

Trail Writer

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

Volume 5, Issue 10
www.winchestertrails.com

October 2009

Dear Winchester Trails Neighbors,

The Board meeting was held on September 22 in Executive session as the budget for 2010 was developed. Due to the economic situation, the Board has been diligently looking at ways to minimize expenditures while still maintaining the quality of life that we all enjoy in the Trails. The Board, with its present members, has been working together for three years addressing issues that needed attention. This includes security and the restoration of the contract deputy program, as well as the repair and renovation of the clubhouse. In addition, the appearance of the area along West Road, which was a highly contentious issue in 2004 and 2005, has been addressed by working with the MUD to establish the Park Plan. All of these issues have had an influence on our budget and the maintenance fees. With good fiscal management, the Trails still has one of the lowest maintenance assessments in northwest Harris County and we intend to keep it that way.

We are faced with two expenditures in 2010. One of these is the rising cost of maintaining the pool as it seems that every year we have issues with the pool. In 2008, there were electrical problems along with the installation of safety devices. This year we had much difficulty with the lighting inside the pool. Effective lighting is essential in maintaining a safe pool. We will be considering alternatives to the lighting difficulties experienced in 2009 to minimize impacts to the budget in 2010. We are also seriously considering renovation of the tennis courts. Some of the problems associated with the tennis courts are due to non-tennis related activities on the courts such as skateboarding or launching fireworks. Other issues are normal wear that facilities like these experience. The expenditures that are required to maintain the courts are one of the large line items in the 2010 budget. We also have concerns about non-Trails residents using the courts, but efforts to minimize this form of trespassing in the past have not proven successful.

As mentioned in other sections of this issue of the *TrailWriter*, the annual meeting will be held in October. There are positions on the Board that are open for the election of officers and will require a vote. I hope you will attend either in person or by submitting your proxy by mail or in person. We need ten percent of homeowners to attend or offer their proxy in order to certify the election and allow the Board to address other business. We sure hope to see you at the meeting.

Until next month,
Walter

Upcoming Events in Winchester! October 2009

OCTOBER 6
National Night Out

OCTOBER 12
Columbus Day observance/
CFISD Holiday

OCTOBER 13
Trails Treasures Luncheon from Noon
- 2 PM Winchester Trails Clubhouse.
Please RSVP to Paulette Walker
by phone or email
(social@winchestertrails.com)

OCTOBER 31
HAPPY HALLOWEEN!



Winchester Trails

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Clubhouse Rentals
Linda Van Zuilekom 832-592-3297
Directory Editor
Melissa Zmerzlikar directory@winchestertrails.com
Tennis Committee
Johnny Hooker 281-890-9123
Yard of the Month
Angie Drouin..... 281-955-0644
Stork Committee
Ron Matthew.....stork@winchestertrails.com
Welcome Committee
Pat Fernandez welcome@winchestertrails.com
Newsletter Editor
Melanie Scales..... newsletter@winchestertrails.com
Mary Gwynne
Social Committee
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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

PLANNED COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT
281-870-0585

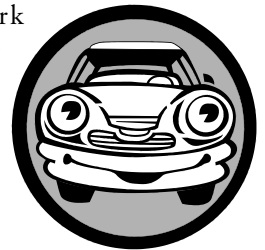
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Classifieds

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.

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Yard of The Month

Congratulations to Both Our Winners!



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Winchester Trails

Fall Banquet/Silent Auction

Hosted by Cypress Christian School



Fall is the "Season of Thanksgiving" and Cypress Christian School plans to celebrate by hosting a banquet and auction on Saturday, November 7, 2009, at 5:30 p.m. The event will be held at the Metropolitan Truth Center, located at the intersection of Jones and Mills Roads. Mark your calendars now for what is certain to be an enjoyable evening of shopping, fellowshiping, and feasting.

For complete details, please call the school at 281-469-8829 or visit the school website at www.CypressChristian.org.

New Cell Phone Law

*"I'll Have to Call You Back;
I'm in a School Zone."*

THE LAST SESSION OF THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE PASSED A NEW LAW MAKING IT ILLEGAL TO USE YOUR CELL PHONE IN A SCHOOL ZONE. THE EXCEPTIONS ARE:

- if you are using a hands free device
- if your vehicle is stopped
- if you are calling 911 for an emergency.

The law took effect September 1, 2009. Soon you can expect to see new signage in school zones reminding drivers to hang up or face a fine of up to \$200.



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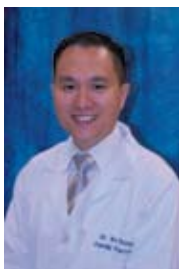
meet our team

Huong T Le, MD
Quoc Le, MD
Alex Nguyen, MD
Blandina Sison, MD
Anthony Yee-Young, MD
Diana Malone, MD
Shital Patel, MD
Heidi Nashed, MD
Luz Marquez, MD
Jennifer Dong, MD
Asma Ahmed, MD
Vu Anh Phung, MD
Annie Hoang, MD
Tami Berckenhoff, PA-C
Brandi Valenzuela, PA-C
Sydney Payne, PA-C

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quality care
for the
entire family*



1960 Family Practice Is Pleased To Introduce Our Newest Physicians



Dr. Vu Phung joined 1960 Family Practice in July 2009. Dr. Phung graduated from Texas Tech University and is board certified in Family Medicine. He completed his residency in Family Practice and in pursuing his special interest; he completed his fellowship in Geriatric Medicine. Dr Phung welcomes patients of all ages to his practice.



Dr. Annie Hoang joined our practice in August of 2009. She graduated from Texas A & M University and finished her training in Family Practice at Texas Tech University. She is board certified in Family Medicine and has been providing comprehensive care for adults and children with compassion and kindness for the past 10 years. She welcomes all new patients to her practice.

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The physicians of 1960 Family Practice follow the recommendations of the American Cancer Society for a healthy life style.

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Well Woman Exam - This is a comprehensive gynecologic and obstetric evaluation. Including the evaluation of the cervical epithelial cells for abnormalities that could cause cancer. Women of child bearing age should have a well woman exam once a year.

Mammograms - 1960 Digital Imaging offers Digital Mammograms. Women should have a baseline mammogram beginning at age 35. Mammograms are recommended every 2 years through age 45. Women over the age of 45, should have a mammogram every year.

**Don't get caught
with the flu!!**

Season starts in October and
continue well into spring!!
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Winchester Trails

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NEW TEENAGERS - HAPPY 13TH!

10/09 - Elijah Whitehouse

NEW DRIVERS - HAPPY 16TH!

10/04 - Connor Neagli

10/14 - Caitlyn Cooney

10/14 - Everett Neucere

10/19 - Jarvis Howard

10/30 - Weston Grove

NEW VOTERS - HAPPY 18TH!

10/02 - Susan Tran

10/27 - D.J. Neck

10/29 - Laura Lasiter

NEW ADULTS - HAPPY 21ST!

10/06 - Kyle Castillo

10/09 - Justin Tran

10/09 - Cathy Tran

10/09 - Christy Tran

10/18 - Scott Grass

HAPPY 5TH ANNIVERSARY!

10/17 - Barry & Toby Brooks

10/24 - Don & Lee Ann Day

HAPPY 20TH ANNIVERSARY!

10/14 - Scott & Maria Harris

10/27 - Curtis & Melanie Scales

Melissa Zmerzlikar directory@winchestertrails.com

GREEN THUMB CORNER

The first cool spells are encouraging us to get out into the yard, and although we're nowhere near winter it's already time to be thinking about the spring bulbs. They've been in some stores for a while already, and newspaper articles and radio talk shows have been covering the annual topic. Even if you're not ready to plant yet, now is the time to buy while the selection is still good. Bulbs may be safely stored in the refrigerator, just like a regular vegetable, and can be planted this month or next (except for tulips), or you can even procrastinate until Christmas.

In addition to the usual daffodils and tulips, try Amaryllis, Anemone, Calla, Iris, Lilies, Narcissus, Oxalis and Ranunculus, and select a variety of early-, mid- and late-bloomers to stretch out the flowering period. Plant in rich, loamy soil with lots of humus, and it helps to add bone meal at the bottom of the hole; planting depth is usually indicated on the packet, but a good rule of thumb is to use a depth of two or three times the width of the bulb.

Tulips require special treatment - they need to be chilled (not frozen) for 45 to 60 days before planting, and the recommended planting time is between Christmas and New Year's Day. The best bulb displays is usually obtained by mass plantings rather than single rows or small groups, and try to avoid too many different colors in the same area. Unfortunately, only the daffodils offer any hope of perennial performance in the Houston climate.

October is the recommended month for giving the lawn its final feeding of the year to promote root health through the winter, and it may also be needed to encourage some re-growth in areas damaged by dry periods earlier in the year. Use 15-5-10 or 16-8-8 or even a general-purpose 12-24-12. Watch out for Brown Patch - circular brown or yellow areas of grass; this is a fungus activated by cooler moist weather and is easily spread by people and pets walking across affected areas. Control with Terraclor granules.

Acid-loving azaleas like a pH of 5.0 or less, so check your soil and treat with powdered sulfur or copperas. Sprinkle around the base of the shrub without disturbing the roots, and water-in thoroughly. Groom as necessary and budding-out should occur where cut.

Dig up and store caladium bulbs this month or next - it's easier to locate them before the foliage dies back completely, and if left in the ground they may rot or freeze. Dry them in the shade, brush off any loose soil, dust with fungicide, and hang up in old pantyhose in the garage.

In the vegetable garden, plant strawberries between mid-October and mid-November in raised beds with good drainage, using slightly-acidic, rich, loose soil with lots of humus (bark mulch is good). Cabbage and collard plants can go in, and you can sow seeds for beets, turnips, carrots, lettuce, spinach, radishes and onions. Also try planting English garden peas this month or next for an early spring crop, but you may have to nurse them through any freezing spells.

Phil Richards

Prich8935@aol.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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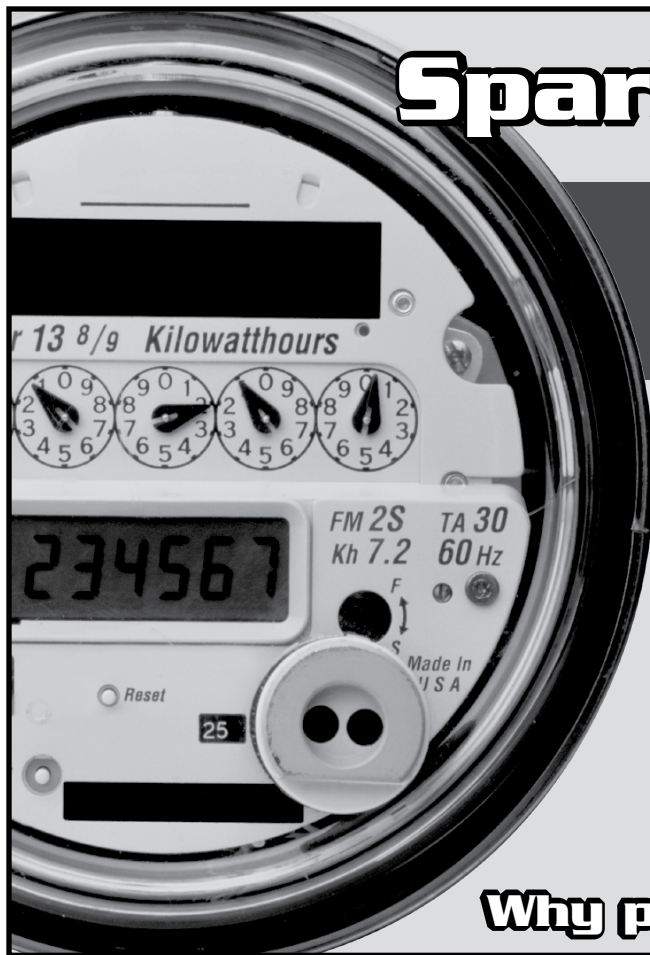
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You may contact Ron Matthews or any Board member with questions on this disclaimer.

Opt-in for Neighborhood Notices

If you would like to receive neighborhood notices on what's happening in our community including security alerts and lost/found pets, please send your email address to Melissa Zmerzlikar at eblast@winchestertrails.com. Your email will remain private and only used for community notices. Thank you to all of our neighbors participating in this program.



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Why pay more than you have to?

Get Ready for Windows 7

Submitted by Laurie Scott

For Lovers of XP and Haters of Vista

Users of Microsoft Windows have been waiting a long time for a great upgrade from Windows XP. Well, I have good news - Windows 7 is coming.

On October 22nd, the successor to the less than popular Windows Vista will begin to ship with new PC's and be available in stores and online. If you bought a new PC with Vista Home Premium installed in the last 3 months, you're probably going to get a free upgrade disk from the manufacturer.

Should you upgrade your current PC? There are some very compelling reasons to do so. In almost every area Windows 7 outperforms Vista and even XP in the time it takes to install, copy files on the hard drive or move files over a network. It also doesn't need quite as much memory to run well. It has MUCH better security than XP and is less annoying than Vista. Vista users know about the constant pop-ups of the UAC (User Account Control) every time you make the slightest change to the system, encouraging many to disable it altogether. Windows 7 has modified it so that it can be adjusted to be less intrusive while still protecting you from unwanted program installations. This makes it much easier to run as a regular user rather than an administrator (an almost impossible task in XP), providing better protection from viruses and trojans.

The Media Center provides support for playing Blu-Ray discs (if you have a drive that can play them), and the Home Group feature makes sharing files and printers between computer really simple.

Windows Live is a separate but I think important

product from Microsoft that works well with Windows 7. It's a set of free online products that features SkyDrive, offering 25 gigabytes of online storage, and Family Safety, that in conjunction with your Windows user accounts provides access control to web content, and provides activity reports as well as administrator access (i.e. the parent) from any computer, anywhere.

The Professional version of Windows 7 includes the ability to run Windows XP as a "Virtual Machine" in a window, so if you have programs that need XP to run, you can run them in the virtual machine while continuing to run everything else in the Windows 7 environment (I know, that was geeky and your eyes probably started to glaze over, but it's a great feature none the less.)

System requirements for Windows 7 are a 1GHz or faster processor and at least 1GB of memory. You can perform a check of your computer by downloading the Windows 7 Upgrade Advisor from microsoft.com. The upgrade for Windows 7 Home Premium will be \$119, but Microsoft will also be making a "Family Pack" available, giving you 3 licenses for \$149.

I've been using Windows 7 since the Beta version was released in January, having it on 3 systems without problems, including 2 desktops and 1 laptop. The interface is much cleaner with lots of great small features too numerous to list here. So if you're ready for a new computer, but it's not presently in your budget, consider upgrading your current computer to Windows 7. The only regret you'll have is that it took Microsoft so long to finally get it right.

November 21st & 22nd at Trader's Village

*Accepting Donations Until
Thursday, November 19th.*



NOT AVAILABLE ONLINE

Items can be dropped off at Jersey Village Baptist Church parking lot corner of Rio Grande and Jersey Drive across from the fire station at the following times:

OCTOBER

Tuesday	10/20/09	6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Thursday	10/22/09	6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday	10/27/09	6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Thursday	10/29/09	6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER

Tuesday	11/03/09	6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Thursday	11/05/09	6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday	11/10/09	6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Thursday	11/12/09	6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Saturday	11/14/09	10:00 a.m. – Noon
Sunday	11/15/09	10:00 a.m. – Noon
Mon - Thurs	11-19/09	6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

***To donate items at other times or if you have any
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