

Trail Writer

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Winchester Trails
Maintenance Assoc. Social Committee

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GREEN THUMB CORNER

Be prepared to keep watering to maintain healthy grass if we have a dry spell in the August heat, and watch for the tell-tale signs of drought stress - often shown by patches of grass taking on a shiny, metallic, "brassy" appearance - and give the lawn a good soaking before it's too late. If you have any dead spots, or areas where Bermuda grass and opportunistic weeds have taken over from the St. Augustine, the best remedy is water and food. Healthy St. Augustine will choke out the weeds. Any stressed areas of grass are also more susceptible to chinch bug damage, so keep up the six-weekly application of granular pesticide. But make sure that you water it in well, and that's doubly important if you decide to apply a light feeding of 15-5-10; the grass can "burn" very easily in this heat.

If you've been out of town on vacation, it's disheartening to get back and find a heavy load of "catch up" yard work awaiting your return, and the oppressive heat and humidity of August don't exactly encourage you to get back to work again. But sooner or later, it has to be done. As usual, try to work in the relative cool of the early morning or evening, and remember to cover up during the day to avoid sunburn.

Clean up the beds, removing fallen foliage, yellowed leaves and dead wood, and cut off any faded blossoms. Removal of seed pods from crape myrtles will prolong the flowering period. Cut back those "leggy" annuals to encourage fresh growth and new blooms; this works particularly well on begonias and impatiens. Dahlias should be cut back after the first crop, leaving about half the growth.

Water azaleas regularly and well. They are setting buds now, and if they have not bloomed well in the past, check the overhead to see that they are receiving some sunlight during the months of July and August. Azaleas don't like too much direct sun, preferring it to be filtered through a high canopy of trees, but they need enough to promote bud formation. Don't be tempted to feed - May was the last month to fertilize azaleas. Light green leaves (particularly if the veins stand out) may signify chlorosis (lack of iron).

On the other hand, this month is the appropriate time for feeding chrysanthemums to promote fall blooms. Continue pinching back tip growth to encourage compact growth and more flower buds.

Summer rose care consists of pruning, light applications of a high nitrogen fertilizer to encourage fall growth, a regular pest/fungus spray program every ten to fifteen days, plenty of water, and a good layer of mulch.

If you like to grow your own bedding plants from seed, this is the traditional month to sow seeds in flats for fall and spring bloomers, and many perennials can be sown now for flowering next year. And don't forget that you can sow bluebonnet seeds directly on the ground anytime from July to the end of the year.

THIS MONTH'S TIP: It's easy to forget to sweep up the grass clippings from the curbside after the mowing and edging is finished, but that last little clean-up task can make a big difference to the overall appearance.

Phil Richards, Prich8935@aol.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 2012

4

Board Meeting 7 PM at the clubhouse

27

First day of School

28

Pool hours return to weekend schedule
10:00 AM to 9:00 PM

Changes are coming to the Trail Writer

After this edition, Peel, Inc. will no longer be printing and mailing this newsletter. The next newsletter will be available at <http://www.winchestertrails.com>. More information about this is coming soon in an eblast.

If you do not have access to the internet, you can receive a printed version of the electronic newsletter in your mailbox. Please contact Mary Gwynne at 281-477-3420 if you need to have a printed version mailed to you.

Winchester Trails

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Report vehical tag number/type or description of person; as appropriate

NEWSLETTER

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Parking Tickets

Be aware that Officer Sustaita has started to issue tickets for vehicles parked incorrectly within the neighborhood. Please ensure that when you or your guests park a vehicle on the street, that the vehicle is parked according to the following guidelines:

- The vehicle is not parked within 15 feet of a fire hydrant.
- The vehicle is not parked on a sidewalk or crosswalk.
- The wheels are within 18 inches from the curb.
- The vehicle is not parked within 15 feet of an intersection.
- The vehicle is parked in the same direction as the flow of traffic.

Please Report Water Leaks

Recently, there was a water leak in the neighborhood that went unreported for several weeks. In this time of drought, we should be especially vigilant about water leaks. Do not hesitate to report water leaks or anything that looks out of the ordinary in the neighborhood.

Save the Date

Winchester Trails Treasures (65 years+)
6th Annual Luncheon
Friday, October 5, 2012
Winchester Trails Clubhouse

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Pool Update

In response to the request of residents, the closing time for the pool is now 9 PM on Monday through Saturday. The Sunday closing time remains at 8 PM.

Please remember that the guest fee is still \$1.00 per guest. Four guests are allowed per family, and the guest must be accompanied by a resident. We are no longer issuing guest tags.

Also, please sign in every time you visit the pool.

Milestones

New Drivers - Happy 16th!

08/16 - Brandon Wilson
08/24 - Heather Thayer
08/28 - Phillip White
08/30 - Andrew Sullivan

Happy 10th Anniversary!

08/07 - David & Susan Spence

Happy 15th Anniversary!

08/09 - Cristian & Christie Beck

New Voters - Happy 18th!

08/20 - Hailee Zera

Happy 25th Anniversary!

08/01 - Craig & Jeri Calvert
08/21 - Jeff Grass & Patti Henry
08/22 - Bernie & Ronda Dutcher

New Adults - Happy 21st!

08/12 - Steven Ellis
08/18 - Robby Wilcox
08/20 - Jonathan Miller
08/25 - Eric Sonne
08/30 - Gabriela Barrios

Happy 30th Anniversary!

08/16 - Bruce & Nancy Smith

Melissa Zmerzlikar directory@winchestertrails.com

Vacation Watch

The Harris County Sheriff's Office can watch your house while you are away on vacation or on an extended business trip or hospital stay. To request this service, complete the Vacation Watch form that is now posted in the Security area of the Winchester Trails website at <http://winchestertrails.com>.

Follow the instructions on the form to submit to the Harris County Sheriff's Office.

High School Scholar Athletes

Three Jersey Village High School Students were named as finalists for the 2012 Greater Houston High School Scholar-Athletes of the Year. This event is presented by the Touchdown Club.

The Touchdown Club is the Houston chapter of the National Football Foundation. The National Football Foundation, among other things, runs the College Football Hall of Fame and gives scholarships to undergraduates and graduates in College.

The finalists were judged on academic prowess, athletic excellence in their sport, citizenship, and extra-curricular activities. The finalists are Allison Artz – Finalist Softball; Zackary Hertel - Finalist and Winner for Male Track and Field; Charles Fly - Finalist and Winner for Male Soccer and Male Scholar Athlete of the Year 2012.

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You may contact Ron Matthews or any Board member with questions on this disclaimer.

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- Cabinet Painting
- Door Refinishing
- Wallpaper Removal and Texturizing
- Window Installation
- Pressure Washing
- Trash Removal
- Fence Repair/Replacement
- Ceiling Fan/Light Fixtures

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