

# Trail Writer

The Official Publication of the  
Winchester Trails

Maintenance Assoc. Social Committee

Volume 3, Issue 2  
www.winchestertrails.com

February 2007

## Greetings Winchester Trails,

I certainly hope your New Year is off to a great start. The Board is looking forward to a year that will bring many positives to the Trails. We held our first meeting of the year on January 4. At the meeting we addressed several items including the fence along West Road and the security enhancements. We are also coordinating these activities with West Harris County Municipal Utility District 9, as we are part of MUD 9, and the water plant is located within the confines of the Trails. MUD 9 also has a portion of the fence that we are looking to replace. In addition, MUD 9 is very interested in our security situation.

We also discussed a matter that was raised by numerous residents following New Year's Day – fireworks in the neighborhood. It seemed like a record year for fireworks this year, both for the duration that they were used as well as the sheer number. Besides the inherent personal safety risks posed to those who were using fireworks, there is potential for damage to property. The noise is probably a situation that most can accept for New Years Eve (and the Fourth of July for that matter); however the danger to property and the debris that was left behind was unbecoming to the Trails. In addition to the cartons that were strewn about, many spent fireworks casings were found in the yards of many homes. Also the tennis courts were used to launch fireworks and now there is considerable damage to the tennis courts. If those responsible do not step forward, the Homeowners Association will assume the repair of those facilities at a cost to all

in the neighborhood. In the future, please limit these activities to an appropriate time, clean up the debris not only in your yard, but also the street in front of your house. If you see some fragments from your fireworks in your neighbor's yards, please pick it up. One final note; the next major firework "event" is probably the Fourth of July. As July is typically a dry time of year, the risk of fire is much higher than in January. Please be courteous to your neighbors.

For those of you on South Pass Lane in Section 1, the construction of a new house will begin this winter. This house is located on the lot where a house burned in 2005. The Board has been working with the new owner of the lot and his builder to ensure this house is consistent with the rest of the Trails. Amongst our requests are limiting working hours to minimize disturbances to immediate neighbors and for the builder to maintain a clean work site as well as the streets adjacent to the construction site.

Finally, it has been a pleasure to work with our new Board Members as well as the volunteers that help make the Trails a great place to live. They are enthusiastic, have good ideas as well as commitment to service. Please attend a Board Meeting (the next one is on February 1) to provide your input, comments and suggestions. To those of you that have been attending meetings, send us emails and calling us, thank you.

Until next month...  
Walter

## Yards of the Month



10503 Gold Point – Pat & Sheryl O'Briant



10531 Minturn – Lonnie & Janis McLead

### Editor's Note:

Belated apologies to one of our December Yard of the Month winners, Michael and Debbie Wolf, at 8911 Bent Spur Lane. Their names were inadvertently left off the photo of their home. Congratulations again and thanks for keeping the Trails looking so nice.

# Winchester Trails

## Winchester Trails Social Committee Officers

Chairman (open)	
Tennis Representative	
Alice Brunson.....	281-955-9045
Clubhouse Rentals	
Lesa Smith .....	281-615-0335
Editor	
Sherry Wright.....	281-955-9737

## 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
To ask questions or report problems concerning the Winchester Trails Subdivision, call	
<b>PLANNED COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT</b>	
<b>281-870-0585</b>	
Sheriff, Non-911 Calls .....	713-221-600

## Upcoming Events

February 1	Maintenance Board Meeting 7pm
February 2	Groundhog Day
February 14	Valentine's Day
February 19	President's Day
February 21	Ash Wednesday

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# MILESTONES

## New Teenagers – Happy 13th!

2/8 - Ronnie Costello

## New Drivers – Happy 16th!

2/23 - Trevor Baham

2/27 - Robert Ottmann

## New Voters – Happy 18th!

2/16 - Blake Dutcher

2/28 - Christian Quirrenbach

## New Adults – Happy 21st!

2/3 - Brian Deer

2/21 - Linhnam Nguyen

## Happy 10th Anniversary!

2/14 - Alan & Sharon Steuart

2/15 - David & Sharon Martin

## Happy 20th Anniversary!

2/27 - Jim & Laurie Horton

## Happy 25th Anniversary!

2/25 - Ronny & Brenda

Hughes

## Happy 30th Anniversary!

2/5 - Michael & Dayna King

*Sherry Wright*

281-955-9737

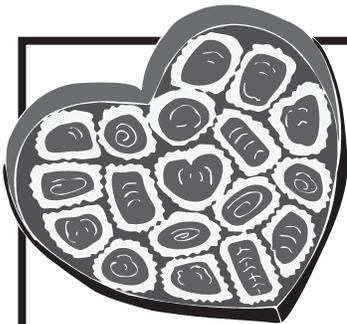
## Would you like to be the Clubhouse Rep?

For this volunteer job you must have ability to use a cell phone voicemail system, be available to inspect the clubhouse after parties, coordinate renter's dates, and manage paper and cleaning supplies for the clubhouse. I can train any one to do this job in about 15 minutes. It only requires a minute to check for voice messages each day and probably 2 to 3 trips by the clubhouse each week depending on rentals. If interested please call me or contact one of our board members.

Lesa Smith  
281-469-4339

## Deadline

The deadline for the March newsletter is February 10. All items should be sent to [heggs23@sbcglobal.net](mailto:heggs23@sbcglobal.net).



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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 over, and there are already plenty of winter weeds as a result of a fairly mild weather. At the time of writing we've seen only one or two light frosts that may have damaged a few patio plants but no sign of a hard freeze so far during this winter season. The relatively warm weather makes it difficult to take care of the pruning because early pruning encourages new growth in mild conditions and the tender new shoots can then be damaged by a possible freeze in the first part of this month. But we should be safe by mid-February, so now is the time to complete the winter pruning of trees, evergreens and summer-flowering shrubs. 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*  
(281) 890-4531

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## Prayer Group

Trails resident is interested in forming a women's prayer group, to be hosted in her home, the time and date of which is open to what would be best for everyone. If any ladies are interested, please contact Betty Cadena at 281-897-0646.

## Welcome

Welcome New Trails Residents! We want to stop by and say hello, give you a handy packet of information to help familiarize you with your new neighborhood, and hopefully get some information to introduce your family to the neighbors through the Howdy Partner article in this newsletter. If you are new to the Trails and have not been welcomed, please call Ron Matthews (our temporary chairperson) at 281-955-1005. We also have Trails information available on our website at [www.winchestertrails.com](http://www.winchestertrails.com).

[NOTE: A big Trails THANK YOU goes to Patricia Rae who has volunteered to take over this position in the near future. THANK YOU!]

## Classified Ads

**Custom Klouse BBQ Pit** for sale. Fire box at one end, smoking/warming box at the other end. Cooking surface in between large enough for 10 – 12 Briskets. Smaller upper level cooking rack in main cooking space. Single axle trailer. Wood storage rack on side. Lock down bar. Excellent for competition cooking. Better known throughout the neighborhood as the Party People Cookers Pit. Many trophies and good times had with this pit. Call Edgar or Lesa 281-469-4339 to see it or discuss price.

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## Service with Love

February is the official month to celebrate the gift of "love," and many people will celebrate that gift in their life with those they hold dear. The students, administration, and faculty of Cypress Christian School challenge you to express God's love to those less fortunate than yourselves this month.



who are academically prepared with a biblical worldview to take their place in the world as servants of Jesus Christ" - includes the goal of teaching students to serve. In recent months, students have helped build a house, collected food and supplies for a local food bank, visited and entertained residents in an assisted living facility, collected gifts for children whose parents are in prison, served at a home for incarcerated youth, and more.

There are many ways to show others that they are loved. For example, get involved in a community project like Habitat for Humanity, serve at your local food bank/mission, write a letter to someone who needs encouragement or bring food and flowers to an elderly person who might be lonely and missing family members. No matter what you do, your actions will be greatly appreciated and will serve as an encouragement to that person or group.

The mission of Cypress Christian School - "to produce students from Christian families

As we strive to serve others in our community, we hope you, too, will join the effort to make those less fortunate feel loved through acts of kindness - small or large. To partner with our school in a service project or suggest a service project for our students, please contact Todd Clark, Chaplain, at 281-469-8829 or todd.clark@CypressChristian.org.

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