

Trail Writer

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

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www.winchestertrails.com

July 2010

Greetings Winchester Trails Residents,

The Board meeting was held on June 2 in the clubhouse. We had several residents in attendance and addressed several issues. These meetings are held as a forum to express opinions and concerns as well as providing an opportunity to gain firsthand knowledge of what is happening in our neighborhood. For example, we had a couple residents discuss a concern about providing a cover over the "kiddie" pool. The previous cover was damaged and not replaced primarily due to cost of the cover. We will take a look at options for covering the pool.

We also had representatives from Protection One in attendance to discuss the newly installed security system that is meant to monitor the clubhouse, pool and tennis court area. Officer Andy joined the meeting, and he and the representatives discussed crime issues in our area. First off, we are fortunate in the Trails that we have Andy as well as a neighborhood that keeps an eye open to activities in our area. However, as Andy pointed out, we have had increasing crime in subdivisions surrounding us. The Sheriff's department is doing a great job in responding to calls, but we must maintain our diligence in looking out for our neighbors as well as the Trails. Please call the Sheriff's department if there are any concerns.

In last month's newsletter, I brought attention to the condition of some homes. Working with Severn Trent (PCMI) we have been able to work with some of the homeowners to rectify the situations. Others that have not responded to our requests are now in the process that is established by state law and our deed restrictions. That process can involve attorneys representing the Trails. As a Board, we prefer not to engage the attorneys, but sometimes it is necessary in order to maintain our quality of life.

Until next month... Walter

You Can Help Bring a Dog Park to 1960/Willowbrook Area

If you have ever taken your dog to a dog park, you know how much fun they are for people and dogs too. You probably also know there is not one in our neck of the woods if you live in far NW Houston. The nearest off-leash public dog park is Bill Archer Park in the Bearcreek Park area on Hwy 6 near I-10. If you have not ever been to a dog park, you may soon get a chance to do so here in our own back yard. The Houston Dog Park Association (HDPA) is proud to be partnering with sponsor Barks 5th Avenue to bring a public dog park to far NW Houston. Land next to the Barks 5th Avenue facility on 1960 near Jones Rd. will be donated by the land owner to HDPA to build a public dog park on. HDPA will design, construct, and manage the dog park. The plan is in preliminary stages now, and more details will be shared at the Kick-Off and Fund Raising event to be held October 2nd in the parking lot of Barks 5th Avenue at 10620 FM 1960 West, Houston, TX 77070.

We will be announcing the event details on our web site soon, but you can mark your calendar for Oct. 2nd now. Leashed pets will be invited to the event, and we'll have lots of fun for people and doggies including a dog and car wash, frisbee dog demonstrations, doggie costume contest, and lots of local vendor tables with freebies and goodies to give away and win. We are seeking vendors and will also need volunteers to help setup and work at the event from washing cars and dogs to entertainment and set up/clean up. HDPA is also seeking sponsors and vendors as well as entertainment for the event. Contact HDPA to offer your services or reserve your space.

You can donate to the NW area dog park construction fund right now on our web site under Programs via Paypal, or you can donate at the event. Dog park donations are tax deductible. HDPA has already raised over \$1000 for the NW area dog park. HDPA will be forming a "Friends of the NW Area Dog Park Committee" to help us plan and develop this new dog park and the event, and we need volunteers. If you'd like to help us make this dream a reality for NW Houston dog owners, email tiffany@houstondogpark.org to learn how you can help. HDPA is a 501c3 non-profit volunteer organization that advocates for dog parks and supports dog park patrons through education. Learn more about HDPA, how you can help, and what HDPA is doing to support dog parks all around Houston on our web site. For a map of all the dog parks around Houston, visit www.HoustonDogPark.org. See you at the dog park!

Author Tiffany Moore is the President of the Houston Dog Park Association and an Advisory Board Member on the Gragg Park Animal Campus project for BARC. www.animalcampus.org

Winchester Trails

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UPCOMING EVENTS

July/August

JULY 2010

- 4 - Happy 4th of July!

AUGUST 2010

- 4 - Board Meeting 7 PM at the clubhouse
- 23 - First day of School
- 28 - Pool hours return to weekend schedule
10:00 AM to 9:00 PM



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Milestones

New Teenagers - Happy 13th!

07/19 - Christopher Pacetti
07/24 - Julian Logan
07/25 - Chris Whidby
07/29 - Michael Parmely

07/21 - Stephanie Artz
07/26 - Brooke Rodriguez

Happy 10th Anniversary!
07/22 - Jeffrey & Dun Valentin

New Drivers - Happy 16th!

07/15 - Ashely Criswell
07/21 - Andrew Formas
07/22 - Daniel Miller

Happy 20th Anniversary!
07/20 - Michael & Karen
Przyborski
07/21 - John & Mari Cooney

New Voters - Happy 18th!

07/02 - Alex Gafrick
07/30 - Katie Jennett

Happy 25th Anniversary!
07/20 - David & Amy
Gurghigian
07/20 - Brad & Diane Jackson

New Adults - Happy 21st!

07/06 - Brady Douglas
07/12 - Matthew Curry
07/13 - Kenneth Cargill
07/14 - Lindsey McCord

Happy 35th Anniversary!
07/18 - Roy & Donna Wilson

Melissa Zmerzlikar
directory@winchestertrails.com

Yard of the Month



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Linda Melilli

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Winchester Trails

Board Meeting Changes

In the past, the Winchester Trails Board meetings have been on the first Thursday of even numbered months. The meetings will now be held on the first WEDNESDAY of even numbered months. Please join our board members to see what is happening in our neighborhood. There is always time for questions and discussion.

Personal Classifieds

WINCHESTER TRAILS TEEN-AGER/COMPUTER GENIUS - Do you need help with viruses, loading software/hardware, printers, memory, ipods, cameras, designing websites, training or other computer-related items? Professional References. Elizabeth Przyborski 713-256-5951

New Pool Guidelines

Greater Houston Pool has adjusted the "break time" procedures this year. A lifeguard will remain on the stand during the breaks, but all children will be expected to leave the pool during these ten minutes each hour. The first hour break will be at ten minutes to the hour (10:50 on weekdays and 12:50 on Sundays). The other break times will be on the hour until ten past (11:00-11:10, 1:00-1:10, etc).

Happy swimming!

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.

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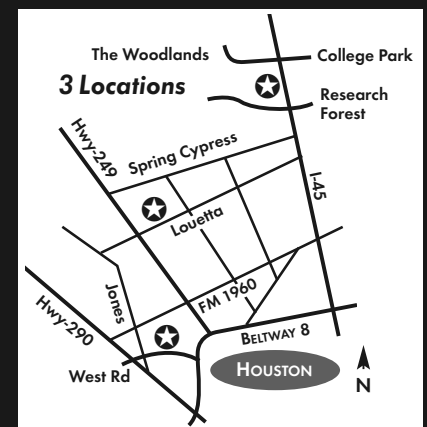


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GREEN THUMB CORNER

This is the time of year when we can see the benefit of a low-maintenance landscaping plan that makes good use of perennials and native Southwestern plants that are tolerant of the heat. Yaupon is an attractive small tree, and dwarf yaupon is an excellent hardy shrub for creating low hedges. Lantana, although considered a weed by some people, is a tough drought-resistant plant that is becoming more popular every year and is now available in a number of attractive colors. Check with the local nurseries for other naturalized Texas plants.

If you decide to do any lawn feeding during a dry spell, make sure that you water well to avoid the grass being "burned" by the concentrated fertilizer. And don't forget to give the trees an occasional deep watering by allowing a hose to trickle at the base of the trunk for a few hours - particularly important if we have any prolonged dry spells.

If your spring annuals are past their best, don't hesitate to pull them up and replace with fresh plants, or plant seeds of quick-growing varieties (such as zinnia, marigold, petunia and portulaca) to provide color until late fall. Bear in mind that when your impatiens plants get too "leggy" you can cut them back and obtain a second showing for late summer and fall; just keep them well watered. And if you would like your own display of bluebonnets next spring, now is the

time to sow seed (actually, anytime between now and January).

Established annuals should be fed every few weeks with a complete plant food. Liquid fertilizer works well, or you can make your own by dissolving a handful of 13-13-13 in a two-gallon watering can. Soak beds as needed and keep well mulched. Patio plants dry out very fast if they are out in the open, particularly clay pots, and hanging baskets also need frequent watering.

Tomato plants are usually past their best by the middle of July, and should be pulled up to allow reworking the bed ready for replanting in August. Although most popular tomato varieties are "indeterminate", meaning that they will continue to grow and bear fruit indefinitely until killed by frost, you'll get a much better crop of fall tomatoes by starting again with fresh plants. Peppers, on the other hand, can be left to grow through the summer into fall, and okra and eggplant are very happy in the heat.

There's not a lot of exciting gardening activity to write about at this time of year, so I usually take the opportunity to say a few words about composting. This is a great way to avoid those bags of grass clippings lining the curb on garbage day, and produce something useful in the process. Together with weeds, leaves, shrub clippings and vegetable scraps you can produce a rich and nutritious humus

(Continued on Page 7)

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Winchester Trails

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Green Thumb - (Continued from Page 5)

which can be used as a mulch or dug into the beds as a "free" organic fertilizer and soil enrichment. All you need is a little unused space in an out-of-the-way corner or behind the garage. I like to construct a number of adjacent open-fronted bins, about 5' wide by 3' deep and 3' high, using scrap lumber or chicken wire (the latter is good because it allows aeration). Having more than one bin allows you to easily cycle the composting materials from one pile to the next, every month or so, to get good aeration and mixing, a lot easier than trying to turn over the material in situ. You can throw almost any organic material in there, including tea leaves, coffee grounds and eggshells, but no meat products because you may attract foraging animals. It helps to arrange alternating layers of different textures, also to add a few shovels of soil every now and then to provide extra bacteria, and it should be kept moist.

Phil Richards, Prich8935@aol.com

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