

# Trail Writer

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

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www.winchestertrails.com

June 2010

## Letter from the President

### Greetings Winchester Trails Residents,

This is a busy time of year in the Trails as school is being let out and the pool is open. Please be aware of the children riding their bicycles, walking to friend's homes and playing in the street. Also, we must be diligent with respect to security. Call the Sheriff's office if you see anyone suspicious in the neighborhood. If you leave your home to go on vacation, let your neighbors know when and how long you will be gone. Ask them to check your front door for flyers placed by solicitors or for any free newspapers that maybe thrown on your yard. Do not forget to suspend delivery of mail and newspapers. The Board is committed to the security of the Trails and has taken recent steps to enhance security.

In the last few weeks, the Board has been contacted in several instances regarding the condition of some homes. The state of the economy has affect many nationwide and in Houston. If you have concerns about a particular property, please contact Severn Trent: Planned Community Management. While the name has changed from PCMI, Severn Trent will investigate complaints and report to the Board. Severn Trent also makes periodic inspections, but not all issues can be noted during the routine inspections, so give them a call. Recently, we have worked with neighbors and Severn Trent to clean up a couple of yards and homes. Sometimes it appears that little is being done by the Board, but there is a process that we must follow under state law.

The next Board meeting will be on Wednesday, June 2 at 7:00 PM and we hope you can attend.

*Until next month...*

*Walter*

## Independence day

*Celebration in the Trails*

*Sat, June 26th, Starting at 9 AM*

Join your friends and neighbors in a celebration of our nation's independence.

The parade will assemble at 9:00 AM at Great Plains and Rio Grande. Escorted by the local fire department (and their fire truck), we will proceed down Rio Grande to the clubhouse. Show off your patriotism and creativity by decorating your scooter, bicycle, wagon, kids, grandchildren, pets, etc. Prizes will go to the best entries!

Parade spectators are also needed and encouraged. Get out your lawn chairs, and come show your support of the neighborhood and nation.

Following the parade, join us at the clubhouse for lots of fun, food, and games. We'll have games and fun for all ages!

If you can volunteer, we would very much appreciate desserts, people to serve food, and to help with the games and activities. If you can help, please contact Susan Wheelock at [someonenamedsusan@hotmail.com](mailto:someonenamedsusan@hotmail.com) or Mary Gwynne at [amgwynne@swbell.net](mailto:amgwynne@swbell.net). If your son or daughter needs service hours, this is a good opportunity!

Let's make this an awesome neighborhood event! See you there!

# Winchester Trails

## COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Clubhouse Rentals  
Kristina Soliz..... 832-592-3297

Directory Editor  
Melissa Zmerzlikar ..... directory@winchestertrails.com

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Stork Committee  
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Mary Gwynne

Social Committee..... OPEN

Marquee  
Julie Fletcher ..... Marquee@winchestertrails.com

Tykes Children's Committee  
Kerry Thomas..... tykes@winchestertrails.com

## 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  
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Sheriff, Non-911 Calls ..... 713-221-6000

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

*May/June/July*

### MAY 2010

- May 31 - Memorial Day / CFISD Student Holiday

### JUNE 2010

- June 2 - Board Meeting 7 PM at the clubhouse
- June 2 - Last day of school!
- June 3 - Pool opens with standard hours. Please see pool schedule.
- June 20 - Happy Father's Day!
- June 21 - First day of Summer
- June 26 - 4th of July celebration. Parade at 9:00 AM, followed by food and fun at the pool!

### JULY 2010

- 4 - Happy 4th of July!



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# Milestones

## New Drivers - Happy 16th!

06/29 - Allie Dixon

## New Voters - Happy 18th!

06/02 - Kenneth Yeung

06/04 - Barrett Parmely

06/14 - Kristina Zufall

06/15 - Rebecca Fitzgerald

## New Adults - Happy 21st!

06/06 - Cherise Hebert

06/12 - Jessica Jennett

06/20 - Aaron Smith

06/26 - David Stevens

06/28 - Justin Williford

## Happy 10th Anniversary!

06/10 - Joe & Mary

Drumwright

## Happy 20th Anniversary!

06/10 - David & Nancy Nation

06/30 - Bryan & Donna Slaven

## Happy 25th Anniversary!

06/08 - Gary & Lisa Johnson

06/15 - Robert & Holly Calbat

06/29 - Jonathan & Noris

Sykes

## Happy 30th Anniversary!

06/07 - Mark & Nedra

Randolph

06/21 - Dennis & Micki

Beckman

## Happy 35th Anniversary!

06/08 - Rick & Janet Kraft

## Happy 45th Anniversary!

06/02 - Thomas & Letty

Kendrick

*Melissa Zmerzlikar  
directory@winchestertrails.com*



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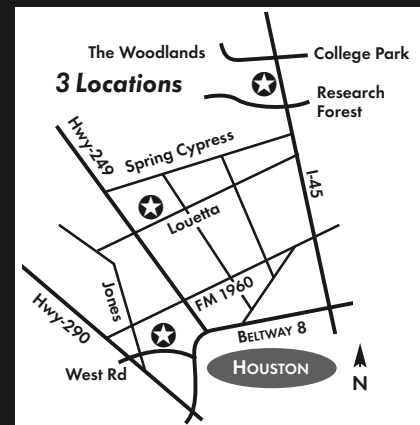
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# Winchester Trails

## GREENTHUMB CORNER

The spring season was been pleasantly mild this year, and yard and garden chores continued to be pleasant tasks through the end of April, but May came in with hints of summer temperatures, and June will bring the real heat. It takes a bit more willpower to spend a lot of time out there in the hot sun, so try to make it easier by working in the relative cool of early morning or late evening, and don't forget to cover up for protection against sunburn.

The amount of rainfall so far this year is a bit below average, and our neighborhood lawns will soon be starting to suffer again with the onset of summer heat, so try to give the grass a good soaking every few days. Trees also need deep watering, which is best accomplished by allowing a hose to trickle slowly all day at the base of the trunk, which helps to avoid the tree roots coming to the surface.

This is a good time to review the main points of lawn care and feeding to maintain good health and color and to choke out the weeds. There are some differences among the experts regarding frequency of feeding (some say three times a year, others say four), but they all agree on a first feeding in spring (as soon as the grass starts to green-up) and a final feeding in October to maintain root system health through the winter. During the summer months, my preference is two light feedings - one around May/June and one in July/August, because frequent light feedings are less likely to "burn"

the grass than a single heavy application of fertilizer. Always make sure that the fertilizer is well watered in, and this is particularly true in hot and dry conditions.

The recommended lawn food for St. Augustine grass in this region is 15-5-10 or something close to it. The numbers represent the percentages of the three main plant nutrients, which are, respectively, Nitrogen (makes green foliage), Phosphorus (for blooms and stems) and Potassium (for overall vigor). Note that the three percentages do not add up to 100% - the rest of the bag is just "filler". There are also a dozen or more required micronutrients, but the only one to worry about is iron; the application of an iron supplement (such as Ironite) is very beneficial for grass, shrubbery and flower beds because our clay soil is naturally alkaline and needs something to balance the pH.

Set your mower for two inches height for St. Augustine, to protect roots from the sun (a bit lower for Bermuda), and try to cut a half to one inch of grass blade each time you mow; ideally, do not cut more than one third of the leaf surface. Try to catch the clippings for the compost heap, because if left on the lawn they can cause a thatch build-up. Another good approach is to use a mulching mower that reduces the clippings to a size that allows quick decomposition and returns the nutrients directly to the soil. *(Continued on page 6)*

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# Yard of the Month



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# Winchester Trails

## Green Thumb Corner - (Continued from page 4)

Summer heat also provides good conditions for ticks and fleas to proliferate, so don't forget to spread pesticide granules on the lawn and shrubbery beds every six weeks, or use one of the newer products that claim to remain active for a full season. This will also control chinch bugs, which are likely to be chewing on the roots and producing nasty brown patches of dead grass.

Other things to do in June ..... Keep up the weeding and cultivation, and replenish mulch. Water thoroughly, especially azaleas and camellias, but remember that geraniums and bougainvillea prefer fairly dry soil. Keep pinching back chrysanthemum shoots to encourage branching for more blooms in the fall. With climbing roses, cut out the oldest canes and dead wood after the main blossom period, when it is easiest to distinguish between old and new wood. Bloom is produced on new growth, so next year's blossoms may be reduced if pruning is delayed. Feed lightly and water heavily. For bush roses, continue normal grooming as flowers are cut; cut back stems to just above an outside bud, and keep the center of the bush open.

Strawberries should be fed with a balanced fertilizer (such as 12-24-12) after harvest. Mulch well. At this time of year you may be harvesting a range of vegetables including carrots, squash, tomatoes and peppers, but there's not much new planting to be done except maybe some succession plantings of beans.

Phil Richards, Prich8935@aol.com

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## NEW COUNTY FACILITY

### For Household Hazardous Waste

The Residential Environmental Services Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility opened in March 2010 and is the first permanent household hazardous waste (HHW) facility to open for the county.

The collection service is free to residents of the unincorporated areas of Harris County.

**The facility accepts the following items:**

- household cleaners
- yard/automobile products
- paint and paint related products
- batteries
- tires
- items containing mercury (e.g. mercury thermometers, Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFLs), and fluorescent tubes)
- aerosols
- propane cylinders

**The facility will not accept the following**

**items:**

- waste used for business purposes
- medical and biological waste
- PCBs or Dioxins
- ammunition
- explosives
- compressed gas cylinders
- radioactive waste (including smoke detectors)
- household appliances such as washers, dryers, freezers, air conditioners
- household trash

The facility is located at 6900 Hahl Road (290 and North Gessner). They are open to the public on Wednesdays from 9 AM to 3 PM and on the second Saturday of each month, from 9 AM to 2 PM. Find more information at their website at [http://www.eng.hctx.net/watershed/hhw\\_facility.html](http://www.eng.hctx.net/watershed/hhw_facility.html).

## Neighborhood Management Company

### Changes Name

Our neighborhood management company, Planned Community Management (PCMI), has undergone a name change. Please note that future correspondence will have a return address label of Severn Trent: Planned Community Management and will include the Severn Trent Service logo.



## Personal Classifieds

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