

Trail Writer

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

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www.winchestertrails.com

June 2009

Dear Winchester Trails Neighbors,

I am happy to announce that we have Newsletter editors! Yes, that is right we have two very highly qualified editors in Mary Gwynne and Melanie Scales. We certainly appreciate their spirit of volunteerism. In addition we had others that had also said that they would help with the Newsletter. Thanks go out to all of them. So we will continue to use the TrailWriter as one of our means of communication along with the website and our bi-monthly meetings.

Summer is upon us and the pool has been open since May 9. Opening day was quite busy as the weather was great and swimmers were able to enjoy the pool. School is also out so please be cautious driving through the neighborhood as we have many children playing and riding their bicycles through the Trails.

On a final note, we have had several instances of petty crime including the breaking and entering of residents' vehicles as well as items being taken from garages with the doors left open. Please lock the doors to your cars and close and lock doors to your home. If you may know of anyone who may have committed these crimes, please call the sheriff's office. We have a relatively safe and secure neighborhood, but we need to be vigilant. If you see any suspicious activities, also call the sheriff's office so they can help us. All of us looking out will keep our area secure.

Until next month,
Walter

Yard of The Month

Congratulations to both our winners



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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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Summer Resident Writers Program

Greg Stenberg on Dude Rd. has graciously agreed to write a series of three articles over the next three summer months. We appreciate his time and expertise. Each summer, we try to enlist three writers for our “summer articles”. This is a way of expanding the newsletter while creating new interest. If you know of someone with expertise that residents would be interested in, please contact us thru info@winchestertrails.com. Thank you.

First Article – Wireless Security

Over the course of three articles, I will discuss a few items for which every home computer user should have at least a basic understanding. Broadband Internet access has revolutionized the way we gather information, shop, and pay our bills. However, that fast, instant access has also opened users up to many types of new threats – threats you may not know exist. These three articles will cover three important aspects of protecting yourself from those that might have malicious intent. In this article, I’ll discuss wireless security.

As broadband access has matured, many folks have come to rely on fast, easy and instant access to the Internet. The innovation that has made this access easiest and most convenient for home users is wireless or wi-fi access. Before the advent of wireless, users would have to be connected by a cable to a device that allowed connectivity to the Internet. Wireless allows the user to “ditch the cable” and access the ‘net from anywhere a wireless signal is available. Wireless access is especially convenient for homeowners because it negates the need to run network cables, install network jacks, and plug in. In essence, it is the ultimate computing freedom without the hassle of wires and cables.

Wireless does tend to have disadvantages over a wired network connection, though. First, wireless is slower than wired (although wireless speeds will still surpass the maximum speed offered by your broadband connection). Certain devices, such as 2.4 GHz cordless telephones and microwaves, can interfere with some wireless signals – although some of the newer wireless standards overcome this problem. However, the main issue with wireless is security.

Wireless devices use a radio transceiver to transmit data between the networking device and the computer. The problem with this is that many devices come out of the box with no wireless security enabled. In other words, it’ll work right out of the box, but transmissions between the access point and your computer are sent “in the clear,” meaning that anyone with certain equipment and software can “sniff” your transmissions right out of the air. This means any sensitive information sent over the air could be compromised.

There are some devices – especially the AT&T uVerse devices – that come out of the box with wireless security enabled. Most of the rest of them need to have the feature enabled. These devices will usually come with a CD that is used to set up the device, and if you haven’t done the security setup on your wireless access point/router, I suggest you make the time to do it. Besides encrypting and securing

(Continued on page 3)

Summer Resident Writers Program - (Continued from Page 2)

the transmissions between the access point and your computer, the security setup also ensures that your neighbors – or someone driving by – are unable to just grab your wireless signal and start using the broadband Internet connection that you're paying for.

Each manufacturer of wireless routers/access points will have their own procedures to secure the network connection, but they all adhere to a set of standards. I recommend setting up WPA/AES or WPA/TKIP as the encryption/security protocols when you configure your device. Some devices may not present this information to you in an effort to make device setup simple and reduce confusion, but if you see them, choose one of them over WEP security. The main reason is that the password you choose for WPA can be a plain-English password and thus more easy to remember than the password required by WEP.

Finally, for those of you that use free wireless signals in hotels or coffee shops, please beware that those are unsecured wireless networks and that your sensitive data is not safe for transmission. In other words, don't pay bills, shop, or otherwise provide sensitive personal information from an unsecured wireless network.

In short, if you have a wireless network at your home, make sure it is secure. It is a first critical step to ensuring the safety of your electronic data. In next month's article, I'll talk some about Internet security software.

Security Issues in Winchester Trails

For several months we have been experiencing various acts of vandalism and burglaries to our vehicles. This problem is NOT restricted to cars parked only on the street. Vehicles that were parked close to the garage were also broken into. Please make every effort to park your vehicle in your driveway. Then, remember to lock and take all valuables out of your vehicles. If your car is burglarized, please make sure to file a report. If you see teenagers walking about the subdivision between 1:00AM to 4:00AM in the morning, contact the Sheriff's office immediately at (713) 221-6000.

Thank you,

Upcoming Events June 2009

- 3 – Last day of School
- 4 – Pool Opens weekdays
- 4 - Board Meeting Clubhouse @ 7pm
- 20 – Beginning of Summer
- 21 – Father's Day

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\$175K - \$200K	0	1	0	0	0	1
\$200K - \$225K	0	1	0	0	3	0
\$225K - ABOVE	1	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	1	3	1	0	4	1
Average PSF	70.22	68.28	59.77	0	79.58	74.53

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There is NO other telephone access at the pool.

The previous AT&T pay phone was removed when AT&T closed the business. Residents cannot place calls to the E-911 phone.

For questions contact info@winchestertrails.com

Fairbanks Landfill CLOSED

Recently, the landfill located at Fairbanks North Houston and Hempstead Highway was closed. The next closest landfill is at Tanner and Beltway 8. Their phone number is (713)856-9827 and the hours are Monday – Friday 6am to 5pm, Saturday is 6am to 3pm. There is also a fee attached now. Minimum charge is \$41.30 for a trunk full of items or the bed of a car. After that, the charge is \$8.35 per cubic yard. Debit, credit and cash are accepted. For other information about Hazardous Days check out www.cleanwaterways.org or call (800)447-2827 Local Government

Remember never to dump or wash anything into the sewage drains that you would not put in down your drain.



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meet our team

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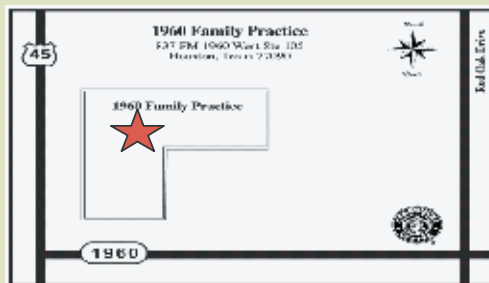
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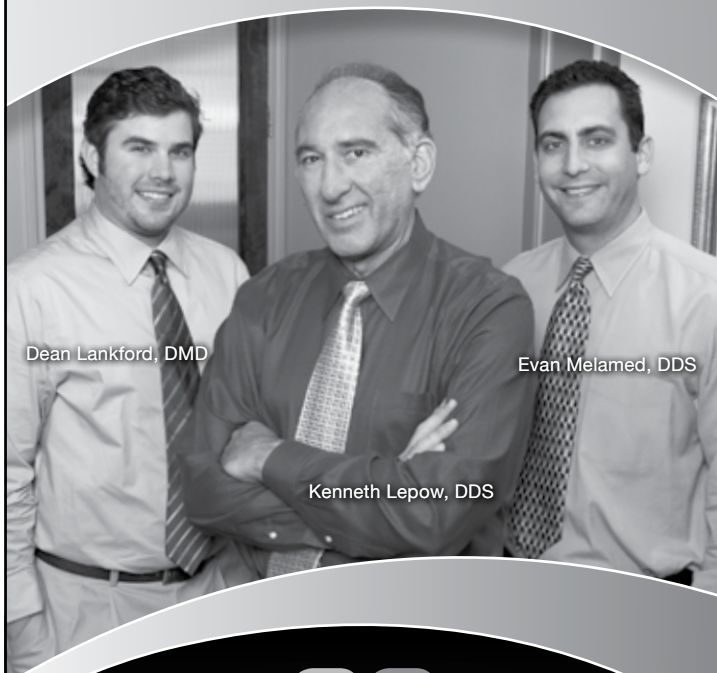
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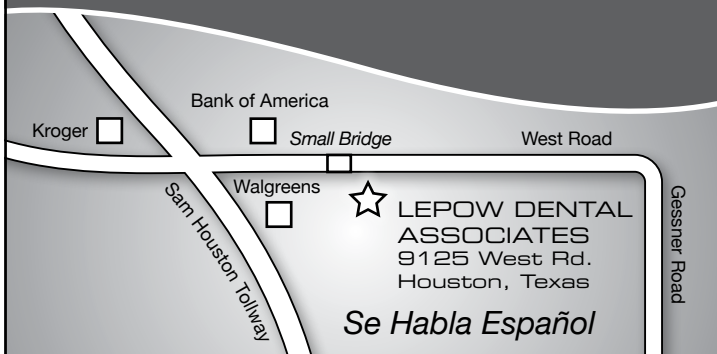
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Cypress Christian School, Cypress Bible Church Host Fundraiser

Students and parents at CCS teamed up with Cypress Bible Church on May 2 to host a fundraiser for Kristin Francis. The event, which included a garage sale, car wash, bake sale, face painting, silent auction, and barbeque, raised more than \$33,000. Kristin is a 2008 graduate of CCS, a member of Cypress Bible Church, and a freshman at Texas A&M. She was diagnosed in January with AVM- Arteriovenous Malformation, a congenital defect. Kristen has had numerous surgeries with months of rehabilitation still ahead.

A fund has been established to assist Kristen's family with medical costs not covered by insurance. For information on making a donation to this fund, please e-mail francisfund@hotmail.com.

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Winchester Trails Classifieds

Have any items that you need to get rid of but think someone else could use? Have a useful service to offer your neighbors? Why not place an ad in The Trail Writer? Just send the info and a phone to the newsletter editor, and your ad will be run in the newsletter for two issues.

Personal classifieds (one time sell items, such as a used bike...) run at no charge to Winchester residents, limit 30 words, please e-mail articles@PEELinc.com.

Business classifieds (offering a service or product line for profit) are \$50, limit 40 words, please contact Peel, Inc. Sales Office @ 888-687-6444 or advertising@PEELinc.com.

Personal Classifieds

For Sale: Clarinet, Buffet B12 Student Model, Made in Germany, Excellent Condition - \$200. Call Brendan McCormick 281-890-1907

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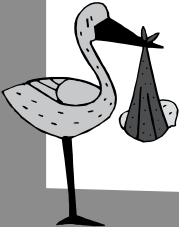
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Please choose "Newsletter Ad" as your referral on the SparkPowerBank.com website.

Winchester Trails

All State – Second Team Selection lives in Winchester Trails

Sixteen CFISD football players were selected to the Texas High School Coaches Association (THSCA) 2008-09 Academic All-State Football Team, sponsored by State Farm Insurance. The teams are selected by a point system that awards points for GPA, class rank and SAT or ACT scores. One Winchester Trails athlete, senior **Robert Ottmann** a linebacker at Jersey Village High School, was named to the All-State Second Team. Robert will be attending Texas A&M this fall pursuing a degree in meteorology. ***Congratulations Robert!*** Keep up the great work!



Stork Report

If you have a new little one, please contact Ron Matthews at 281-955-1005 or stork@winchestertrails.com to share your news and have the WT Stork appear in your yard if desired.

Two New Newsletter Volunteers

Two residents have recently volunteered to take ownership of our newsletter. Trail Writer. We would like to thank Melanie Scales and Mary Gwynne for stepping up and accepting the Editor positions. Through their efforts the newsletter will continue. If you know these residents, tell them Thanks. Their hard work will be appreciated. You can continue to send newsletter request to newsletter@winchestertrails.com

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The Cy-Fair VFD Urges Citizens to be prepared for Hurricane Season

June 1st is the official start of Hurricane season and the Cy-Fair Volunteer Fire Department would like to urge all citizens to make sure they are prepared in the event a hurricane affects them this year. The best way to do this is to have a Disaster Supply Kit ready in advance. This kit should include at a minimum:

- ☐ Water –At least a five to seven day supply (one gallon per person per day)
- ☐ Food –At least a five to seven day supply of nonperishable/canned food
 - (Change out stored water and food supplies every six months)
- ☐ First Aid Kit
- ☐ Flashlight with extra batteries
- ☐ Battery powered radio
- ☐ Medications and special items (pain relievers, diapers, etc.)
- ☐ Tools and supplies
- ☐ Sanitation (toilet paper, personal hygiene items, etc.)
- ☐ Change of clothes and bedding
- ☐ Cash
- ☐ Important documents (birth certificates, insurance/bank account information, etc.)
- ☐ Food, water, and medicine for your pets
- ☐ Kennels or crates for pets

You can also visit the Harris County Office of Emergency Management's website at: www.hcoem.org and click on the right side link to natural disasters to access additional information on preparing for and dealing with hurricanes.

The Cy-Fair Volunteer Fire Department provides fire, rescue, and EMS services to 156 square miles of Northwest Harris County for the residents of Harris County Emergency Service District #9. By operating from 12 community based volunteer fire stations we are able to quickly and efficiently respond to help our neighbors in times of emergency.

For more information on the Cy-Fair Volunteer Fire Department or on how you can join the other 350 volunteers of our Department and be one of Cy-Fair's bravest call us at 281-656-3840 or visit us on the web at www.cyfairvfd.org.

MILESTONES

New Teenagers - Happy 13th!

06/05 - Nick Nation

New Drivers - Happy 16th!

06/01 - Avery Smith

06/12 - Geoffrey Calvert

06/22 - Allison Hickey

New Voters - Happy 18th!

06/02 - Robert Sykes

06/27 - John Quirrenbach

New Adults - Happy 21st!

06/03 - Shannon Christenson

06/14 - Eric Hurt

06/26 - Alyson Lee

06/27 - Paige Hughes

Happy 10th Anniversary!

06/05 - Kelly & Denise Sherrill

06/12 - Kurt & Leigh Lilley

Happy 15th Anniversary!

06/11 - Bill & Tammy White

Happy 25th Anniversary!

06/09 - Jim & Casey Suter

06/21 - James & Dianne Meyer

Happy 30th Anniversary!

06/23 - Tracy & Linda Riley

Happy 50th Anniversary!

06/28 - Jack & Mozelle Howton

Melissa Zmerzlikar directory@winchestertrails.com



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