a calculator app:** For quick and easy calculations.
- **Signage:** Don't forget to create clear and visible signs directing people to your sale!
- **Extension cords:** If you plan to demonstrate any electrical items, make sure you have extension cords handy.
- **Hand sanitizer and wipes:** A thoughtful addition for both you and your customers.
- **Water and snacks:** Keep yourself hydrated and energized, especially if it's a long day!
- **Get Help:** Enlist friends or family to help with setup, sales, and cleanup. It makes the day much easier and more enjoyable!



Let's make the Jester Neighborhood Garage Sale on **May 17th** a huge success! Start decluttering, get those price tags ready, and email [patriciafriar@gmail.com](mailto:patriciafriar@gmail.com) to get your sale on the map! We can't wait to see all the amazing treasures our neighborhood has to offer!



## Board of Directors Jester Estates

[www.JesterHOA.com](http://www.JesterHOA.com)

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## ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

Interested in submitting an article?

You can do so by emailing [hopeteel@gmail.com](mailto:hopeteel@gmail.com).

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

Name	Baby sit	Pet sit	House sit	Yard Work	Phone
Anderson, River		x		x	512-502-2073
Anderson, Juliet	x	x			512-552-1846
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Castaldi Caroline +	x				737-267-4720
Douglas, Jack		x		x	512-653-4133
Fitzgerald, Vivian	x				512-797-2445
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Gottschalk, Chance		x	x		512-745-6599
Johnston, Roisin	x				512-587-5025
Marlowe, Sebastian*+		x	x	x	737-270-5566
Pantaleoni, Nicholas	x	x	x		310-200-6006
Parker, Reese	x	x	x		512-434-9641
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Shafer, Owen		x	x		512-786-2378
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Schoffler, Tyler*	x	x	x	x	737-280-5644
Tuttle, Morgan		x	x		737-247-8558
Wright, Brooklyn +	x	x	x		737-465-9459
Wiesman, Erin	x	x			512-712-5841
Davis, Katherine*	x	x	x		512-657-0842
Gottschalk, Ella*+	x	x	x		512-318-5369
Sidel, Arianna*	x		x		512-284-4266

\*CPR Training +First Aid Training

If you would like to add your name, send an email to [hopeteel@gmail.com](mailto:hopeteel@gmail.com) with the jobs that interest you, your age and phone number (MUST be a teenager).

## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM!

Email: [safety@gmail.com](mailto:safety@gmail.com) to be a  
Jester Block Captain.  
It's fun, involved, and easy!



TESLA OWNERS - Do you know about Flipper Zero. At a recent Neighborhood Watch training session, APD talked about this device. Check it out here: <https://www.zdnet.com/article/teslas-vulnerable-to-flipper-zero-hack-heres-how-to-protect-yourself/>





## FACEBOOK GROUP REMINDER

Just a friendly reminder to join our Jester Facebook group if you haven't already! The page is still growing, with over 500 members now. It is a great platform to help quickly spread time sensitive information in our community, to ask for or offer neighborly help and an overall resource intended for facilitating quick and easy communication.

Just do a quick search for "Jester" on Facebook, and please answer the questions in order for approval into the group. Please understand that we need the questions answered in order to approve your request for the group as this is a private group to our community.

Thank you!



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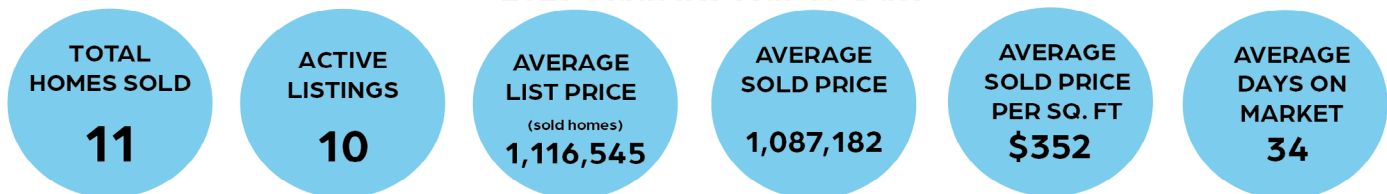


**Chrissy Hand**  
Realtor & Jester Neighbor  
chrissyhand@icloud.com  
**512.461.5878**



“ We are just heading into peak selling season for the Austin area. If you are looking to downsize, upsize or even have questions on your home value, I am here to help. Hit me up for a zero pressure conversation.  
Best,  
Chrissy ”

### 2025 Statistics Year-To-Date



All information is from the Austin MLS 1/1/25 – 4/29/2025 Neighborhoods included: Jester, Jester Point and Canyon Ridge

## Spring Cleaning

As we head into the hottest months of the year, this is a great time to consider having an HVAC check-up to ensure you are ready for the summer. Ensuring your gutters are clear of leaves and debris will also help you protect your home.

## Property Taxes - Travis Central Appraisal District

Notice of Appraised Value have been sent to homeowners. If you haven't yet seen yours, visit <https://travis.prodigycad.com/property-search> to search your address and see how your home was valued. Thursday May 15th is the deadline to file a protest.