

# Trail Writer

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

Volume 7, Issue 2  
www.winchestertrails.com

February 2011

## Holidays in The Trails

Our Holiday in The Trails was a huge success!  
Santa heard all of the children's wishes.  
Cookies, hot chocolate and candy canes were enjoyed by all.  
The Cy-Fair Firetruck and firemen were a hit.  
There is no one who does a hayride like Mr. Almonte!  
Residents were lined up waiting for a ride.  
Thanks to Rosalie Tran along with her Boy Scout Troop  
for all of their help. - *Santa's Helper*



(Photos on page 4)

## Greetings from the President,

We had a great holiday party at the clubhouse followed by the ride through the neighborhood in December. Many thanks are owed to those who volunteered to make the event not only happen but to bring enjoyment to all those who attended. This event has been a long standing tradition in the Trails but it can only continue because we have neighbors to help organize and oversee it. Please consider volunteering for this or other events throughout the year. I would like to note that I heard many compliments about the Trails especially when it comes to maintaining our homes. We have a nice neighborhood and we should be proud of what we have. In addition, the lights and displays were fantastic showing our creativity and hard work.

The Board reviews Architectural Review forms for those maintaining or upgrading their homes. We have considerable activity in the neighborhood to keep up with our homes especially as the Trails ages. The forms can be found on the website at [www.winchestertrails.com](http://www.winchestertrails.com) along with the instructions in submitting and obtaining approvals. The Board and Severn Trent use the forms to assure the improvements comply with the deed restrictions.

We all have newspapers and flyers that are delivered to our homes whether we subscribe to them or not. Please pick those up from your yards as they do tend to detract from our neighborhood when they pile up. In addition, it makes the house look unattended which might make your home attractive to thieves.

Finally, the Board will be meeting on February 2 and we hope you can attend. *Until next month...*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### February 2011

- 2 - Groundhog Day
- 2 - Maintenance Board Meeting 7PM
- 14 - Happy Valentine's Day!
- 21 - President's Day; CFISD Student Holiday

### March 2011

- 9 - Ash Wednesday

# Winchester Trails

## COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Clubhouse Rentals  
Kristina Soliz (*voicemail-calls returned w/in 24 hrs*)..832-592-3297  
Website and Directory Editor  
Melissa Zmerzlikar .....directory@winchestertrails.com  
Tennis Committee  
Johnny Hooker .....281-890-9123  
Yard of the Month  
Angie Drouin .....yom@winchestertrails.com  
Stork Committee/Information Help  
Ron Matthews ..... stork@winchestertrails.com  
Ron Matthews ..... info@winchestertrails.com  
Welcome Committee  
Tracy Wormuth .....welcome@winchestertrails.com  
Newsletter Editor  
Melanie Scales ..... newsletter@winchestertrails.com  
Mary Gwynne  
Social Committee  
Lisa Woodridge..... social@winchester.com  
Marquee and Signs  
Julie Fletcher .....Marquee@winchestertrails.com  
Tykes Children's Committee  
Kerry Thomas..... tykes@winchestertrails.com  
eBlast - Susie Mallory ..... eblast@winchestertrails.com  
Trails Treasures  
Paulette Walker..... paulette\_walker@sbcglobal.net

## 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  
Planned Community Management, Inc. PCMI Winchester  
Trails management company subdivision questions call (Office  
9-5) .....281-870-0585  
Office number is answered 24/7/365. After hours pager on call.  
Sheriff, Non-911 Calls .....713-221-6000  
*Report vehical tag number/type or description of person; as appropriate*

## NEWSLETTER

Publisher  
Peel, Inc. ....www.PEELinc.com, 888-687-6444  
Advertising .....advertising@PEELinc.com, 888-687-6444

## NEW NEW NEW Information email address added for Trails residents

**info@winchestertrails.com is up and operational  
to help guide you to answer as many of your  
questions as possible.**

The new email address will assist with locations, people, websites, phone numbers, county agencies, etc.

Don't know who to call for cracks in your curb? Where is the closest Household Hazardous Waste drop-off? Need a copy of your Deed Restrictions? What do I need to do for a home remodel (inside or outside)? Can cell phones be added to the National Do Not Call Registration list? If you don't know where to start researching a question, try our new info@winchestertrails.com.

## Attention Winchester Trails Seniors! *Save These Dates*

If you are 50 years old and a Trails resident,  
please save the following dates:

**Saturday, February 19, 2011  
Tuesday, March 22, 2011  
Thursday, April 14, 2011**

We have Harris County Precinct 4 Buses reserved  
for day trips as part of the County's Seniors Program.

Please call me at 281-894-5708 or  
email me at paulette\_walker@sbcglobal.net  
to make sure you are on the list.

More details to follow.

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*Holidays in The Trails*



# MILESTONES

**NEW TEENAGERS -  
HAPPY 13TH!**

02/03 - Brian Baker  
02/25 - Gabby Rodriguez

**NEW DRIVERS -  
HAPPY 16TH!**

02/02 - Karis Roberts  
02/23 - Michael Loeffler

**NEW VOTERS -  
HAPPY 18TH!**

02/07 - Gustavo Verraires  
02/10 - Taylor Wilson  
02/13 - Derek Rodriguez  
02/14 - Andrew Sheeran

**NEW ADULTS -  
HAPPY 21ST!**

02/04 - Emily Hackemesser  
02/09 - Edie Van Den Heuvel  
02/10 - Michael Barbas

02/18 - Joshua Stewart

**HAPPY 5TH  
ANNIVERSARY!**

02/04 - Derrick & Julie Fletcher

**HAPPY 10TH  
ANNIVERSARY!**

02/14 - Randy & Qurisha Lucia

**HAPPY 30TH  
ANNIVERSARY!**

02/28 - Dick & Kathleen Peterson

**HAPPY 40TH  
ANNIVERSARY!**

02/06 - Michael & Lana Hardy

*Melissa Zmerzlikar*

*directory@winchestertrails.com*

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**References Available • Fully Insured**  
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# Winchester Trails

## New Social Chair

Lisa Wooldridge has graciously accepted the volunteer position for Social Chairmen. This is one of the toughest volunteer positions we have. Everyone joins me in expressing our "thanks" for assuming this role. Please give Lisa your assistance when she calls on you or if you have time to volunteer and assist on one the events. If you have lived here for some time and never volunteered, please consider helping on at least one event this year. We need everyone's assistance whether you have children at home or not. Giving back is one of the greatest things a person can do. It's YOUR community.

Thanks again to Lisa, we know you will do a fantastic job. You can contact Lisa at [social@winchestertrails.com](mailto:social@winchestertrails.com)

## Attention NW Harris County Tri Delta Alumnae

Mark your calendars to join your Tri Delta sisters for our social gathering "Chicks, Chocolates, and Crescent Moons" Tuesday, February 8th at 7:00 pm. Our group meets on the second Tuesday of every month September - April. We have a diverse group of women of all ages from a variety of colleges. For more information, please contact Christina at 281 -855-6893 or Karen at [trideltanews@yahoo.com](mailto:trideltanews@yahoo.com)

## Craft Show

3/25-3/26

Cypress Fellowship  
15014 Spring Cypress  
10 am -4 pm both days!

Spend the day with us shopping with your girlfriends! We will have local vendors and concessions! A limited number of booths are still available for vendors. Proceeds benefit the Cypress Fellowship building fund! Please contact Erica Ryan for more information at 713.632.4265.

*Do You Have Reason  
to Celebrate?*

We want to hear from you! Email [newsletter@winchestertrails.com](mailto:newsletter@winchestertrails.com) to let the community know!

# Electricity is **ON SALE** at StarTex Power!



Alan "Petrodamus" Lammey, host of 'Energy Week', can be heard every Sunday on 1070 KNTH in Houston.

I'm Texas Energy Analyst, Alan Lammey. In case you didn't know, electricity rates are currently at lows not seen in years, which means that NOW is the time to lock in a very low electricity rate with the provider that I highly recommend to all my radio show listeners: StarTex Power. StarTex Power is local and reputable, with some of the most competitive rates available in all of Texas. You can switch right online at [www.StarTexPower.com](http://www.StarTexPower.com)

Sign Up Today Online: [www.StarTexPower.com](http://www.StarTexPower.com) or call 866-917-8271  
PLEASE USE "**NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER**" as your referral!



PUCT #10089



## Tips for Enjoying Networking Events

By Amy Wolfgang, M.Ed.

Many of us know someone who is in the midst of a job search. They may be looking for their first job after graduating, a new job after being laid off, or a totally new career. Job seekers use many different avenues to find a job but one of the most effective is networking. It is one thing to speak with your neighbor about opportunities at his or her company but, eventually, many job seekers will need to utilize different networking events.

Great opportunities are found at networking events but, at the same time, they can be intimidating because we may not know anyone there. Networking events can strike fear in many people, even those with outgoing personalities, so here are a few tips on how to make networking events more pleasant, less overwhelming and more productive.

### Tip 1: Take a Deep Breath

Remember that many people are uncomfortable at networking events. It is much more prevalent than you probably know. With that said, go into the event with a relaxed and positive frame of mind. Identify how you relax – taking deep breaths, visualizing a positive experience, etc. Employ those methods before you enter the networking event.

### Tip 2: Appear Approachable

Smile! If you have a smile on your face, others will be encouraged to speak with you. Other open body language you should employ includes:

- keeping your arms uncrossed
- standing up straight (don't slouch)
- making eye contact with those around you

While you are at the event, take notice of others' body language. See if you can tell what aspect of their body language makes them look either approachable or closed off. That will help you with your own body language.

### Tip 3: Utilize the Event Activities

The toughest networking scenario is when you don't know anyone at the event and go by yourself. In this case, try to use the activities or functions at the event to your advantage. Does the event have a bar or buffet? Once you are in the food or beverage line, begin speaking to someone also in line. Are you at an art gallery? Approach a piece of art and chat about it with someone else who is also looking at it. It's much easier to speak to people when you already have some common ground.

Networking isn't easy and intimidates many people, however, it can lead to a powerful advantage over other job hunters! Hopefully the tips above give you the confidence to attend networking events. Who knows, you might really enjoy meeting new people and be surprised at the doors it opens for you!

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# Winchester Trails

## GREEN THUMB CORNER

February is prime time for getting the yard back into good shape and ready for a new growing season before the warm weather arrives and before the weeds start to take control, and there are already plenty of winter weeds to take care of. A couple of light freezes this winter may have damaged your patio plants and some of the garden shrubs, so cut off the dead wood and give them chance to recover. By mid-February we should be safe from the danger of any more frosts, so now is the time to complete the winter pruning of trees, evergreens and summer-flowering shrubs to encourage new growth. Don't prune the spring-flowering shrubs - you'll be cutting off potential blooms. Try to plant (or move) trees and shrubs before they start their springtime growth spurt. This is also a favorable month to set cuttings of hardwood shrubs and also to divide, separate and transplant perennials.

Don't forget that Valentine's day is the traditional deadline for rose pruning; cut back to about three or four good canes, knee-high (except climbing varieties). Climbing roses will bloom on last year's growth and you need to maintain lateral canes on a trellis, fence or wall to promote flowering. Select and plant new bare-root roses now (container-grown plants can go in later, if you wish), but don't feed newly planted bushes until after first bloom.

It's not too late to apply dormant oil spray on fruit trees, and it's a perfect time to clean up, cultivate and mulch all the beds. Do it now, while the weather is pleasantly cool and the task is manageable - leave it too late and you'll find yourself struggling to take care of overgrown weeds in the summer.

Feed trees by using a stake or a length of pipe to drive a series of holes a foot deep and a foot or so apart around the drip line, and apply a small handful of general-purpose fertilizer (such as 12-24-12) in each hole. A good rule of thumb is to apply a total of about one and a half pounds for each inch of trunk diameter. If your pine trees have very pale green or yellowish needles, that's a sign that the soil is too alkaline, and the cure is to include a soil acidifier with the fertilizer (an iron supplement such as "Ironite" serves the purpose

very well). Magnolias also need acid soil conditions, so use special azalea/camellia fertilizer or add a soil acidifier.

Hold off feeding the grass until it starts to green-up, and don't feed azaleas until after they bloom, but do go ahead and fertilize evergreen shrubs. In general, wait until March to feed the ornamental shrubs - feeding too early will encourage tender new growth that may be nipped if we are unlucky enough to get a very late frost. Pansies have a hearty appetite and need a balanced fertilizer (13-13-13) every few weeks; remove faded blossoms to encourage new blooms. The pansies should have another couple of months of useful life but the recent mild winter season has really been too warm for a good display.

Before we get into the heavy grass-cutting season, it's a good idea to sharpen the mower blade and take care of other maintenance activities on the machine. And it's not too late to fill in those low spots in the lawn where someone drove over the grass; use a good weed-free topsoil or sand and don't bury the grass too deep at each application - leave the leaf tips sticking out to encourage it to grow through.

In the vegetable garden, set out plants of the cool-weather varieties (broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower) and plant seeds for beets, rutabaga, carrots and potatoes. If you are also thinking of raising a second potato crop in the fall, plan ahead by getting extra seed potatoes now and storing them in the refrigerator. It's usually impossible to buy them in late summer, and regular potatoes from the grocery store may not sprout because they are usually treated with a growth inhibitor.

### THIS MONTH'S TIP:

While you're busy pruning those trees and shrubs, remember the rule-of-thumb about not cutting off more than one third of the foliage at any one time (except for crape myrtles, which can tolerate being cut back to almost nothing).

*Phil Richards*  
*Prich8935@aol.com*

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