

# Trail Writer

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

Volume 5, Issue 5  
www.winchestertrails.com

May 2009

## Dear Winchester Trails Neighbors

We are in urgent need of a volunteer as editor of the Trail Writer, our neighborhood newsletter. Our current editor, Brenda Heaton, has been helping us for some time now but due to a family related issue she is unable to continue in this position. We are glad that Brenda has helped us as much as she did as the newsletter consistently was completed on time and in a fashion we could appreciate. Please keep your neighbor Brenda in your thoughts and prayers as she goes through a trying experience.

We have been trying to enlist another volunteer to take over as editor, but so far we have had little luck. If we cannot find an editor, the newsletter will cease publication. This is most unfortunate as the newsletter has been a collaborative effort by several of the residents of the Trails to keep us all informed of activities in our area. We have many volunteers and this edition is being published because a few of those got together to make this happen. However, this way of publishing the newsletter cannot continue due to commitments with other activities in the Trails. Please consider this position.

The pool will open on May 9 and will be open on the weekend through May including Memorial Day. Once school has ended for the summer, the pool will be on a daily schedule. Pool tags will be available on April 25 and May 2. Registration forms were mailed to homeowners in March. Additional forms are available on the Trails website. We hope you have a great swim season.

On April 2, the Board met for our regularly scheduled session. We discussed the current state of the tennis courts and the possible need to take remedial measures. We understand the difficult economic situation that we are all in, so options are being carefully considered regarding the tennis courts. The upcoming swim season was also on the agenda and we took the opportunity during the meeting to look at the pool area as it is being prepared for operations. We had several volunteers help with the pool area in the past few months. Ron Matthews has spent much time including making repairs to the lifeguard's office and painting the office. Many thanks to Ron.

Officer Andy provided us with an update on security in the Trails. Thanks to his help and the active involvement of our neighbors, the Trails are relatively safe and secure. We must remain diligent in helping keep our neighborhood this way. If you see any suspicious activities, please call the sheriff's office.

Regards,  
Walter



## Upcoming Events in Winchester!

### May 2009

May 2nd - Community pool tag registration at the pool (10:00AM - 2:00PM)

May 9th - Pool opens on weekends from 10:00 AM to 9:00 PM

May 10th - Happy Mother's Day!

May 25th - Memorial Day / CFISD Student Holiday – Pool Open 10am to 9pm

May 25th – MUD Meeting 7:30pm at MUD Building – updates on construction

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# Winchester Trails

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

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## Winchester Trails Classifieds

Have any items that you need to get rid of but think someone else could use? Have a useful service to offer your neighbors? Why not place an ad in The Trail Writer? Just send the info and a phone to the newsletter editor, and your ad will be run in the newsletter for two issues.

**Personal classifieds** (one time sell items, such as a used bike...) run at no charge to Winchester residents, limit 30 words, please e-mail [advertising@PEELinc.com](mailto:advertising@PEELinc.com).

**Business classifieds** (offering a service or product line for profit) are \$50, limit 40 words, please contact Peel, Inc. Sales Office @ 888-687-6444 or [advertising@PEELinc.com](mailto:advertising@PEELinc.com).

## Personal Classifieds

**For Sale:** Clarinet, Buffet B12 Student Model, Made in Germany, Excellent Condition - \$200. Call Brendan McCormick 281-890-1907

**Wanted:** New or slightly used treadmill. If yours is sitting in the garage or taking up space in a bedroom, I might like to purchase it. Please email [rmatthews1005@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rmatthews1005@sbcglobal.net) with asking price and age of equipment.

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## Yard of The Month

*Congratulations to both our winners*



*Photo by Angie Drouin*

**Back Section**  
**8903 Crazy Horse Trail**  
**Mike and Connie Lawrence**



*Photo by Angie Drouin*

**Front Section**  
**10219 Hondo Hill Road**  
**Charles and Sharon Chude**



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## Clubhouse Phone Number Changed

Our newly renovated neighborhood clubhouse is up and running and looks great! It is available for neighborhood residents to rent for parties, meetings, Bunco, dinners, etc. The clubhouse rate is \$10 per hour with a \$30 minimum. A security deposit of \$250 and a signed contract are needed to secure your booking. 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. The phone number to call has recently changed to 832-592-3297, or send an email to [clubhouse@winchestertrails.com](mailto:clubhouse@winchestertrails.com). The clubhouse rental contract is located on the website. Book now for your summer events!

*Linda van Zuilekom*

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## MILESTONES

### **New Teenagers - Happy 13th!**

05/31 - Emily Bankerd

### **New Drivers - Happy 16th!**

05/05 - Brooke Williford

### **New Voters - Happy 18th!**

05/10 - Andrew Strong

05/13 - Trey Woodruff

### **New Adults - Happy 21st!**

05/10 - Rashad Dawoudi

05/13 - Mike Wamhoff

### **Happy 20th Anniversary!**

05/19 - Andrew Shatilo & Julia Naumenko

### **Happy 30th Anniversary!**

05/12 - Kerry & Debbie Roper

05/26 - Tom & Valerie Nelson

Melissa Zmerzlikar

[directory@winchestertrails.co](mailto:directory@winchestertrails.co)



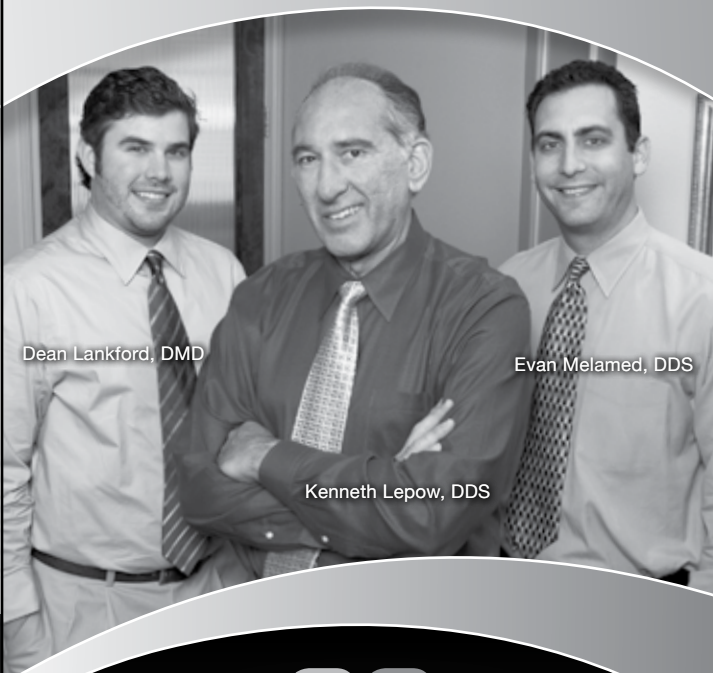
## Yard of the Month



*Left: Angie Drouin, Trails YOM Chairman  
Right: Sandra Keyser*

Angie Drouin has recently volunteered to support our YOM program. Angie actually goes around the neighborhood, selects two of the best yards for that month, obtains pictures and delivers a gift certificate to the two monthly winners.

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Dean Lankford, DMD

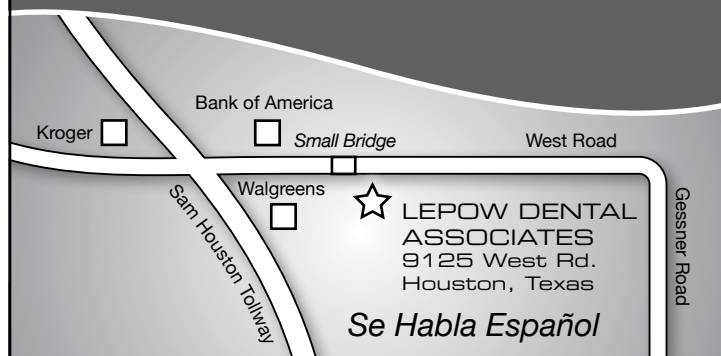
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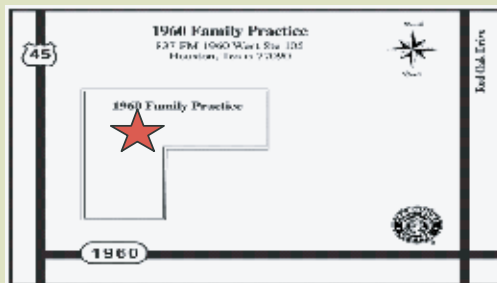
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# Winchester Trails



## 2009 Easter Eggstravaganza

So much fun!!!! The Winchester trails egg hunt was a hive of activity, starting off with a 500 count egg hunt. The under two's started it off and at each whistle blow the next age group joined in the hunt until the 12+ tweens rounded off the hunt. A sneaky \$5 egg was still to be found and the large group of kids (and parents) hunted for about 20 minutes until the final "golden egg" was found. After everyone enjoyed the beautiful spread of cookies, cakes and juice, kindly donated by fellow neighbors, the games began! Organizers hosted a super-fun circuit of egg & spoon races for each age group and ended with a parents only sack race.

Activities at the event included egg-decorating, pictures at the "Easter bench" and fun face painting. A big "Thank You" to the team of residents who gave of their time and endless energy in setting up & breaking down after the event.... we could not have done it without you! Kerry Thomas & Susan Wheelock.

The Trails would like to express our thanks to Kerry and Susan for their hard work and dedication to making this event a huge success for everyone. Great job!





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"Erase Sun Damage"

May 19th 12:00pm  
"Rejuvenate your Skin"  
May 21st 5:30pm  
"Rejuvenate your Skin"  
May 26th 12:00pm  
"Make-up Application Tips"  
May 28th 5:30pm  
"Make-up Application Tips"

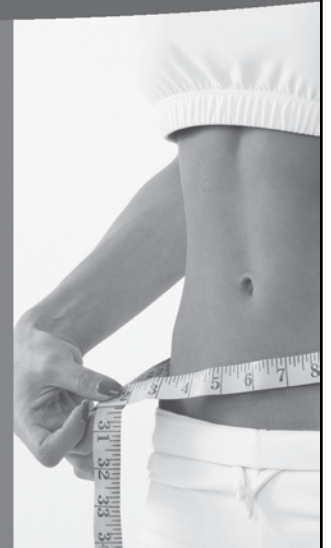


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# Winchester Trails

## Green Thumb Corner

The weather is warming up and the colorful bedding plants of spring and early summer are making a welcome appearance to provide color throughout the neighborhood. Don't worry if you haven't had chance to get your yard in shape yet - there's still a good selection of bedding plants at the nurseries, and May is a good time for planting annuals (or perennials) to provide summer color. Summer bulbs may still be planted, but make sure you plan the appropriate plant height for your intended location and take account of exposure. Vinca, petunia, lantana, marigolds and begonias are sun loving favorites, but keep impatiens and caladiums to the shaded areas. Consider plants like euryops (a yellow daisy like evergreen shrub), Dahlberg daisy (a low growing daisy with a profusion of yellow blooms) and Mexican heather, all of which have become popular in recent years. And don't forget reliable standbys like shasta daisies (actually a chrysanthemum) and Gerber daisies.

Keep beds well mulched to preserve soil moisture as the weather warms up, and stay on top of the weeds by pulling a few at a time whenever you have a few moments to spare - don't wait until they become a major problem.

This is a good time to feed crape myrtles with a balanced fertilizer to promote summer bloom. This shrub is very susceptible to white powdery mildew, but you can take care of it with Consan Triple Action 20, which delivers a "quick kill" and biodegrades within 24 hours. Or you can use a general-purpose fungicide (such as Daconyl) that will have a longer lasting effect. Also watch out for powdery mildew on golden euonymus.

If you fed the lawn in early spring, you can consider supplementing with a high nitrogen fertilizer or with the usual 15-5-10 or 16-8-8 ratio recommended for Texas grass. And it's often worth paying an extra couple of dollars to get a fertilizer with added nutrients such as iron and sulfur to increase acidity - particularly useful around the pine trees if they're looking "tired" and showing yellowish needles. Treat with Diazinon granules for chinch bugs and to control fleas and ants; apply Terraclor granules if you have a problem with brown patch fungus.

Azaleas can be pruned and should be fed lightly every few weeks

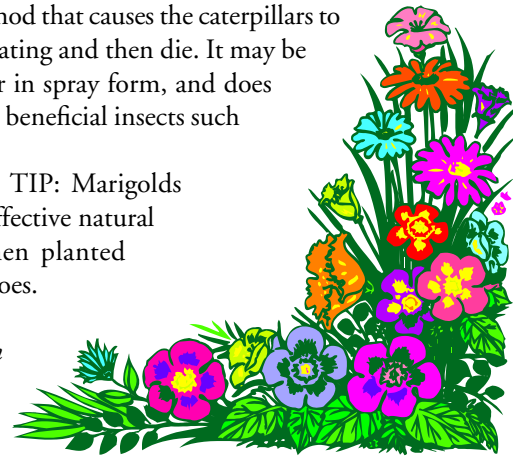
until the end of June (but no later than that), preferably with one of the special high-acid formulas. Or you can use general purpose 12-24-12 and add a soil acidifier such as copperas. The high-phosphorous 12-24-12 is also good for roses and hibiscus, both of which benefit from a monthly feeding schedule. You can save yourself a lot of time and trouble with roses if you use one of the products that contain systemic fungicide and pesticide, so that you don't have to mess with regular spraying. All spring flowering shrubs may be safely pruned after blooming.

In the vegetable garden, it's time to complete the main planting of summer vegetables. Peppers, eggplant and okra plants can go in now (they love the summer heat) and you can plant seeds for beans, black eyed peas, melons, cantaloupe and pumpkin. Consider multiple plantings of beans at three week intervals to provide a succession of crops through the summer, and use a space saving trellis or other arrangement for vertical climbing (or you can try the bush variety).

If you ran into trouble with those voracious green caterpillars on broccoli or other green vegetables, there are a couple of solutions. One approach (if you're not too squeamish!) is picking them off and squashing the little pests. The other is to use *Bacillus Thuringiensis* (just call it BT). This is not a chemical pesticide but is a natural bacteriological method that causes the caterpillars to become sick, quit eating and then die. It may be applied as a dust or in spray form, and does not appear to harm beneficial insects such as ladybugs.

**THIS MONTH'S TIP:** Marigolds are reputed to be effective natural pest repellents when planted amongst the tomatoes.

*Phil Richards*  
[prich8935@aol.com](mailto:prich8935@aol.com)



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## Editor Wanted

It is unfair to continue asking the same volunteers to extend their time or take on broader responsibilities. Volunteering is a serious issue for our subdivision. There are other subdivisions that have had to close down their clubhouse, pool, tennis courts, etc. because they could not get volunteers. I have seen subdivisions turn-down in three years because they had no residents contribute. We don't want to follow in those footsteps. This is your subdivision and while we currently have excellent volunteers it appears the same residents are picking up the slack time and time again.

Volunteer work does not have to be a never-ending experience. Residents can run for a two year Board term or a committee member. That resident would receive an inside view of how the Board works, what it takes to run the subdivision and how the Board interfaces with other groups (i.e. MUD, Harris County, etc.). The volunteer would also give invaluable "new blood" input. You can also decide to work on a committee. All committees can use extra assistance and you can select one you would enjoy.

Remember, we get out of our subdivision what we put into it. If you want the Trails to continue to be an enhanced community to call home; residents are needed to contribute.

As always, your comments and suggestions are welcome. Simply contact any Board member.



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