

Trail Writer

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

Volume 5, Issue 3
www.winchestertrails.com

March 2009

Dear Winchester Trails Neighbors,

Our Board meeting was held on February 5 at the MUD building with several items on the agenda including security, Architectural Review, the clubhouse and the pool.

Officer Andy was in attendance at the board meeting to discuss his initiatives to prevent some of the problem areas we have had in the Trails recently. Some of those problems have included trespassing in the pool and tennis court areas, some graffiti sprayed on a fence and late night gatherings in the street by teens. Officer Andy also told us that the paperwork for his transfer to another area within the Sheriff's Department has been delayed, but it will happen and we will have a new officer as our contract deputy.

Over the past four months, we have had many Architectural Review forms submitted for roof and fence repair and replacement due to Hurricane Ike. For the most part, these forms were approved but a few forms regarding fences had to be modified. When the subdivision was first developed, a "standard" wooden fence was six feet high. More recently, rot boards have been added to the bottom of fences as a sacrificial part of the fence as the area near the ground stays wet for an extended period and therefore that portion of the fence deteriorates quickly. A simple solution has been the introduction of a rot board. Most rot board have been six inches and along with six foot pickets this results in a fence of 6-foot, 6-inches in height. The Architectural Review Committee has approved these fences. Lately, we have been asked to approve fences with eight and twelve inch rot boards. We have asked those applicants to resubmit with a six inch rot board to prevent fences from have a considerable variation in height around the Trails.

The clubhouse has had a new air conditioner installed as the original one was over 20 years old and there was not much left to repair. We have been aware of this for a while and were hoping that the minor repairs would delay the inevitable, which they did for a time.

Finally, we discussed the new pool season and by the time you read this we will have established the days and hours for the pool's operation this summer. We have made some minor changes in the hours of operation to reduce or contain costs. We also competitively bid the pool contract to determine if we could realize some value without compromising quality. We hope you continue to enjoy the pool.

Until next month...

Walter

Green Thumb Corner - March

We've had another mild winter, which means that the insect pests have survived and the weeds have been growing, so it's time to get down to some serious work during the spring season to get the yard and garden in good shape before the warm weather arrives. For an impressive display of spring and summer color, this is a good time to get started with transplants. There were some nice displays of pansies during the last few months but they won't be very happy in warm weather after the end of March, so pull them up and replace with petunias, marigolds, vinca (periwinkle), begonias or geraniums. Lantana is also very good - as a regional native, it is tolerant to heat and drought and is very hardy in summer conditions (although it may not survive winter frosts if you try to keep it going as a perennial). Plant caladiums and impatiens in the shady areas.

Complete the winter pruning, if not done already. We didn't have any significant freeze damage this year, but make sure you remove any dead wood and cut back to green growth. Try to complete all tree and shrub planting now, before the first full burst of spring growth, and divide and transplant perennials. We reviewed tree-feeding in last month's article but it's not too late to do it in March/April (for established trees, not newly planted) and don't forget an acidifier (such as Ironite) if the pine trees are looking yellow. If you're feeling energetic, the lawn will benefit from a good thatch-raking and also aeration by spiking with a spading fork (special mower attachments make both jobs a lot easier). On the subject of mowers, some routine annual maintenance is advisable before the heavy usage begins: sharpen the blade, check the spark plug, change the oil, and

(Continued on page 2)

Upcoming Events March



- 8 - Daylight Savings Time begins
- 16 - 20 - CFISD Student Holiday
- 17 - St. Patrick's Day
- 18 - Avon Breast Cancer Golf Tournament
- 20 - First day of Spring

Winchester Trails

Winchester Trails Committee Chairmen

Clubhouse Rentals	
Linda Van Zuilekom.....	281-615-0335
Directory Editor	
Melissa Zmerzlikar	directory@winchestertails.com
Newsletter Editor	
Brenda Heaton.....	281-970-5323
Tennis Committee	
Johnny Hooker.....	281-890-9123
Yard of the Month	
Angie Drouin.....	281-955-0644
Stork Committee	
Ron Matthew.....	stork@winchestertails.com
Welcome Committee.....	
Pat Fernandez.....	welcome@winchestertail.com
Social Committee.....	OPEN

Maintenance Association Directors

Greg Johnson	832-237-8178
Jim Malone.....	281-890-3803
Ian McCrory.....	713-818-0138
Walter Sonne.....	281-894-7117
Paulette Walker	281-894-5708

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 President	281-469-1465
Wayne Wilcox, Secretary.....	281-894-6233
Jim Giese, Assistant Secretary	281-890-5207
Sandor Karpathy	281-955-1138

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

PLANNED COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT
281-870-0585

Sheriff, Non-911 Calls	713-221-600
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Green Thumb Corner - (Continued from Cover Page)

you'll get better performance and reliability. A nice clean cut from a sharp mower blade produces a better appearance than the ragged and bruised grass stems that result from a dull edge.

Azaleas can be pruned and fertilized immediately AFTER blooming, and you can give the grass its first feed of the season (use something like 15-5-10) as soon as it has started to green-up. Begin a monthly feeding program with roses (12-24-12 is a good general-purpose fertilizer), and feed all established plants and shrubs. Surface cultivation will mix the fertilizer into the soil and is important to promote good growth and rapid development. And of course, mulch well. I try to limit the use of chemicals, but it's almost impossible to grow roses in the Houston climate without resorting to pesticides and fungicides. Spray weekly with Daconil to control Black Spot fungus, and Diazinon or Malathion for aphids (you can mix the two treatments in the same spray solution). Unfortunately, spraying is also necessary for successful fruit trees. Use a "fruit and nut" spray and make the first application when three-quarters of the blossoms have dropped, then continue at 10-day or two-week intervals until a couple of weeks before harvest. I've tried skipping the spray regimen with peaches and plums, and the result has been 100% infestation of the crop by wasp larvae.

In the vegetable garden, set out tomato and pepper plants this month (and if you hurry it may not be too late for broccoli). Plant seeds for beets and carrots now, but wait until April before planting corn, beans, squash, cucumber, cantaloupe and melons (when the soil is warmer for faster and more consistent germination).

THIS MONTH'S TIP: As we get into the warmth and humidity of spring, watch out for Brown Patch lawn fungus, visible as an expanding circle of dead grass. Apply Terraclor granules and feed to encourage new growth - leaves and stems may be dead, but the grass will come back from the roots.

Phil Richards

HOWDY PARTNER

The Howdy Partner feature of the *TrailWriter* is made possible through the efforts of the Welcome Committee. If you are new to the neighborhood and have not been welcomed, please let us know. Please email Pat Hernandez at welcome@winchestertrails.com with your information or telephone number for contact.

We want to stop by and say hello, get some information to introduce your family to the neighbors through this article, and give you a handy packet of information to help familiarize you with your new neighborhood. We also have Trails information available on our website at www.winchestertrails.com. Welcome to the Trails!

April Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the March newsletter is March 10th. All items should be sent to Brenda Heaton at grateful7000@sbcglobal.net

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Winchester Trails

Yard of The Month

Congratulations to both our winners



Photo by Angie Drouin

9214 Bent Spur Lane
Cesar Rodriguez



Photo by Angie Drouin

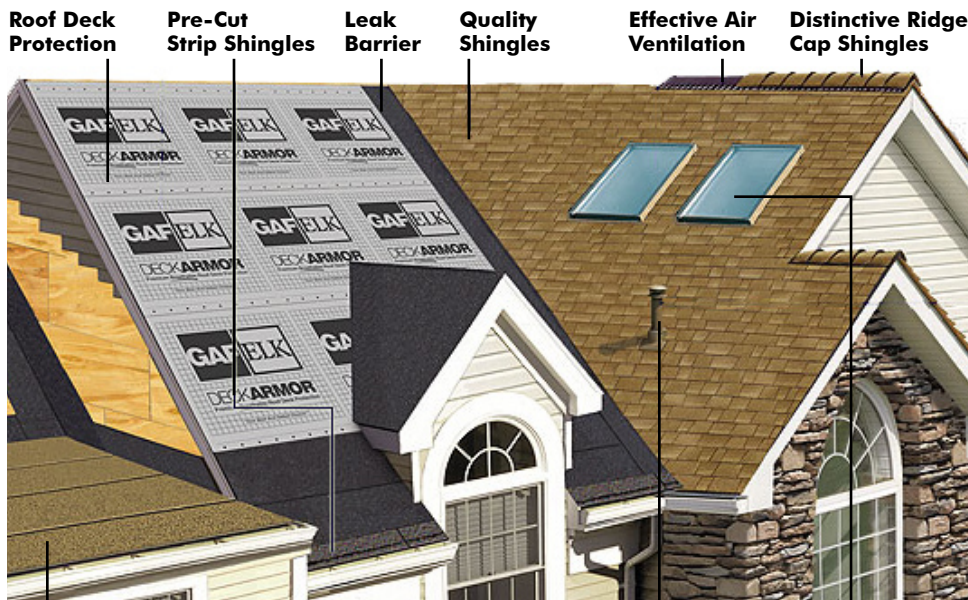
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Carlos and Martha Aya



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Condolences

Winchester Trails has lost a treasured resident.

The many friends of Patrick W. O'Briant, longtime resident on Gold Point, wish to express their deepest sympathy to Sheryl, Kelsey, Jeff and the rest of the family.

Pat, like Will Rogers, never met a man he didn't like. He was a good listener with a kind smile and time for everyone whether at work, at home or at church. His warm smile of greeting will always be remembered.

His legacy to the youth of today was his exemplary example of integrity. May they always remember his concern for each of them.

Brenda Heaton



Condolences

NOT AVAILABLE ONLINE

MILESTONES

New Teenagers - Happy 13th!

03/13 - Emily Gwynne

03/26 - Raegan Mitcham

New Drivers - Happy 16th!

03/03 - Megan Avery

New Voters - Happy 18th!

03/02 - Kord Douglas

03/03 - Whitney Kanke

03/03 - Ryan Slaven

03/17 - Joshua Criswell

New Adults - Happy 21st!

03/11 - Michael McCarthy

03/15 - Blaine Hatten

03/20 - Rachel Ward

Melissa Zmerlikar
directory@winchestertrails.com

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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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meet our team

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Quoc Le, MD
Alex Nguyen, MD
Blandina Sison, MD
Marian Allan, MD
Anthony Yee-Young, MD
Diana Malone, MD
Shital Patel, MD
Heidi Nashed-Guirgis, MD
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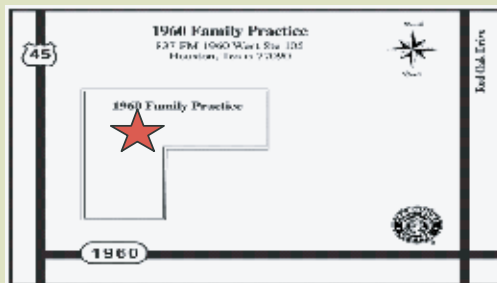
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Winchester Trails

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A security deposit of \$250 and a signed contract (contract may be viewed on our neighborhood website www.winchestertrails.com.) are required to secure your booking.

For more information, please call 281-615-0335 or email me at clubhouse@winchestertrails.com

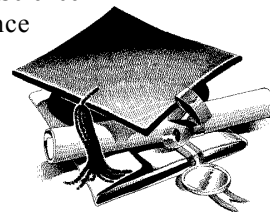
Linda van Zuilekom

Opt-in for Neighborhood Notices

If you would like to receive neighborhood notices on what's happening in our community including security alerts and lost/found pets, please send your email address to Melissa Zmerzlikar at eblast@winchestertrails.com. Your email will remain private and only used for community notices. Thank you to all of our neighbors participating in this program.

Magna Cum Laude Congrats

Phillip Matthew Loria, son of Lee and Linda Loria, graduated **Magna Cum Laude** with a Bachelor of Science degree in Kinesiology-Exercise Science from the University Of Houston, December 2008. Phillip is currently employed at the Houstonian Athletic Club. Congratulations!!



Calling All Volunteers

Social Committee Chairperson Needed

If you like parties and enjoy hosting gatherings then this is the spot for you! We are looking for a volunteer to facilitate social gatherings for the Trails. You will be working with Paulette Walker.

If you are interested in any of the above positions please contact Paulette at 281.894.5708 or any Board member listed in the newsletter. *Thank you!*

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Stork Report Winchester

Baby Boy

Sir Michael L. Mosley II

Arrived:

January 27, 2009

7 lb. 1 oz.

18 inches

Proud Parents:

Michael And Annalia Wright-Mosley

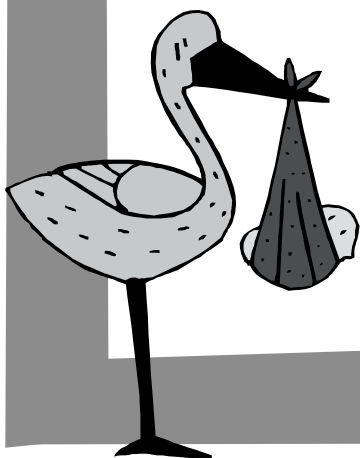
Proud Siblings:

His 4 siblings stay busy with football, swimming, music, and now their basketball team.

Congratulations to Mom and the whole family. The Mosley family recently moved into the Trails and we are glad to welcome them all!

Ron Matthews

Congrats!



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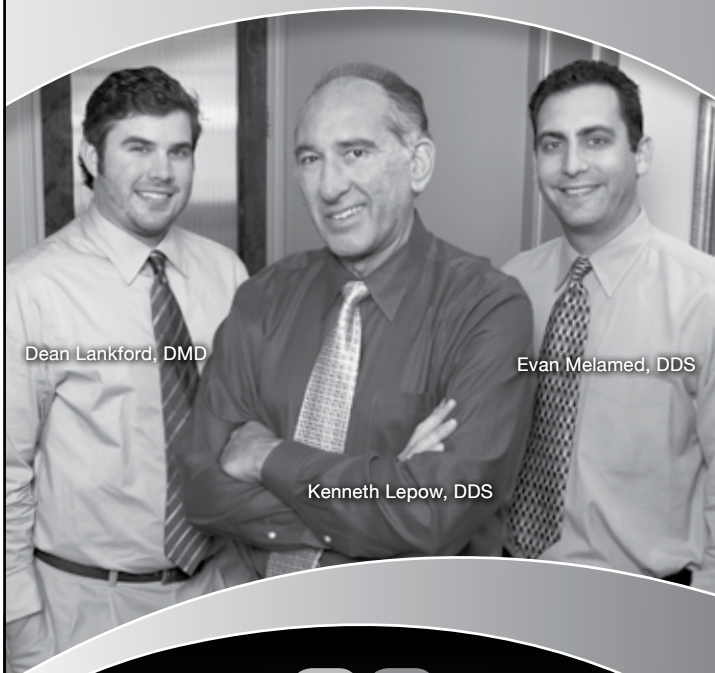
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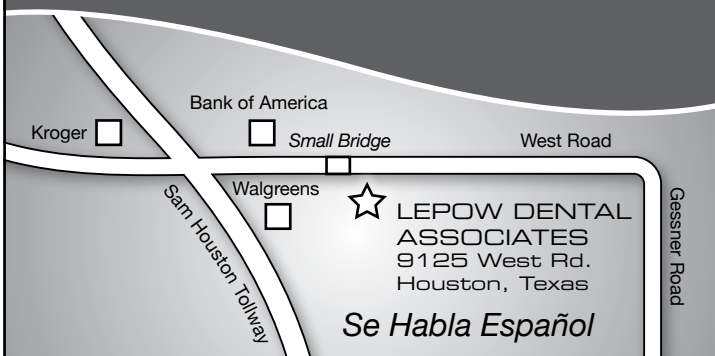
Evan Melamed, DDS

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When: Saturday, May 16th
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

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Why: Do your part for the environment! Save the
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Saturday, April 4, 2009
at our Clubhouse.**





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[This information will only be used to
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