

Trail Writer

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

Volume 8, Issue 5
www.winchestertrails.com

May 2012

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings Winchester Trails Residents,

Your Board met on April 4 with several residents joining us – some to provide input while others to listen and hear what is happening in the neighborhood. In addition, we had a representative from the MUD Board, who updated us on the progress with the Park Plan. As you may have heard, the MUD received a federal grant as part of an initiative to provide safe routes to schools. The funding was provided to the Texas Department of Transportation in the MUD's name and the MUD and TxDOT are close to signing a funding agreement that will allow the next phase of the Park Plan to progress. If you have interest in the Park Plan, please attend the MUD's Board meeting as dates and times are typically posted on their marquee sign in front of the MUD Building.

We also heard from Officer Sustatia with respect to crime in our area. While the Trails has been relatively quiet, the neighborhoods in our immediate area have had increased criminal activity including stolen vehicles and burglaries. If you suspect someone in our neighborhood is up to no good, please do not hesitate to call the Sheriff's Department immediately. In addition, Board Member Jim Malone, who leads our Security Committee, published a briefing on the crime situation with his article being sent to those on the e-blast list. Should you wish to be included in the e-blast, which provides urgent information to Trails' residents, please visit our website at www.winchestertrails.com with instructions on signing up.

Finally, with the drought we experienced last year, there are numerous sick or dying trees in our yards. These should be removed as they not only pose a hazard to you and your family should they fall, but they also could fall into your neighbor's yard or home and the owner of the property from where the tree was originally located is liable for any damages. Take the time to look at your trees and remove dead branches or entire trees if necessary.

The next Board meeting will be on Wednesday, June 6 at 7:00 PM and we hope you can attend. Until next month...

Walter

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 2012

5
Pool opens on weekends from 10:00 AM to
9:00 PM

13
Happy Mother's Day!

28
Memorial Day / CFISD Student Holiday

30
Last day of school

Trails Easter celebration

Thanks so much to Tracy Wormuth and Monica Young for hosting a wonderful Easter event in the Trails. A wonderful time was had by all!



Winchester Trails

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Clubhouse Rentals
Lisa Stephens (*voicemail-calls returned w/in 24 hrs*)..1-832-592-3297
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Tennis Committee
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Yard of the Month
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Stork Committee
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Welcome Committee
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Kerry Thomas tykes@winchestertrails.com
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Trails Treasures
Paulette Walker..... paulette_walker@sbcglobal.net

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Jim Malone281-890-3803
Ian McCrory713-818-0138
Walter Sonne.....281-894-7117
Paulette Walker281-894-5708
Jim Malone is the security representative for WT.
His email can be found on the Security page of the Trails website.

MUD #9 OFFICERS

Jeff Ottmann, President.....281-469-1465
Sandor Karpathy, Vice President.....281-955-1138
Wayne Wilcox, Secretary281-894-6233
Jim Giese, Assistant Secretary281-890-5207
Kevin Ancell, Director.....281-894-6476
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 Calls713-221-6000
Report vehical tag number/type or description of person; as appropriate

NEWSLETTER

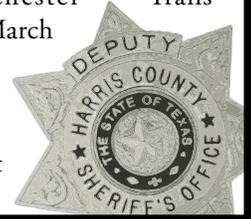
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Crime report March 2012

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 March 2012 are as follows.

Theft from vehicle - Pearl Drive

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



NOT AVAILABLE
ONLINE

Corner

Green Thumb

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 sunloving favorites, but keep impatiens and caladiums to the shaded areas.

Consider plants like euryops (a yellow daisylike evergreen shrub), Dahlberg daisy (a lowgrowing 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 longerlasting 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 pesticide 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, blackeyed peas, melons, cantaloupe and pumpkin. Consider multiple plantings of beans at threeweek intervals to provide a succession of crops through the summer, and use a spacesaving 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.

*Phil Richards
prich8935@aol.com*

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



Winchester Trails



Congratulations!

Connie and Mike Lawrence
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Yard of the Month

Make an impact.

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Looking for Volunteers!

Center for Cultural Interchange is looking for volunteer hosts for foreign students. These students need a caring and safe environment to stay for the school year. Our students come from over 60 countries and are high school aged. They have their own spending money and are fully insured. Hosts are required to provide a bed and meals in their home. Searching for volunteers for the fall school year now. For more information or to get started please contact Jennifer Tausworthe at 713-203-6556 jennifer4cci@aol.com



Independence Day Celebration coordinator needed

We need one or two people to serve as coordinators of the neighborhood Independence Day celebration in July. This is a fun neighborhood parade and pool event that everyone looks forward to. Won't you spend a few hours of your time to help make it a great event this year?

Contact Paulette Walker at 281-894-5708 or at paulette_walker@sbcglobal.net for more information.

Cypress Christian School to Host Summer Camps

Each summer, Cypress Christian offers camps for children in the community to hone their skills, prepare for next year, and just have FUN! Sports camps hosted at CCS allow young athletes to play the game they love over the summer! Academic camps will help students improve their study skills and give them opportunities to practice their skills in reading, writing, and math. For more information, please go to the school website at CypressChristian.org or call 281-469-8829.

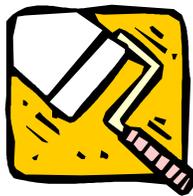
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Winchester Trails

Celebrate Cinco de Mayo AT SPRING FESTIVAL

On Saturday, May 5th, Boys and Girls Country of Houston will host their annual Spring Festival on their campus in Hockley, Texas. Located 35 miles northwest of downtown Houston, Spring Festival is a great way for families to spend the day.

Spring Festival promises to be a huge celebration for community and family with a lively Cinco de Mayo theme. Admission and parking are free, and children's all-day event passes are only \$15 each. Booths will include a number of inflatable rides like King of the Mountain, Shark Slide, and Water Balls; a Slime Machine booth where you can slime your favorite person, and crafting booths for the little ones. There will be three stages with a variety of live entertainment, including Spanish musicians, Gospel singers, and solo artists.

"All of the proceeds of Spring Festival go directly to helping us provide a Home for our children," said George O'Neal, Director of Spring Festival and Community Relations. "This is going to be our largest and most exciting Spring Festival ever with many new additions that add fun and excitement."

For 41 years, Boys and Girls Country has provided a Home for children from families in crisis. They raise 88 children at their main campus and provide support to 55 young adults in their College and Career program. Boys and Girls Country is not a United Way member agency and does not rely on federal or state funding.

DATE

Saturday, May 5, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

TIMES

Live Auction: 1:15 p.m.

Silent Auction: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Lunch: Served 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Barbecue, Chicken Burrito, or Hamburger/Hot Dog (Adult Plate: \$8.00, Kid's Plate: \$6:00)

ACTIVITIES

All-Day Kids' Activity Passes: \$15.00 (individual activity tickets also available starting at \$0.25 each.)

LOCATION

18806 Roberts Road, Hockley, Texas 77447, 19 miles west of Beltway 8 off Highway 290.

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Picking up after your pet

When you take your pet for walks in the neighborhood, please remember to carry waste bags with you so that you can pick up after your pet. No one likes to pick up after someone else's dog, so please be considerate of your neighbors and help to keep the neighborhood clean.



SEND US YOUR *Event Pictures!!*

Do you have a picture of an event that you would like to run in this newsletter? Send it to us and we will publish it in the next issue. Email the picture to newsletter@winchestertrails.com.

Be sure to include the text that you would like to have as the caption. Pictures will appear in color online at www.PEELinc.com.



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NEW DRIVERS - HAPPY 16TH!

05/31 - Emily Bankerd

NEW VOTERS - HAPPY 18TH!

05/02 - Wesley Hood

05/06 - Joshua Penaflorida

05/20 - Connor Henderson

05/26 - Nicholas Boyd

05/30 - Madeline Heard

NEW ADULTS - HAPPY 21ST!

05/13 - Trey Woodruff

HAPPY 15TH ANNIVERSARY!

05/20 - Ian & Deborah McCrory

HAPPY 20TH ANNIVERSARY!

05/16 - Joe & Gina Deer

HAPPY 30TH ANNIVERSARY!

05/01 - Duane & Teri Halverson

05/22 - Mike & Cathey Bachmann

05/29 - Jim & Linda Howe

HAPPY 50TH ANNIVERSARY!

05/15 - Dasharath & Kailas Patel

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