rail

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

Volume 5, Issue 8 www.winchestertrails.com

> Dear Winchester Trails Neighbors,



It is hard to believe that school will be opening less than a month from now. The summer has gone by quickly. We have had good pool season with much fun had by all. The pool also played a big part in our Fourth of July party. I thank those who volunteered to make

this happen again this year. Not too many years ago the Fourth of July celebration was quite an event in our neighborhood, and it appears to be heading in that direction again.

Due to the dry conditions this year, both Governor Perry and County Judge Emmett declared a ban on specific fireworks. While fireworks are not addressed in the deed restrictions, the Board had posted signs around the Trails to remind everyone of the ban. This was out of genuine concern for fires as we had many dry areas in the Trails including that around Bang and under the power line easements. Both before and after the signs were posted, I had quite a few residents contact me about the signs. Most of the calls and emails were very positive; however, some were quite upset about the ban. The positive comments were centered on how quiet the neighborhood was on the evening of the Fourth as well as how clean the areas were. That was very telling about the relationships between neighbors. I hope that in the coming years, when the bans are not in effect, we are able to enjoy fireworks remembering that not all residents enjoy the noise associated with them, especially later in the evening. Also, if fireworks are part of your celebration, please pick up any debris.

We continue to have nuisance crime in our neighborhood. Unfortunately, much of it points to young perpetrators. If you see someone acting suspicious, even teenagers, please call the Sheriff's Office. They can follow up on your calls.

Finally, the Board will be meeting on Thursday, August 6 at the clubhouse. All residents are invited to attend. We look forward to seeing you there.

Until next month, Walter

Writer



The residents of Winchester Trails celebrated Independence Day with a parade, hotdogs, and a pool party. The parade was officially kicked off in the morning by the Fire Department. The parade was well attended, and we had an interesting assortment of wheeled vehicles! After the parade, the neighbors gathered at the pool for swimming and games. Delicious hotdogs, watermelon, and desserts were served. It a very fun event and a great way to get to know the neighbors better while celebrating our nation's birthday.

A very special thanks goes to Danette Isaacs for organizing the event, to Arthur Walker for cooking the the hotdogs, and to Paulette Walker for all of her time and effort.

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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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Upcoming Events August

August 6 August 24	Board Meeting at WT Clubhouse at 7 PM CFISD students back to school
August 29	Pool returns to weekend schedule (10 AM - 9 PM)
September 7	Labor Day No School for CFISD
	Pool Closes for the season

Mops at the MET Registration

If you need a listening ear, friendship with other moms, yours kids involved in a fun program, delicious buffets, advice from seasoned moms, then you need MOPS at the MET. Two dynamic groups meet two Friday mornings per month (September through May) from 9:15 to 11:45 AM. Childcare is provided upon registration. Registration is \$55 per semester. Register online today to secure your spot at metmops.org or TheMetonline.org. If you have any questions, please call 281-890-1900.



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Yard of The Month

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BACK SECTION Cheeves Louis 10219 Dude Road

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WINCHESTER TRAILS MARKET REPORT Ψ								
PRICE	1st Qtr	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	CURRENTLY For Sale	CURRENTLY UNDER Contract		
\$150K - \$175K	2	0	0	0	1	0		
\$175K - \$200K	1	0	1	0	1	1		
\$200K - \$225K	1	0	0	0	1	3		
\$225K - ABOVE	1	0	0	0	0	0		
TOTAL	5	0	1	0	3	4		
Average PSF	67.37	-	70.75	-	74.13	72.43		

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SMETIC & WELLNESS

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www.winchestertrails.com PART III: FIREWALLS

Over the past two newsletters, I've submitted articles relating to wireless network security and Internet security software. While it isn't by any means the final piece of some magic security triad, the firewall is an extremely important facet of overall network and computer security.

Firewalls can be software (sometimes integrated into Internet security packages like I talked about last month) or hardware devices, and their purpose is to control the flow of network traffic. Hardware firewalls can also (and typically do) perform some routing functions, allowing multiple computers behind the firewall in the secure zone to share a single point of connection to the Internet. To take it a step further, many firewalls actually combine many functions into a single device: firewall/router, wired network switch, wireless access point, VPN gateway, and even voice-over-IP (VoIP) functions for services like Vonage.

In the simplest terms, a firewall protects you by letting you do what you need and want to do while at the same time preventing the bad guys from doing things on your computer or Internet connection they shouldn't. In short, it allows "good" traffic and denies "bad" traffic. At the same time, it makes your computer(s) invisible and denies connection attempts from the outside world. By default, most consumer-targeted firewall/routers (Linksys, D-Link, Netgear, etc.) come preconfigured this way. In almost all cases, this configuration works just fine out of the box - no special rules are necessary. However, sometimes outside traffic does need to pass through from the outside to the inside - especially in the cases of gamers or those that might serve up things like websites on privately-owned equipment. Rules can be made in the software of the firewall to allow this to occur.

In general, I prefer hardware firewalls to software firewalls primarily because the "bad" traffic is stopped at the device and never touches my internal, protected devices. Another reason is that a software firewall protects only the computer on which it is installed. On the other hand, a single hardware firewall/router can protect every device connected to your home network, while allowing multiple devices to share a single Internet connection. This is important in today's

viewing windows and a mature, caring and highly qualified teaching staff.

converging technology world where everything can connect to the Internet: computers, digital phone services, DVR/TiVo units and other multimedia devices, etc.

For those of you with AT&T's uVerse product, you're most likely already protected by the firewall integrated into the big 2Wire "brain box". This device also provides wireless networking functionality, and it is secured with encryption and a password by default. If you're using DSL or Comcast's cable service, there is a chance you have firewall functionality in the DSL/cable modems, but there's also a chance you are not protected. An easy way to check: go to your Start Menu, select Run, type in "cmd" (no quotes) and press OK. This will open up a Command Prompt window. At the blinking prompt, type in "ipconfig" (no quotes), hit Enter, and look at the information displayed next to the IP Address line. If you see something that begins with 192.168.x.x or 10.x.x.x (where the x will be other series of numbers), then you're most likely behind a firewall. If you see another series of numbers, that means you're flapping in the breeze and have an accessible, publicly-routable address assigned to your computer. In this case, I hope you have a software firewall, because if you don't, you're extremely vulnerable to hacker attack. Another sure way to check: do the ipconfig stuff mentioned above, then go to www.whatismyip.com and compare the IP addresses. If they're different, you're most likely behind a firewall. If they match, you're definitely not.

In closing, over the past three articles, I've touched on several aspects of safe computing: wireless security, Internet security software and firewalls. As I mentioned, while these aspects are extremely important - and should always be the cornerstone of good home computing security - they're not the end-all, be-all. They will protect you from many threats, but they won't protect you from everything. Good surfing habits and common sense can go a long way to protecting yourself as well. If you don't know what something is, don't click on it!

I hope everyone has found these articles (while basic in many ways, I know) helpful and informative. Happy, safe and secure computing!



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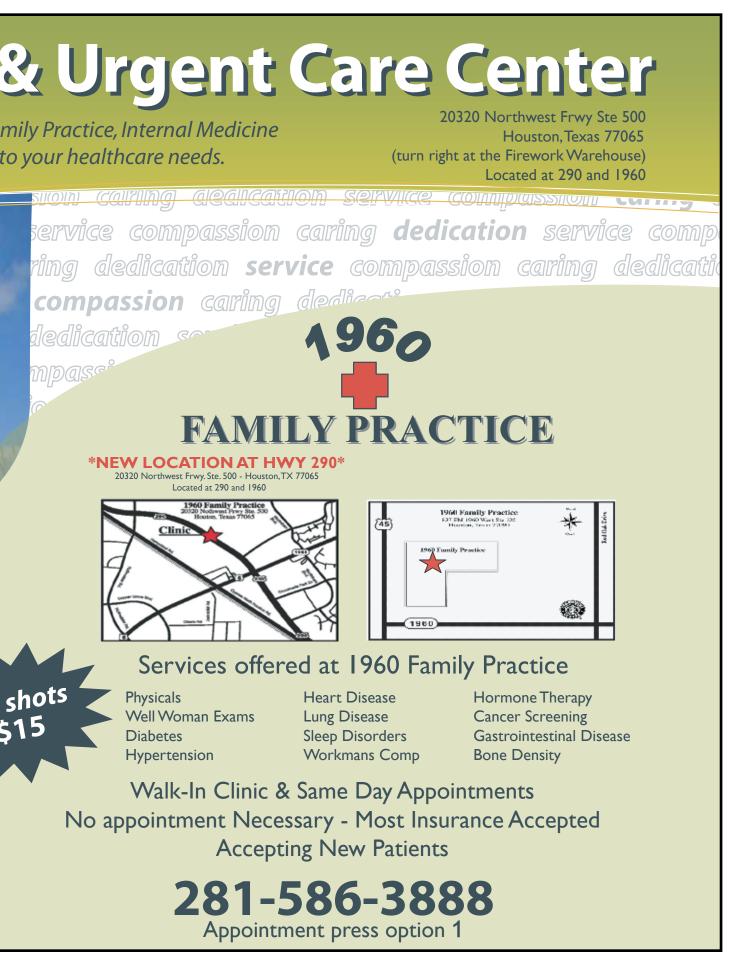
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Winchester Trails

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NEW VOTERS - HAPPY 18TH! 08/12 - Steven Ellis 08/18 - Robby Wilcox 08/20 - Jonathan Miller 08/25 - Eric Sonne 08/30 - Gabriela Barrios

NEW ADULTS - HAPPY 21ST! 08/22 - Jennifer Jackson 08/29 - Allison Wardwell

HAPPY 20TH ANNIVERSARY! 08/02 - Denis & Kristine Aubut

HAPPY 25TH ANNIVERSARY! 08/04 - Joe & Joyce Bontke 08/04 - Frank Sanchez & Mary Ellen Truncali

Melissa Zmerzlikar directory@winchestertrails.com

Website Info Available

For the convenience of all our residents, one can get pool schedules, download forms, and look at upcoming events on our website, www.winchestertrails.com

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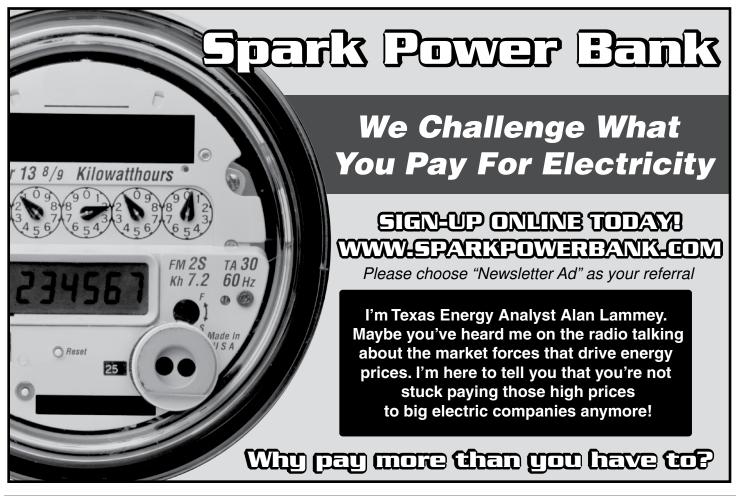
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<u>www.winchestertrails.com</u> Year-Round TXTerrapins Swim Team Announces Open Registration Days

for Competitive Training

The Texas Terrapins Swim Team (TTST) will have Pre-Registration for the 2009 / 2010 year-round swim season on Wednesday, August 19th & Friday, August 21st from 5:15 PM -7:30 PM @ Lakeside Pool in Fairfield. Open Registration for the 2009 / 2010 year-round swim season will be on Wednesday, August 26th from 5:00 PM -7:00 PM @ Lakeside Pool in Fairfield. For directions to the pool, please visit our website at www.texasterrapins.com and click on pool locations. Registration forms are on our website and can be completed out ahead of time!

TTST has accomplished some great things this past year such as almost doubling our team size. We went from a peak season of 80 swimmers to a peak season of 155 and we are continuing to grow while keeping our family atmosphere. All of our swimmers improved tremendously throughout the year and topped the charts during summer league as most of them were invited to Ponderosa and Red, White, and Blue Invitationals where they were ribbon and medal winners. One of our swimmers, Sydney Stanford, won high point at Ponderosa for the 7/8 year old girls! Just before summer league started, we also attended short course T.A.G.S. and will be attending long course T.A.G.S. later this summer as well. We invite you to join our growing team and find out why we are a stroke above the rest.



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Winchester Trails GREENTHUMB CORNER

At the time of writing a couple of showers have helped the grass to recover, but I'm sure lots of folks have been facing some high water bills in trying to make it through the long dry spell. If you've been out of town 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.

Be prepared to supply artificial watering to maintain healthy grass if we have a prolonged dry spell in the August heat. 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. Make sure to give the lawn a good soaking every now and then; watch for the tell-tale signs of drought - often shown by patches of grass taking on a shiny, metallic, "brassy" appearance.

Fungal diseases can be a major problem in our hot and humid climate. For the last few years I've been fighting a losing battle against anthracnose blight and black spot on photinia shrubs. It shows up in the form of round or oval brown or black spots, often with definite margins. Remove and destroy affected leaves, and spray plants with Benomyl, Captan, Zineb or other copper-based fungicide; the general purpose Daconyl is also labeled for anthracnose. And watch out for white powdery mildew on crape myrtles and euonymus; control with Consan Triple-Action 20 (this is a good general-purpose fungicide/ algicide/bactericide and is also a great household helper - use it to kill mildew on brick or siding, around the shower stall or window frames, or to eliminate the mildew odor from wet carpet).

Water azaleas regularly and well. They are setting buds now and if they have not bloomed well in the past, check 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

(Continued on page 11)



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Green Thumb Corner - (Continued from page 10)

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 final appearance.

Phil Richards Prich8935@aol.com

Advertising Information

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; <u>advertising@PEELinc.com</u> for ad information and pricing The deadline for ads is the 10th of each month for the upcoming month's newsletter.

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