

Trail Writer

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

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www.winchestertrails.com

February 2012

2012 Pool Renovation Project

The pool is currently under construction to replaster both the pool and the wading pool. If you used the pool at the end of the summer last year, you might have noticed a few cracks in the bottom. Small holes developed that led to much larger crevices. We were able to patch a few of these until the pool season was over. Greater Houston Pool evaluated our pool and identified the plaster problem. The pool was drained January 3rd. and we are in the process of using jack-hammers to tear away existing walls and the bottom area. There are many steps to the process and although there may be some rain days, the completion date remains within the initial three week timeframe. For residents that live around the pool, we are sorry for the noise pollution. We expect the jack-hammer portion to be completed by Jan 11th. I want to thank the Board for moving swiftly with approval and contract on this renovation, thereby allowing us a full 2012 pool season.

By February 1st, Cypress Fairbanks School District will announce the 2012 - 2013 school dates. That will allow us to establish our 2012 pool season. April will be here before we know it, and everyone will receive a postal notice of the registration form and pool schedule. You may check the website (winchestertrails.com) in March for the announcement of April's tag day Saturdays. We are working hard to maintain our facilities to the standard that Winchester residents have come to expect. Thanks for your time,

See you at the pool...
Pool Committee



UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2012

01

Maintenance Board Meeting 7PM

02

Groundhog Day

14

Happy Valentine's Day!

20

Presidents' Day;
CFISD Student Holiday

20

Ash Wednesday

Winchester Trails

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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

(Continued on Page 4)

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Winchester Trails

Green Thumb Corner - (Continued from Page 3)

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).

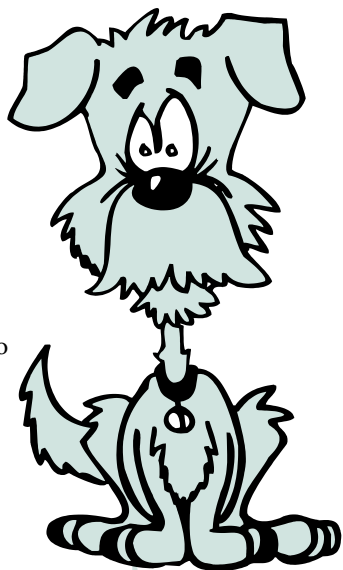
Phil Richards

Prich8935@aol.com

Lost and Found Pets

If you have lost a pet or found a stray pet, you can notify your Winchester Trails neighbors by using the neighborhood eblast email system. Including a photo of the lost or found pet is very helpful. Please do not post signs, as the signs frequently turn into litter.

To notify the neighborhood of a lost or found pet, send an email to eblast@winchestertrails.com, and the eblast administrator will ensure that the information is distributed to the neighborhood through the eblast system. If you are not registered to receive the eblast emails, send an email to eblast@winchestertrails.com to request to be added.

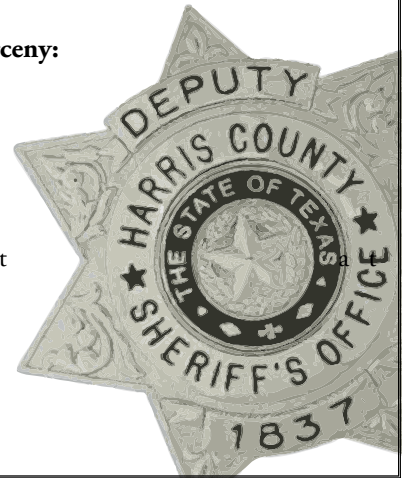


Crime report *December 2011*

According to the reports by the Harris County Sheriff's Office, published on <http://www.CrimeReports.com>, the crimes reported in the Winchester Trails neighborhood during the month of December 2011 are as follows:

- **Theft - Grand and Larceny:**
Copperdale Lane.
- **Criminal Mischief:**
Bent Spur Lane

Please report anything suspicious to the Harris County Sheriff's Department
713.221.6000.



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Cracked Curbs

Are your curbs broken, cracked or missing parts?

Did you know that curbs are maintained by the County? If parts of your curb are missing or cracked, including the walkway, you can contact Harris County Precinct 4 to repair it for you. (Note that driveways are owned and maintained by the resident, however.) If you report the need for repair to the County, they will come out and repair it at no cost to you. This service is paid for by your county taxes, but many residents are not aware of the county's responsibility.


I reported a crack on my curb last year and submitted a request using their website. Since I had no prior experience with the County's customer service, I expected a reply involving government red tape. I could not have been more surprised or

pleasantly impressed. The next step brought the county truck and workers in front of my home repairing the cracks! How about that? The whole process was user-friendly and courteous. The repair request I submitted was completed just as I requested. There are not many areas of government that work to satisfy customer repairs so promptly or efficiently.

The best way to request this service is to use their website at <http://www.hcp4.net>. Click on "Community Assistance" then click on "Request Service". This sends you to a Work Order Request Form. Fill it out and submit it using "Concrete Repair" under Request Type, for any curb work. The county will repair your curb cracks in no time. They really need to be commended for their good service!

Don't have access to a computer or can't type in a request? You can call Precinct 4 at 281-353-8424. I have no experience to report using this method. Either way, you will need address and cross street information. In addition to using this system to report problems with your curbs, you can use the system for the following services: Ditch Maintenance, Road Markings and Repairs, Sidewalk Maintenance, Standing Water, Storm Drains, Traffic lights and other such activities. The county is working to make reporting services faster and more efficient. As a Precinct 4 resident, I appreciate their efforts and commend their work.

*Antonia Martinez
Winchester Trails - Dude Rd.*




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Winchester Trails

MILESTONES

NEW TEENAGERS - HAPPY 13TH!

02/06 - Emmilyne Thomas

02/19 - Anthony Barreto

02/28 - Joshua Wood

NEW DRIVERS - HAPPY 16TH!

02/08 - Grant Moss

NEW VOTERS - HAPPY 18TH!

02/08 - Ronnie Costello

02/08 - Andrea Wood

NEW ADULTS - HAPPY 21ST!

02/23 - Anthony "Trevor" Baham

02/27 - Robert Ottmann

HAPPY 15TH ANNIVERSARY!

02/15 - David & Sharon Martin

HAPPY 25TH ANNIVERSARY!

02/27 - Jim & Laurie Horton

HAPPY 30TH ANNIVERSARY!

02/25 - Ronny & Brenda Hughes

Melissa Zmerzlikar
directory@winchestertrails.com

Cypress-Fairbanks ISD Partners in Education '12 Mentor Training Sessions

- Thursday, January 26, 2012
- 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
- Tuesday, February 7, 2012
- 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- Thursday, March 22, 2012
- 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

All training sessions are held at the Berry Center at 8877 Barker Cypress Rd.

A mentor is a suitable role model committed to serve as a guide and a friend while helping a student with his/her educational and personal development. We ask for a commitment of approximately one hour a week for a school year. You'll meet only on campus & during school hours. (Appointment times may be flexible)

To reserve your seat and materials, please send an email with your name and the date of the training to: vipsrsvp@cfisd.net. Reservations are required. Questions? Call 281-894-3950

Cypress Christian Prospective

K-12 Family Night Open House

On February 16, 2012, from 7-8:30 pm, prospective families will be given the opportunity to visit the campus and gather information. The evening will include a general assembly and private tour. Please visit www.CypressChristian.org for more information.



Northwest Flyers Youth Track Club Begins 25th Season

Houston, TX, January 5, 2012

The Northwest Flyers Youth Track Club will begin the 2012 season with its first practice during the week of February 13th. The team consists of boys and girls, ages 6 -18, provides a full program of track and field events, and is affiliated with USA Track & Field (USATF). The club was founded 25 years ago by Olympic gold medalist Fred Newhouse to foster the development of youth track & field in the Northwest Houston area.

For additional information on how to register, please visit the team website at <http://www.northwestflyers.org> or contact Linette Roach at (281) 587-8442 or linette.roach@sbcglobal.net.

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Junior Achievement of Southeast Texas, Inc.

Attention All Volunteers

2012 CFISD SPRING JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT TRAINING SESSIONS

Junior Achievement is back this spring for all CFISD volunteers. This unique program, designed by the private business industry and paired with the state's mandated social studies curriculum, introduces basic economic concepts to students of all ages. The program provides examples of jobs and life skills to students in the classroom and emphasizes the importance of every individual's role in our economy. JA offers the traditional program that allows career, stay-at-home parents, and community volunteers to go into the classroom to teach mini-lessons appropriate for each grade level, K-12. All materials are provided, including a script for each lesson. A commitment of approximately 30-45 minutes each week for 5 weeks is needed to present the JA program to one class; scheduling may vary by campus and teacher.

For secondary students, JA is proud to have its newest program, JA Finance Park Virtual. Ideal for graduating seniors, this program takes students through a computer simulated, real-life experience of participating in the work force, earning enough money to support a desired life-style, and being accountable for paying all bills. Students greatly benefit from this program by building their planning and finance skills. Volunteers guide students through this financial experience over three 30-minute visits to the classroom.

Campus approval and coordination for JA traditional classroom and JA Finance Park Virtual required. Don't miss out on this fun and exciting way to volunteer in the classroom!

VOLUNTEERS NEED TO ATTEND ONLY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING SESSIONS:

Session #1 Tuesday, January 24, 2012 The Berry Center
9:30 AM - 12:00 PM..... 8877 Barker Cypress

Entrance 2

Session #2 Tuesday, March 6, 2012..... The Berry Center
9:30 AM - 12:00 PM..... 8877 Barker Cypress

Entrance 2

Please RSVP to the Partners In Education Office @ at vipsrsvp@cfisd.net.

Please include your name, school, name of training, date of the training, and the presentation grade level.

Registration of all participants is required to guarantee an adequate number of training materials and available seating.

For questions, please call the PIE office at 281-894-3950. Adults Only Please

If you would like more information about the Junior Achievement program, please email Kristin Oroz at koroz@jahouston.org.



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