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

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December 2009



Friends and Neighbors!

This is a most wonderful and joyful time of year and the Trails contributes with all the decorations adorning the homes. It is quite an effort to put up the lights and lawn art as well as take them down. As a neighborhood, we do this quite well every year. With all the festivities and excitement that December brings, please drive carefully, especially at night, as many of our residents walk through the area looking at the decorations.

As this is also a time of year where you may travel to visit family outside of the area, please take time to secure your home. Let your neighbors know you will be gone and whether you expect anyone to enter your house. In addition, call the Sheriff's department and let them put a watch on your house. Also, stop delivery of newspapers and mail as those can give a clue to whether you are home or not. Unfortunately, this time of year sees an increase in criminal activity, but with all of us working together, we can effectively reduce crime in our area. Keep the phone number for the Sheriff's Department readily available. We have a contract deputy that patrols our streets, as well as the many other deputies at the Sheriff's Department that can respond to requests.

Recently, I was asked about residents that fail to properly maintain or perhaps keep a boat or camper at their homes. While PCMI makes inspections, it is quite possible that certain actions or inactions are not visible when the inspections are made. Please call PCMI and report issues that need attention.

Wishing you a joyous season....



# 2009 TRAILS TREASURES

Annual Luncheon An enjoyable lunch was enjoyed by all who attended

this year's Trails Treasures Annual Luncheon held at our renovated clubhouse.Rudy's, an area restaurant, catered the lunch. Expressions of thanks go to Alice Barone, Johnny Hooker, and Authur Walker!!

# Winchester Trails

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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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To ask questions or report problems concerning the		
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PLANNED COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT		
281-870-0585		
Sheriff, Non-911 Calls		

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### **UPCOMING EVENTS**



November 25 - 27 - CFISD Holiday November 26 - Happy Thanksgiving!

December 3 - Board Meeting; 7 PM at the clubhouse

December 11 - Happy Hanukkah

December 13 - Holiday in the Trails; 6-8 PM; Hayride, luminaries, pictures and cookies with Santa, fun outdoor activities

December 21 - January 6, 2010 - CFISD Student Holiday

December 21 - Winter beginsDecember 25 - Merry Christmas!

December 26 - Happy Kwanzaa!

December 31 - New Year's Eve

January 1 -- Happy New Year's!

# DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES...

# To be a block captain?

#### HERE'S WHAT THE JOB ENTAILS:

- o Welcoming new neighbors to Winchester Trails, providing them with information about the neighborhood and getting information from them for the newsletter and directory;
- o Helping to communicate neighborhood information or materials to your neighborhood throughout the year.

This job takes just a little bit of time, but it will help to ensure the success of the neighborhood programs and activities. If you volunteer for this position, we ask that you serve in this position for at least one year.

If you are interesting in serving as a block captain, please email or call Mary Gwynne with your contact information. Mary can be reached at amgwynne@swbell.net or at 281-477-3420.

### **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.

# www.winchestertrails.com

# Yard of The Month

Congratulations to Both Our Winners!





<u>FRONT SECTION</u> Richard and Charlotte Wisnoski 10414 Wagon Trail Road **BACK SECTION** Nestor and Daisy Bello 10523 Minturn Lane



# <u>Winchester Trails</u> **"A NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM"** *Returns To Cypress*

Messiah Lutheran Church is once again hosting a special Christmas event, A Night in Bethlehem, offered on Saturday and Sunday evenings, December 5 and 6, 5-8 pm. Night in Bethlehem is an extended living nativity, portraying Bethlehem village on the night Jesus was born. The community is invited to stroll through the village and talk to the village shop keepers. Visit the stable where Mary, Joseph, and the Baby Jesus can be found surrounded by livestock and shepherds. Visit the tents where children's activities are offered. Enjoy the free apple cider and coffee. There is no admission charge. This evening is Messiah's gift to the community. As an option, one of the shops will sell free trade coffee and other artifacts with all profits going to native communities in South America and Africa. You are invited to begin your Christmas celebration this year with an evening in Bethlehem, Cypress style!

Messiah Lutheran Church is a grace place, a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Messiah is located at 11522 Telge Road, ½ mile north of Highway 290. Regular worship times are at 8 and 10:30 AM on Sundays. The Education Hour is 9:15-10:15 AM on Sundays. More information is available at 281-890-3013 or www.messiahlc.org . All people are welcome at Messiah.





### **GREEN THUMB CORNER**

Cooler weather means that things are not growing very quickly, and that's probably a good thing because we have lots of other demands on our time during the holiday season. But there is still plenty of work that can be done in the yard and garden if you have some spare time on your hands, such as pulling up those usual winter weeds that appear in the lawn, particularly if the grass is in poor health. This is the season for soil cultivation, planting of new trees and shrubs, fertilization of established ones, pruning, mulching, clean-up and bed preparation. A little effort expended now, while it's pleasantly cool, will get things in good shape and reduce the workload when spring warmth returns.

This month and the next two are generally considered the best for planting trees and shrubs. Before planting, check drainage by digging a hole and filling with water - if it takes more than 24 hours to drain, you will need to improve the situation by digging an 'X'-shaped trench pattern filled with good soil to provide drainage away from the center (or find a better location!). Another plan is to create an elevated mound for planting, and this also adds a nice accent to the landscape. Another tip for a poor drainage area - avoid the temptation to plant a tree in a hole filled with a good porous medium, because you may just be creating a "sponge" that causes waterlogged roots; always backfill the hole with the same soil that you dug out. Unfortunately, one of the most common causes of failure is a waterlogged root system due to our poor-draining clay soil, so avoid low areas at all costs. Trees should not be fed during their first season, except for the application of a weak solution as a root stimulator. Established trees can be conveniently fed now while the ground is quite soft from recent rain. 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 well). Magnolias also need acid soil conditions, so use special azalea/camellia fertilizer or add a soil acidifier.

November was the best time for planting pansies, but they may still be transplanted this month. They can really brighten up an otherwise dull yard, whether in beds or containers. Pansies don't need much attention, but they will benefit from a monthly feeding of manure, super-phosphate or a liquid high-phosphate product. More blooms will be promoted by removing spent or faded flowers.

One more reminder about spring-flowering bulbs -December is the last chance for planting. But remember that tulips should be kept in the refrigerator until the end of the month and then planted between Christmas and New Year's Day (a convenient chance to get a little exercise between the two holidays!).

Azaleas and camellias may be moved at this time and should be kept moist to reduce the risk of cold weather damage. Acidify the soil if necessary. It's a good idea to check the pH value with one of the chemical kits available from the nurseries, or with a meter.

Clean up the beds where fall flowers have finished, and prepare next year's beds now to allow time for settling and weathering, adding lots of humus and also gypsum to break up the clay. In established shrubbery beds a good layer of mulch is just as important in winter as in the heat of summer. Water well and watch out for winter drought. Be prepared to protect tender plants; cloth makes a better cover than plastic, but you can use the latter by rigging a "tent" arrangement to prevent the plastic from touching any foliage. You never know when we might get a surprise early frost, so be prepared for quick action. Potted plants can be moved into the garage (put nails in the overhead beams for hanging baskets) and if it's really cold you can leave the lights on to provide some warmth.

There's not much happening in my vegetable garden because I didn't get around to planting fall vegetables, but some industrious neighbors will probably be harvesting fall tomatoes until the first good frost and there may be a few spring/summer pepper plants that have continued producing through this season. There are just a few things that can be planted this month - asparagus, chives, parsley and onion plants - but the main priority right now is preparation of beds for next spring.

**HOLIDAY TIPS:** Winter pruning of evergreens such as holly, yew and juniper provides useful trimmings for Christmas decorations, and you can also use the clusters of red berries from nandina shrubs.

And if you're short of Xmas gift ideas for your family or friends, how about a good gardening book?

Phil Richards Prich8935@aol.com

# **1960 Family Practice**

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#### 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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**ual Physical** - A physical is the ation of the body and its func-. During a physical you will also your cholesterol, diabetes, and a pressure evaluated. Individuals defined have a physical examination a year.

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epting New Patients Insurance Accepted **281-586-3888** Appointment press option 1 www.1960fp.net

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# Winchester Trails

### CYPRESS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

"The Power of a Simple Gift"



"Everyone loves to receive gifts. During the Christmas season, we celebrate the most special gift of all—God's Son, Jesus Christ." These are the words of Franklin Graham, President of Samaritan's Purse, an international relief organization. The students of Cypress Christian School chose to share the 'good news of great joy' (Luke 2:10) with children around the world through the Operation Christmas Child project sponsored by Samaritan's Purse.

This year, millions of children will experience Christmas joy when they receive gift-filled shoe boxes and hear the Gospel message through Christian literature and follow-up discipleship programs.

Over the course of several weeks, CCS students took time out of their busy classroom schedules to write letters, fill shoe boxes with gifts, and wrap them in preparation for shipping to needy children across the globe. "This has been a wonderful example to teach our children the gift of giving to those less fortunate," said Elementary Principal Donna Stumbaugh. "Several teachers commented on the great discussions about giving to others that their classes entertained as a result of participation in the project."

# NOT AVAILABLE ONLINE

# www.winchestertrails.com

## **Security Information**

To schedule a deputy to patrol your home address while you are away on vacation, extended business trip or hospital stay, etc., contact District 5 Vacation Watch at 281-290-2100.

Harris County Sherrif's Office - http://www.hcso.hctx.net

Automobile decals may be obtained from our board members and Ron Matthews. These decals help identify automobiles that belong in our community.

# **Clubhouse Availability**

Winchester Trails newly renovated neighborhood clubhouse is available for neighborhood residents to rent for parties, meetings, Bunco, dinners, etc. The clubhouse rate is **\$10** per hour with a **\$30** minimum. The clubhouse holds up to 50 people and has a kitchen with a stove, microwave and fridge, as well as 6 tables and plenty of folding chairs.

A **security deposit of \$250** <u>and</u> a signed contract (contract may be viewed on our neighborhood website www.winchestertrails.com.) are <u>required</u> to secure your booking.

For more information, please call 281-615-0335 or email me at clubhouse@winchestertrails.com

Linda van Zuilekom

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# LONE STAR COLLEGE

Cy Fair Perspective

#### **REGISTER NOW FOR MINI-MESTER AND SPRING SEMESTER CLASSES**

Catch up or get ahead this holiday season! Take a mini-mester course in December or register early for spring. Mini-mester classes begin Dec. 14. Spring semester classes begin Jan. 19, 2010. For information, call 281-290-3200 or 832-782-5000 or go online to LoneStar.edu.

#### HOLIDAY PERFORMANCES ON STAGE

This holiday in the Main Stage Theatre are "A Taffeta Christmas" set Dec. 3 through Dec. 13 and the free String Orchestra concert "Collage" set Dec. 7. For tickets and information call 281-290-5201or go to LoneStar.edu/boxoffice.

#### L.I.F.E. LESSONS IN DECEMBER

The Learning, Inspiration, Fellowship and Enrichment (L.I.F.E.) programs are free and held Wednesdays at 10 a.m. in the Lone Star College-CyFair Branch Library (Room 131.) Programs in December include: learning about the Texas Rangers Dec. 2, tips for permanent weight loss, Dec. 9 and creating a holiday wreath Dec. 16. Programs will resume Jan. 13, 2010. Call the library at 281-290-3213 for L.I.F.E. program information or go online to LoneStar.edu.

#### HOLIDAY HAPPENING WITH A.L.L.

Celebrate the season with music, food and friends at the Dec. 10 Holiday Happening with LSC-CyFair's Academy for Lifelong Learning (A.L.L.) This event will be held at 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. at Heritage Lodge at Towne Lake. A.L.L. is designed for adults age 50 and better. For information, send an e-mail to LSCCFCE@lonestar. edu or call 281-290-3460.

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# MILESTONES

<u>NEW TEENAGERS - HAPPY 13TH!</u> 12/05 - Michelle Urquhart 12/20 - Dillon Heard

NEW DRIVERS - HAPPY 16TH! 12/02 - Rebecca Ward 12/07 - Dylan Stephens 12/13 - Colby McCord 12/13 - Hannah McCord 12/25 - Christopher Bulas

NEW VOTERS - HAPPY 18TH!

12/06 - Courtney Creed 12/20 - Kevin Movagher 12/29 - Melanie Roberts 12/30 - Rebecca Claybourn

NEW ADULTS - HAPPY 21ST! 12/01 - Shannon Bulas 12/27 - Curtis Spence

HAPPY 20TH ANNIVERSARY! 12/16 - Scott & Melanie Roselius

HAPPY 25TH ANNIVERSARY! 12/14 - Binod & Preeta Rajgariah

HAPPY 30TH ANNIVERSARY! 12/22 - Richard & Janice Moore

HAPPY 55TH ANNIVERSARY! 12/18 - Rondo & Amy McKinney

Melissa Zmerzlikar directory@winchestertrails.com

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### **Advertising Information**

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