

Trail Writer

*The Official Publication of the
Winchester Trails
Maintenance Assoc. Social Committee*

Volume 2, Issue 12
www.winchestertrails.com

December 2006

Board Message

Happy Holidays Winchester Trails!

We held our monthly meeting on November 2. This meeting was the first for the three new board members so the Board held an Executive Session prior to the general meeting to provide the new board members with the workings of the board as well as provide them with explanation of their responsibilities. We also discussed budget items as well as committee assignments. More information will follow as board members take on the committee roles. Of course, if anyone wants to volunteer for a committee assignment, just let any of the board members know.

You may recall that during the October meeting, more signatures were presented for the fence amendment than was required for passage. After the verification process was completed, it was noted that some of the signatures could not be confirmed as the names do not match those on our records. This inability was primarily due to new homeowners whose titles were in the transfer process. Anyway, PCMI requested records from title companies and was able to complete the verification process so the Amendment has passed and will be filed with Harris County courts. So we are moving on with the fence issue. We have received several bids for the fence and will be reviewing them in the coming weeks. Since the holidays are upon us, we anticipate that construction of the new fence will not start until after the first of the year.

A very special thanks to Cheryl Malone as she spent many hours gathering signatures for the fence amendment. She also coordinated with others to assist her. Thanks also to those who helped Cheryl. This effort is unprecedented in our neighborhood and as I understand it, it is extremely rare to obtain more than 75 percent of residents in any subdivision.

Thanks and Seasons Greetings,
Walter

Upcoming Events

December 7	Maintenance Board Meeting 7pm
December 16	Hanukkah
December 21	CFISD Holiday Break Begins
December 21	Winter Begins
December 25	Christmas
December 31	New Year's Eve

Yards of the Month



10510 Wagon Trail – Bert & Rosenda Cooper



8911 Bent Spur

Editor's Note:

I would like to apologize to the November Yard of the Month winners. Their names were inadvertently omitted from the picture captions. They should have read 8743 Bent Spur Lane – Abe & Juanita Movaghar, and 10410 Great Plains Lane – Charles & Lynn Stromire. Congratulations again and thanks for keeping the Trails looking so nice.

Winchester Trails

Winchester Trails Social Committee Officers

Chairman

(open)

Tennis Representative

Alice Brunson.....281-955-9045

Clubhouse Rentals

Lesa Smith281-615-0335

Editor

Sherry Wright281-955-9737

Maintenance Association Directors

Greg Johnson832-237-8178

Jim Malone.....281-890-3803

Ian McCrory.....713-818-0138

Walter Sonne281-894-7117

Paulette Walker281-894-5708

Jim Malone is the security representative for WT.
His email can be found on the Security page of the Trails website.

MUD #9 Officers

David Gurghigian, President.....281-894-4140

Jeff Ottmann, Vice President281-469-1465

Wayne Wilcox, Secretary281-894-6233

Jim Giese, Assistant Secretary281-890-5207

Sandor Karpathy281-955-1138

To ask questions or report problems concerning the Winchester
Trails Subdivision, call

PLANNED COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT
281-870-0585

Sheriff, Non-911 Calls713-221-600

View the Winchester Trails Trailwriter
each month on-line at
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Deadline

The deadline for the January newsletter is December 10th. All
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I can honestly state that my 12 year old twins truly enjoy their visits to the dentist. Dr. Nguyen is a wonderful dentist and has the nicest staff. He is very intelligent, patient and has state of the art equipment. We have been coming to his office for over 5 years and have always received nothing but the best in service. I have and will continue to recommend Dr. Nguyen to other family members and friends.
Olga Salazar - Houston, TX USA

Dr. Nguyen is the most hitech-savvy dentist I have ever met. I have been a patient of Dr. Nguyen for 7 years. His ability and knowledge to utilize computerized equipment and hi-tech (laser etc.) equipment have amazed me. Dr. Nguyen works hard and do the best for his patients. I highly recommend Dr. Nguyen to be your dentist.
Jason Wong - Houston, TX USA

MILESTONES

New Teenagers – Happy 13th!
 12/2 - Rebecca Ward
 12/7 - Dylan Stephens
 12/13 - Hannah & Colby McCord
 12/25 - Christopher Bulas

New Adults – Happy 21st!
 12/2 - Michael Howard
 12/16 - Preetika Rajgariah

Happy 10th Anniversary!
 12/21 - Mark & Susan Janik

New Drivers – Happy 16th!
 12/2 - Sabrina Read
 12/20 - Elizabeth Kelley
 12/23 - Kim Griffin

Happy 15th Anniversary!
 12/21 - Mike & Hydee Vincent
 12/27 - Mark & Tammy Sue Thayer

New Voters – Happy 18th!
 12/27 - Curtis Spence
 12/31 - Sam Martin

Happy 35th Anniversary!
 12/18 - Stanley & Nancy Clark

Sherry Wright
 281-955-9737

UT Graduate



The University of Texas at Austin will hold its fall graduation commencement on December 9, 2006. Jessica Ann Ricke, daughter of David and Deenie Ricke of Cutting Horse Lane, will graduate with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Communication Sciences & Disorders. Her major is Deaf Studies/Deaf Education. She completed her internship last spring teaching students at the Texas School for the Deaf in Austin. While at the University of Texas, Jessica was a member of Texas Spirits and the Texas Orange Jackets. She plans to attend graduate school to earn her professional certification as a teacher of deaf and hearing impaired students.

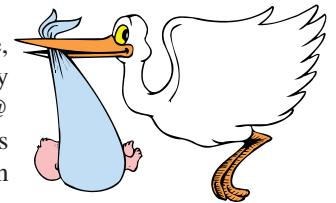
Classified Ads

Personal classifieds (one time sell items, such as a used bike...) run at no charge to Winchester Trails residents, limit 30 words, please e-mail heggs23@sbcglobal.net.

Business classifieds (offering a service or product line for profit) are \$45, limit 40 words, please contact Peel, Inc. Sales @ 512-989-8905 or advertising@PEELinc.com.

Stork Report

If you have a new little one due, please contact Jeff and Julie Kelly at 281-970-5441 or jw.kelly@sbcglobal.net to share your news and have the WT Stork appear in your yard if desired.



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Advertising Information

Please support the businesses that advertise in the Winchester Trails Trailwriter. Their advertising dollars make it possible for all residents to receive a newsletter each month at no charge. No homeowners association funds are used to produce or mail the newsletters. If you would like to support the newsletter by advertising, please contact our Sales Office at 888-687-6444; advertising@PEELinc.com for ad information and pricing. The deadline for ads is the 10th of each month for the upcoming month's newsletter.

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Winchester Trails

Green Thumb Corner

Cooler weather means that things are not growing very quickly, and that's probably a good thing because we have lots of other demands on our time during the holiday season. But there is still plenty of work that can be done in the yard and garden if you have some spare time on your hands. For one thing, those pesky winter weeds are always likely to pop up in the lawn, particularly this year with the lawn grass in poor health due to the very dry late summer and fall period. This is the season for soil cultivation, planting of new trees and shrubs, fertilization of established ones, pruning, mulching, clean-up and bed preparation. A little effort expended now, while it's pleasantly cool, will get things in good shape and reduce the workload when spring warmth returns.

This month and the next two are generally considered the best for planting trees and shrubs. Before planting, check drainage by digging a hole and filling with water - if it takes more than 24 hours to drain, you will need to improve the situation by digging an 'X'-shaped trench pattern filled with good soil to provide drainage

away from the center (or find a better location!). Another plan is to create an elevated mound for planting, and this also adds a nice accent to the landscape. Another tip for a poor drainage area - avoid the temptation to plant a tree in a hole filled with a good porous medium, because you may just be creating a "sponge" that causes waterlogged roots; always backfill the hole with the same soil that you dug out. Unfortunately, one of the most common causes of failure is a waterlogged root system due to our poor-draining clay soil, so avoid low areas at all costs. Trees should not be fed during their first season, except for the application of a weak solution as a root stimulator. Established trees can be conveniently fed now while the ground is quite soft from recent rain. Feed trees by using a stake or a length of pipe to drive a series of holes a foot deep and a foot or so apart around the drip line, and apply a small handful of general-purpose fertilizer (such as 12-24-12) in each hole. A good rule of thumb is to apply a total of about one and a half pounds for each inch of trunk diameter. If your pine trees have very pale green or yellowish needles, that's a sign that the soil is too alkaline, and the cure is to include a soil



(Continued on page 5)

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Green Thumb Corner - (Continued from page 4)

acidifier with the fertilizer (an iron supplement such as Ironite serves the purpose well). Magnolias also need acid soil conditions, so use special azalea/camellia fertilizer or add a soil acidifier.

November was the best time for planting pansies, but they may still be transplanted this month. They can really brighten up an otherwise dull yard, whether in beds or containers. Pansies don't need much attention, but they will benefit from a monthly feeding of manure, super-phosphate or a liquid high-phosphate product. More blooms will be promoted by removing spent or faded flowers.

One more reminder about spring-flowering bulbs - December is the last chance for planting. But remember that tulips should be kept in the refrigerator until the end of the month and then planted between Christmas and New Year's Day (a convenient chance to get a little exercise between the two holidays!).

Azaleas and camellias may be moved at this time and should be kept moist to reduce the risk of cold weather damage. Acidify the soil if necessary. It's a good idea to check the pH value with one of the chemical kits available from the nurseries, or with a meter.

Clean up the beds where fall flowers have finished, and prepare next year's beds now to allow time for settling and weathering, adding lots of humus and also gypsum to break up the clay. In established shrubbery beds a good layer of mulch is just as important in winter as

in the heat of summer. Water well and watch out for winter drought. Be prepared to protect tender plants; cloth makes a better cover than plastic, but you can use the latter by rigging a "tent" arrangement to prevent the plastic from touching any foliage. You never know when we might get another surprise early frost like we did in '91 and '93, so be prepared for quick action. Potted plants can be moved into the garage (put nails in the overhead beams for hanging baskets) and if it's really cold you can leave the lights on to provide some warmth.

There's not much happening in my vegetable garden because I didn't get around to planting fall vegetables, but some industrious neighbors will probably be harvesting fall tomatoes until the first good frost and there may be a few spring/summer pepper plants that have continued producing through this season. There are just a few things that can be planted this month - asparagus, chives, parsley and onion plants - but the main priority right now is preparation of beds for next spring.

HOLIDAY TIPS: Winter pruning of evergreens such as holly, yew and juniper provides useful trimmings for Christmas decorations, and you can also use the clusters of red berries from nandina shrubs.

Phil Richards



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Winchester Trails

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Welcome

Welcome New Trails Residents! We want to stop by and say hello, give you a handy packet of information to help familiarize you with your new neighborhood, and hopefully get some information to introduce your family to the neighbors through the Howdy Partner article in this newsletter. If you are new to the Trails and have not been welcomed, please call Ron Matthews (our temporary chairperson) at 281-955-1005. We also have Trails information available on our website at www.winchestertrails.com.

Project Prom

Attention Senior Parent Business Owners!!

Make your year-end tax donation to Project Prom!!

We are in need of most anything from silent auction prizes to monetary donations. If you have an item to donate, please email/call Lauren Zufall at lzufall@houston.rr.com (281/894-2626).

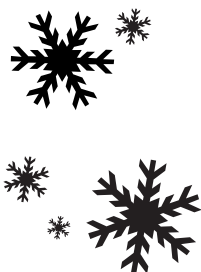
If you would like to make a monetary donation, please email/call Darlene Murray at mfmfish@aol.com (281/469-2985).

Website

Our Trails website, www.winchestertrails.com, is packed with all kinds of useful information. Not sure



how to get the Stork? It's there, plus links for deed restrictions, a directory form, school info, updates on committees, and much, much more. Even back newsletters are available in case you misplaced yours. So please be sure to use this valuable resource soon and often. Comments and suggestions are always welcome.



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Attention Teen Job Seekers!

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Not Available On-Line

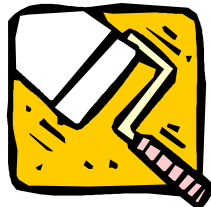
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