

Trail Writer

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

Volume 4, Issue 2
www.winchestertrails.com

February 2008

Greetings Winchester Trails,

The Homeowners Association Meeting was held on Thursday, January 3 at the clubhouse. The meeting focused on the Park Plan, including the construction of the wall. For Winchester Trails, the wall has been completed with the exception of a few areas that will be addressed by the contractor as he closes out his work. We owe the MUD 9 Board members our gratitude for taking on the Park Plan and the wall construction in the first place and quickly addressing our concerns as the construction proceeded. As with construction projects, we all had to endure a little bit of inconvenience – like noise, dust and some traffic congestion. Everyone I have spoken with is pleased with the wall. However, there will be additional construction taking place this year more of the Park Plan is implemented. Activities include landscaping the esplanades and installing the jogging/walking trails and this work will be over a greater area than the wall construction so more of us will be affected. Of course, since most of the remainder of the project involves earthwork, it may become messy during

this phase of the project.

As mentioned in past newsletters, the tennis courts have been damaged in the past by fireworks, skateboards, bicycles and acts of vandalism. The Homeowners Association will be taking action to make necessary repairs to the courts in the near future. We are looking for volunteers to help on the tennis committee. Over the past couple of years, the tennis committee has been part of the pool committee, but the Board believes that the tennis committee should have a higher profile that will allow the Board to better understand the needs of the users of the tennis courts. So if you would like to volunteer for this committee, please let any of the Board members know or attend our next meeting.

As the warm weather approaches, please be mindful of your speed as you travel through the Trails. We have many precious children in our neighborhood and many of them ride their bikes in the street or walk to a friend's home.

Happy Valentines,
Walter

Winchester Trails – Holiday Party

The Holiday Party was a huge success! Kuddos to our Santa, Steven Ellis, a Trails resident! Our Hay Ride was the best ever.....a big Thank You to our neighbors, Robert, Leana and Mitchell Almonte for volunteering their evening to give us all hay rides!

The Cy-Fair fire truck was a big hit we had hot chocolate which was a big hit with everyone. The cold weather made our evening feel festive especially since we had another special addition this year...Snow!!! Santa's elves, helped with hosting the cookie table thanks to one of our scout troops, thank you to all who made cookies, firemen, Harmony and Abby!

Special appreciation goes to Linda Van Zuilekom, Paulette Walker and Ron Matthews for helping with the whole event!

Mitzie Costello

Upcoming Events February

2nd Groundhogs Day
6th Ash Wednesday
7th Board Mtg @ 7pm in Clubhouse
14th Valentine's Day
15th End of grading period CFISD
18th CFISD Holiday – President's Day

Go Texan Day

Wrangle up your western wear and join us in our 1st annual Go Texan Day in the Trails!

When: Date Feb 23rd Saturday

Where: At clubhouse at 11-3pm

Other: Judging 11:00

Lunch being served at 12:30-1:30

There will be fun activities for all!

Call for Volunteers: We Need You !!!

We need volunteers to help residents "street by street" get involved in helping with The Trails Special Events (i.e. 4th of July, Christmas Party,

Go Texan Day, Easter, Trails Treasures Luncheon, etc).

Please contact Debbie Griesbach, who will chair the committee of volunteers, at thegriesbach@comcast.net or call her at 281-894-9725.



Winchester Trails

Winchester Trails Committee Chairmen

Clubhouse Rentals	
Linda Van Zuilekom.....	281-615-0335
Directory Editor	
Melissa Zmerzlikar	kmzmerz-wt@yahoo.com
Newsletter Editor	
Lisa Wooldridge	713-882-1861
Stork Committee	
Alison Poor.....	281-807-0244
Tennis Representative	
Debbie Griesbach.....	281-894-9725
Welcome Committee	
Missy Fouts	832-237-5717
Yard of the Month	
Ron Matthews	281-955-1005

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.

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Please support the businesses that advertise in the Winchester Trails Trailwriter. Their advertising dollars make it possible for all residents to receive a newsletter each month at no charge. No homeowners association funds are used to produce or mail the newsletters. If you would like to support the newsletter by advertising, please contact our Sales Office at 888-687-6444; advertising@PEELinc.com for ad information and pricing. The deadline for ads is the 10th of each month for the upcoming month's newsletter.

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

PLANNED COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT
281-870-0585

Sheriff, Non-911 Calls 713-221-600

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Deadline

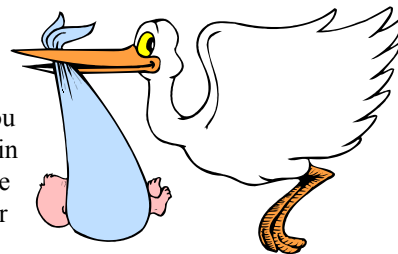
The deadline for the February newsletter is February 10.

All items should be sent to

Lisa Wooldridge at lwool2@sbcglobal.net.

Stork Report

If you have a new addition to your family, please contact Allison Poor 281-807-0244 or alisonpoor@earthlink.net to share your wonderful news! You can have the WT Stork appear in your yard if desired, or just have a blurb inserted in our newsletter for your keepsake book



Don't want to wait for the mail?

View the current issue of the Winchester Trails Trailwriter on the 1st day of each month at www.PEELinc.com

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Green Thumb Corner

Submitted by Phil Richards

February is prime time for getting the yard back into good shape and ready for a new growing season. 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.

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.

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.

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).

Yard of the Month

9215 South Pass

Joe & Polly Dominguez



8910 Crazy Horse

Jacqueline Chee



Harris County Sheriff's Office Website

The Sheriff's office is implementing a new website... if you get a moment check it out at www.hcso.hctx.net There is various types of information.

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Sudoku

The challenge is to fill every row across, every column down, and every 3x3 box with the digits 1 through 9. Each 1 through 9 digit must appear only once in each row across, each column down, and each 3x3 box.

		2		7				
		4	1					7
1		5						
			9	5			6	
4	1	7			6			
				8				
5		8						2
	2			9			3	8
	9		6			5		

*See solution at PEELinc.com

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New Year's resolutions for HOA, condo owners

Resolutions by: Mark Bogen contents have been edited | South Florida Sun-Sentinel

Every year I make New Year's resolutions for those living in condos or homeowner associations. Now that the New Year is upon us, let's try to honor the following New Year's resolutions:

1. If you do not like abiding by rules, do not live in an association.
2. Board members need to remember that they represent all of the owners.
3. Owners need to remember that board members volunteer their time.
4. Owners need to remember that board members are not your paid employees.
5. At a board meeting, make your point and sit down. No one wants to hear your life story.
6. Board members cannot please everyone.
7. All decisions should be made by the board, not one person.
8. If you do not like the way the board handles things, stop complaining and run for the board.
9. When someone does you a favor, say thank you.
10. Ask the owners for suggestions. It may make your community a better place to live..

Mark Bogen has been practicing law for 24 years. He specializes in condo and homeowner association law and authored the book "What Every Condo Owner Should Know."

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MILESTONES

New Teenagers - Happy 13th!
02/02 - Karis Roberts

New Drivers - Happy 16th!
02/25 - John Nelson

New Voters - Happy 18th!
02/04 - Emily Hackemesser
02/09 - Edie Van Den Heuvel
02/10 - Michael Barbas
02/18 - Joshua Stewart

New Adults - Happy 21st!
02/09 - James Young
02/16 - Lindsey Johnson
02/19 - James Van Hooser

Happy 20th Anniversary!
02/05 - Carlos & Yolanda Barrios

Happy 50th Anniversary!
02/01 - Roger & Christine Pillow

Melissa Zmerzlikar
kmzmerz-wt@yahoo.com

Winchester Trails – Classifieds

If you have something to sell why not sell it in our classifieds? Personal Classifieds run at no cost to Winchester Trails residents. Please e-mail me at lwool2@sbcglobal.net to get your ad in for the next newsletter.

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Got questions? Want Answers?

Community Association Institute (CAI) is an organization that exists to provide resources to Homeowner Associations. The local chapter of CAI is premiering a new call-in radio program, Community Spotlight. The program airs from 2-3 PM every Friday on 650 AM, (KIKK-AM). Topics will be anything of interest to HOAs. Feel free to call in and ask questions.

Political Square

With the Presidential election campaigns already in full swing this year who can tell the facts from the campaign managers' fabrication? There is a new entity on the web whose sole purpose is researching candidates' claims and telling truth from fiction. No media bias. No spin. If you are a political junkie or just want to know the facts check out this website: <http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/> They take the candidates' spin and put it into their "truth-o-meter".



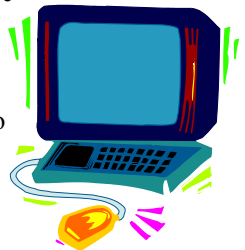
Howdy Partner

The Howdy Partner feature of the TrailWriter is made possible through the efforts of the Welcome Committee. If you are new to the neighborhood and have not been welcomed, please let us know. We want to stop by and say hello, get some information to introduce your family to the neighbors through this article. Please contact Missy Fouts at 832-237-5717



WT Website

Our Trails website, www.winchestertrails.com, is packed with all kinds of useful information. Just added is all the information for the upcoming season at the pool, including how and when to get pool tags and the hours it will be open. Links are also there for deed restrictions, a directory form, school info, updates on committees, and much, much more. Even back newsletters are available in case you misplaced yours. So please be sure to use this valuable resource soon and often. Comments and suggestions are always welcome.



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