

Volume 5, Issue 4 www.winchestertrails.com

April 2009



Upcoming Events

April 2009

- 2 Maintenance Board Meeting 7PM
- 4 Children's Easter Party at the club house. Kerry Russell is our volunteer chairperson; please contact her at 281-955-5033 to help with this event.
- 10 Good Friday
- 12 Easter
- 17 18 Community Garage Sale Fri & Sat, 8AM 4PM
- 22 Earth Day
- 25 Community pool tag registration at the pool, 10AM 2PM

Dear Winchester Trails Neighbors,

Spring is upon us and with that the weather has improved (although our winter was actually quite pleasant) along with longer and warmer days. The Board is moving forward with plans for the swim season at the pool this year. Elsewhere in the newsletter you will find more specific information about the pool, but I wanted to discuss some of the changes. The cost to operate the pool has been escalating at a significant rate these past couple of years as the minimum wage has increased thereby raising the cost for the lifeguards. The cost of energy and chemicals has also been on the rise.

The Board has taken some measures to mitigate these cost increases. We wanted to make the pool accessible to as many as possible and after considering a variety of proposals to reduce the hours the pools is open, we established new pool hours. We have kept records these past years to determine the optimum usage of the pool and keeping this in mind, we have decided to eliminate the senior swim hour on Wednesday morning and we will delay opening the pool until noon on SundaysWe were one of the only subdivisions around that opened the pool on Sunday before noon. Otherwise the hours remain the same as last year.

By request of many residents, we have instituted a new policy regarding minor swimmers who have their swimming privileges suspended by the lifeguards. The responsible adult for these children will have to get in touch with a Board member before that particular swimmer will be readmitted to the pool. The lifeguards' primary responsibility is to maintain a safe environment which can be enjoyed by all. All residents must respect their authority and appreciate their efforts on our behalf.

Finally, as Spring is here and Summer will soon be, please drive carefully and slowly through our neighborhood as there are many children riding their bicycles or playing in the streets particularly with the long daylight hours. Many of us have fond memories of this time of year as we grew up. Please also consider not using a cell phone while driving so you can maintain proper focus.

Until next month...
Walter

Winchester Trails

Winchester Trails <u>Committee Chairmen</u>

Clubhouse Rentals	
Linda Van Zuilekom	281-615-0335
Directory Editor	
Melissa Zmerzlikar	directory@winchestertails.com
Newsletter Editor	
	OPEN
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	
Ian McCrory	713-818-0138
Walter Sonne	
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

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Green Thumb Corner

Spring is here again and the onset of warmer weather is promoting vigorous growth, so it's time to get busy in the yard and garden to keep pace with nature. There are lots of colorful bedding plants in all the nurseries and April is a good time for planting if you didn't take care of it last month. For best results, make sure the beds are raised and take the time to cultivate the soil and add lots of organic material. Keep the transplants well watered and give them a boost with a weak "starter solution" made by mixing a tablespoon of 12-24-12 in a gallon of water. Avoid heavy feeding until plants are well established. Summer bulbs can be planted now - cannas, gladiolus, dahlia and caladium provide choices of color and height. Caladiums do well in shady areas, although the red varieties like some sunshine; for best results, wait until the soil temperature gets to 70 degrees. If you want instant color you can buy caladium plants rather than waiting a few weeks for the bulbs to produce results.

Regular readers probably get tired of the continual references to mulching, but it is important for all flowers, shrubs and trees. It helps retain moisture, stabilizes soil temperature, prevents caking or erosion of the soil, deters weeds and makes it easier to pull out those that do poke through, as well as enhancing appearance. Smells good, too! A 2" to 4" layer of coarse shredded pine bark mulch is ideal.

Azaleas may be pruned, and the feeding period begins now that blooming is over. The recommended regimen is two or three light feedings every four to six weeks between now and the end of June, using one of the special high-acid formulas. Or you can use general purpose 12-24-12 and supplement with a soil acidifier such as copperas. The high-phosphorous 12-24-12 is also good for roses and hibiscus, both of which like a monthly feeding schedule. Other spring-flowering shrubs such as spirea (bridal wreath) may be pruned after blooming, and you can prune and repot the poinsettias. Chrysanthemums tend to spread like crazy, and it's a good idea to divide and transplant at the end of this month or early May. The new shoots will produce more vigorous growth than the old central roots. Chrysanthemums are biologically programmed to bloom in October when we have equal hours of daylight and darkness, but in our southern climate we may also get a bonus flowering session in spring after a mild winter. Throughout the summer, keep pinching back the tips for bushier growth and more blooms.

As the temperature starts climbing back into the 80's the chinch bugs are likely to be feeding on our carefully-tended grass again, and there isn't really any alternative to chemical treatment. Apply pesticide granules to the lawn and beds every six to eight weeks. This also controls fire ants and takes care of fleas and ticks, and a good application around the house foundation helps to keep cockroaches out.

An herb patch is an attractive and aromatic feature in the garden, as well as being very useful - it's great to be able to cook or garnish with freshly picked parsley, basil or cilantro. Plants are available at the nurseries, and basil and cilantro both grow very quickly from seed. Rosemary and oregano plants will survive for years in our climate, and mint is also perennial. In the vegetable garden, beds prepared at least two weeks earlier are ready for planting seeds now that the soil is warming up. Beans, squash, cantaloupe, cucumber and corn are all

(Continued on page 4)

Winchester Country Trails Maintenance Assoc., Inc.

P.O. Box 219223 Houston, Texas 77218 (281)870-0585 PCMI

To: Residents of Winchester Country Trails

Date: March 5, 2009
Re: **2009 Swim Season**From: Board of Directors

Your community **pool opens Saturday, May 9, 2009**. Final swim day will be Monday, September 7th. The pool will only be open when there is a lifeguard on duty. Registration Forms will be mailed to each home. There must be a pool tag purchased for each child and adult. Each registration form must have an **Emergency Telephone Number**. Children three years or older require a pool tag. In addition, the homeowner **MUST BE CURREN**T on maintenance fees.

2009 POOL TAG REGISTRATION DAYS WILL BE THE SATURDAYS OF April 25 & May 2, AT THE POOL 10:00AM TILL 2:00PM. TAGS WILL BE AVAILABLE **BY MAIL ONLY** AFTER TAG DAYS; 5-10 days delivery.

POOL HOURS OF OPERATION

MAY 9 through MAY 31	Weekends Only	
Saturday	10:00am to 9:00pm	
Sunday	12:00pm to 9:00pm	
May 25 Monday (open Memorial Day)	10:00am to 9:00pm	
JUNE 4 through AUGUST 23	Standard Weekly Hours	
Monday	10:00am to 9:00pm	
Tuesday	CLOSED	
Wednesday thru Saturday	10:00am to 9:00pm	
Sunday	12:00pm to 9:00pm	
AUGUST 29 through SEPTEMBER 6	Weekends Only	
Saturday	10:00am to 9:00pm	

POOL SEASON CLOSES TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2009.

POOL PARTIES & SWIM LESSONS: Forms @ www. haveapoolparty.com or Call Greater Houston Pools @ 713-771-7665
THE FOLLOWING QUALIFICATIONS MUST BE MET IN ORDER TO USE THE FACILITIES:

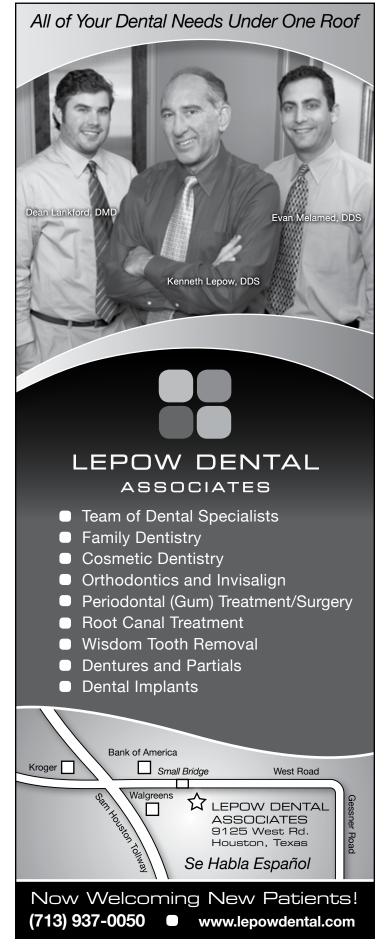
- 1. Must wear swim tags at all times while at the pool.
- 2. Must be a Trails resident member and/or guest of a resident member.
- 3. Must be current on annual maintenance fees and in compliance with Deed Restrictions.
- 4. All swimmers will abide by lifeguard's instructions. Lifeguards have approval to remove any person/child.

NEW 5. Any minor dismissed by a lifeguard must leave the pool area and will be banned from the pool until a parent contacts a Board member regarding the issue.

(Continued on page 5)

12:00pm to 9:00pm

10:00am to 9:00pm



Sunday

Sept 7 Monday (open Labor Day)

Winchester Trails

NOT AVAILABLE ONLINE

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; <u>advertising@PEELinc.com</u> for ad information and pricing The deadline for ads is the 10th of each month for the upcoming month's newsletter.

Green Thumb Corner - (Continued from Page 2)

rewarding crops which can provide a good harvest from a relatively small area. Okra and eggplant may be transplanted this month or next, and it's not too late for tomato and pepper plants.

THIS MONTH'S TIP: After completing the main weekend chores of mowing and edging, it's easy to overlook the final cleanup along the curb. A few minutes spent in sweeping up the clippings from the street will really enhance the appearance of your home and improve the quality of the neighborhood.

Phil Richards

YOM March

by: Angie Drouin

Front Section
10219 Hondo Hill Road
Charles and Sharon Chude

Back Section
8903 Crazy Horse Trail
Mike and Connie Lawrence

MILESTONES

New Teenagers -

Happy 13th! 04/03 - Ashton Korenek

04/15 - Matthew Bowen

04/28 - Jacob Calvert

New Drivers -Happy 16th!

04/09 - Thomas Mulholland

04/11 - Nicole Ancell

04/14 - Kristie Garza

04/16 - Matt Nation

04/26 - Ashley Kelley

New Adults -

Happy 21st!

04/21 - Kasey Fernandez 04/30 - Kari McLead

Happy 1st Anniversary!

04/12 - Chris & Pam Roberts

Happy 5th Anniversary!

04/16 - Travis & Beda

Kent

04/17 - John & Dee

Worrell

Happy 15th Anniversary!

04/29 - Chris & Joanne

Burns

04/29 - Drew & Barbara

Dean

Happy 30th Anniversary!

04/08 - Michael & Cynthia

Frazier

04/13 - Robert & Pat Castillo

Melissa Zmerzlikar directory@ winchestertrails.com

www.winchestertrails.com

Winchester Country Trails - (Continued from Page 3)

Pool tags will be available for residents whose maintenance fees are current, for the cost of \$1.00, per tag. Please note that maintenance fees must be **paid two weeks (14) days prior to purchasing tags.** Any question regarding maintenance fees refer to PCMI. Tags will be issued based on the number of full-time household members listed. Guest tags are available during regular pool hours and cost \$1.00 per day (no change available). Guest must be accompanied by a resident. **REPLACEMENT TAGS FOR LOST OR STOLEN TAGS WILL BE AT THE EXPENSE OF THE HOMEOWNER and can only be replaced through PCMI's mail-in directions listed below.**

After the May 2nd., registration, homeowners are required to purchase tags **through the mail** from PCMI. Registration forms must be mailed to PCMI @ PO Box 219223 Houston, TX 77218, along with a \$5.00 administration fee and \$1.00 per tag. **Mail-in purchases take 5-10 business days so MAIL EARLY!** DO NOT mail cash! Lifeguards cannot issue pool tags.

Registration Form can be downloaded from www.winchestertrails. com (check pool page)

Have a great pool season!

(Pool Registration on page 11)

Howdy Partner Welcome to the Trails!

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 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.

May Newsletter Deadline

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

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References Available • Fully Insured NO PAYMENT UNTIL COMPLETION

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Saturday 8am-1pm

Sunday Noon-3pm

290 LOCATION:

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Saturday 9am-12pm

meet our team

Huong T Le, MD

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

Luz Marquez, MD

Jennifer Dong, MD

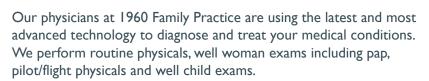
Haley Nguyen, MD

Tami Berckenhoff, PA-C

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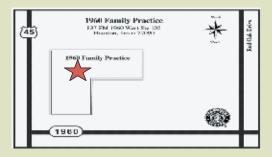


FAMILY PRACTICE

NEW LOCATION AT HWY 290

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Appointment press option 1

shots

Winchester Trails

Volunteer Needed for Trail Writer Editor

If you are a resident of The Trails and have an interest in editing the monthly social newsletter for Winchester Trails, please contact newsletter@winchestertrails.com indicating your interest in this availability. Someone on the Board will respond to your email

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/

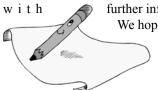
found pets, please send your email address to Melissa Zmerzlikar

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.

further information regarding this opening. We hope to hear from you soon.



winchestertrails.com to have the WT Stork and desired.

Stork Report

If you have a new little one, please contact Ron Matthews at 281-955-1005 or stork@ winchestertrails.com to share your news and have the WT Stork appear in your yard if desired.

Clubhouse Availability

Winchester Trails newly renovated neighborhood clubhouse is available for neighborhood residents to rent for parties, meetings, Bunco, dinners, etc. The clubhouse rate is \$10 per hour with a \$30 minimum. The clubhouse holds up to 50 people and has a kitchen with a stove, microwave and fridge, as well as 6 tables and plenty of folding chairs.

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

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

Linda van Zuilekom



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Cypress Christian School StudentsRaise Money for Orphanage

When students in Miss Shelby's second grade class started studying money in math, they learned a two-fold lesson: how to count change and how to change someone's life.

Students were encouraged to bring their dimes, nickels, and pennies to class during a two-week mission project called "Change to Change the World for Jesus" The goal of the project was to raise money for His Cherished Ones, an orphanage in Africa run by former CCS teacher Trena Ivy.

"When the students saw the pictures on Miss Ivy's blog of poor African children without shoes or food, they were inspired and motivated," said Miss Shelby. "They gave their Christmas money and money from their own piggy banks. The students also chose to give up their snacks at school and donate the money to the project." As a result of their efforts, the class collected more than \$1000 to send to the orphanage.



'Create a Holiday'

Do you enjoy a specific holiday? Have a great idea for July 4th that's never been tried? Do you have suggestions for different Christmas events?

SOCIAL EVENT COORDINATORS:

May create their own committees and organize activities for the "big day". It doesn't take a lot of time if you're working a single holiday. Please consider volunteering your time to "Create a Holiday"; with your unique theme and suggestions. Trails residents come from all over the World. Your bucket of ideas is as big as that.

Contact Paulette Walker at social@winchestertrails.com

Personal Classified

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Please choose "Newsletter Ad" as your referral on the SparkPowerBank.com website.

www.winchestertrails.com

After May 5, Mail form with \$1 per tag + \$5 BY MAIL PCMI PO Box 219223 Houston, TX 77218	.:	Tag Numbers Issued:		
Winchester Country Trails Maintenance Association, Inc. 2009 Pool Registration 8925 Rio Grande – Houston, Tx 77064 Date:				
Please complete the appropriate information listed below and <u>bring this form with you</u> to Pool Registration on April 25th & May 2nd from 10am to 2pm. <u>Tags will be available by MAIL thereafter & will take 5 to 10 days to receive. PCMI does not offer tag pickup from their office.</u>				
Pool tags will be issued to all property owners who have re-	turned this form and have:			
"PAID ALL MAINTENANCE FEES AND ANY ACCRE	UED INTEREST IN FULL"			
LIST FULL TIME RESIDENTS ONLY (Guest Tags Available at Pool)				
Your Name	Spouse			
Street address	Email			
Home Phone #	Cell #			
*Emergency Contact	Phone #			
*Alternate Emergency Contact	Phone #			
☐ Check box if you do NOT want email address in the	Trails Master Directory.			
NOTE: CHILDREN TEN YEARS OF AGE AND UNDI		<u>ULT.</u>		
CHILDREN THREE YEARS AND OLDER MUST H				
Children's Names	**AGE IF UNI	DER 18 yrs		
- 				
OTHER FULL TIME RESIDENTS (**AGE IF UNDER 18 yrs)				
PLEASE NOTE: IF YOU ARE RENTING PLEASE INDICATE PROPERTY OWNERS NAME AND ADDRESS BELOW AND PROVIDE WRITTEN NOTIFICATION FROM OWNER THAT YOU ARE THE TENANT AND YOU HAVE PERMISSION TO USE THE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.				
Owners Name	Phone #			
Address				
All information above is for Winchester Trails exclusively. Confidential – not for outside distribution.				



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