

Trail Writer

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

Volume 6, Issue 9
www.winchestertrails.com

September 2010

UPCOMING EVENTS

September/October 2010

SEPTEMBER 2010

- 1 - Monthly Board meeting (Location PCMI Office - Closed to Public) Budget Discussion
- 6 - Labor Day / CFISD Holiday
- 7 - Pool closes
- 8 - Rosh Hashanah
- 17 - Yom Kippur
- 18 - Community Garage Sale (8:00 AM - 4:00 PM)
- 23 - Autumn begins

OCTOBER 2010

- 5 - National Night Out
- 6 - Board elections at clubhouse, 7 PM
- 19 - Trails Treasures Luncheon; RSVP to Paulette Walker
- 25 - Residents' bus trip

**** Luminary Orders ****

Each December The Trails residents enjoy Holidays in the Trails with a hay ride, cookies with Santa, and our snowman at our clubhouse. We want each home to have lighted candles lining each sidewalk. Each luminary kit will include 20 candles and 20 white bags.

Each kit will cost \$5.00. Our order MUST be placed in September. Please contact Paulette Walker at 281-894-5708 or paulette_walker@sbcglobal.net to place your order. Let's make this a wonderful event

GREETINGS WINCHESTER TRAILS RESIDENTS,

The Board held its regularly scheduled meeting on August 4. We had discussions with a deputy from the Harris County Sheriff's department and a representative from the MUD 9 as well as a Boy Scout working on his Eagle project. As Officer Andy was recovering from a medical procedure, we had another deputy in his place. The deputy indicated that we have a safe neighborhood from a crime perspective mainly for a couple of reasons – we are diligent in reporting any activities that we notice in the Trails that may affect us or our neighbors, and we have security. While other communities in our immediate area have seen a rise in crime, we remain in a strong position in preventing crime. As a Board, we will maintain our diligence.

Recently, the MUD received a federal grant that will be applied to the Park Plan. The grant was provided by the Safe Schools program, and along with the Park Plan, a safe alternative path to Bang Elementary will be developed. We have enjoyed our working relationship with the MUD and applaud their success. We should see additional progress on the Park Plan in the fall.

As mentioned, a local Boy Scout will be developing picnic tables for the park area around the swimming pool/clubhouse. We appreciate his effort in making his community a better place while earning his Eagle Scout rank – which is quite an achievement.

We are looking for a volunteer to help manage the website. Our previous volunteer moved out of the Trails and has continued to help us since her move, but this function needs to be taken care of by a resident. Please contact any member of the Board if you are interested. The time commitment is not extensive.

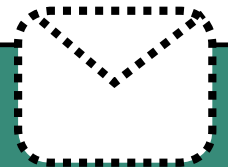
Finally, school is back in session so keep a lookout for children heading to Bang or Cook.

Until next month...

Walter

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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

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West Harris County MUD No. 9

Awarded Federal Grant for Bang Elementary Safe Routes To School Funding

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) recently released its list of Safe Routes to School's (SRTS) grant recipients for 2009-2010. West Harris County MUD No. 9 (WHCMUD 9), in partnership with Ramona Bang Elementary School in the Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District, was among the distinguished recipients. The federal grant award is one of only two infrastructure grants to the TxDOT Houston District for the SRTS program. The grant was awarded for the maximum amount of \$500,000.

Through its civil engineer, Edminster Hinshaw Russ & Associates (EHRA), WHCMUD 9 pursued the grant on behalf of the school, which is located within the district's boundaries. The sidewalks, crosswalks and trail system proposed to be funded with the grant will interconnect with the existing sidewalks within the district to provide a route for students to walk to school with less exposure to vehicular traffic. The walkway system is a component of WHCMUD 9's comprehensive Parks and Trails Master Plan (PTMP) prepared by EHRA. Chris Browne, EHRA's Department Manager of Land Planning and Landscape Architecture, said "EHRA prepared the SRTS plan and grant application as part of their services to the district. The award of this grant means that WHCMUD 9 and Cy-Fair ISD can continue working together to implement the trails plan to the benefit of the entire community." The project will consist of a multi-use trail and possibly a pedestrian bridge along White Oak Bayou providing greater and safer access to the school from within the community. Vice-president of WHCMUD 9, Jeff Ottmann, noted that the District's Board of Directors is appreciative of the efforts of EHRA and their involvement with Cy-Fair ISD and the community.

WHCMUD 9 recently completed the construction of new walking trails, benches and landscaping along West Road in a recent phase of its PTMP. The SRTS grant award will supplement the available funds for the next phase of the PTMP, which is planned to expand the existing trail system.

SRTS is a federally funded program designed to connect children safely to their local schools by providing funding for infrastructure projects, pedestrian and bike education as well as safety improvements and programs for schools. Administered on the state level by TxDOT, SRTS aims to empower communities to make walking and bicycling to school a safe and routine activity.

EHRA is a civil engineering firm in Houston, Texas that provides civil engineering, surveying, planning, landscape architecture and construction management services. EHRA specializes in connecting its clients and the community with unique financial solutions to remedy their public needs. For more information on how EHRA can assist your community, visit their website at www.ehrainc.com.

For more information regarding this press release, contact:
Christopher Browne
EHRA Inc, (713) 784-4500

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

The Trails residents will take another day trip on Monday, October 25, 2010.

We have a free, 26 passenger bus booked with the Harris County PCT 4 Senior Adult Program. Any Trail's resident 50 years of age or older is eligible to take the trip. Be one of the first 26 persons to respond to paulette_walker@sbcglobal.net or call her at 281-894-5708. More details will follow.

National Night Out

Plan a block party to visit with your neighbors and meet new neighbors as Texas observes National Night Out on Tuesday, October 5, 2010. This is done in an effort to increase safety awareness in our communities.

The Trails Treasures Annual Luncheon will be on Tuesday, October 19, 2010 at our Winchester Trails Clubhouse.

Residents must be at least 65 years "young" to attend. Contact Paulette Walker at 281-894-5708 or email her at paulette_walker@sbcglobal.net.

Yard of the Month



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THE HISTORY OF THE LUMINARY

Down through the ages, light from fire has served as a destination beacon for weary travelers. Two thousand years ago, shepherds marked the way to the manger of the Christ Child with small bonfires. For centuries, to symbolize this tradition, the people of Mexico have gathered on Christmas Eve to light large bonfires in the village commons, to pray, sing and welcome the Christ Child. After the celebration, smaller bonfires were built in front of each home to welcome the Baby Jesus. During the 19th century in northern New Mexico, these bonfires were made from criss-crossed pinón sticks to light the path to their homes. Early in the 20th century, one family had been unable to adequately prepare the traditional home bonfire because of illness in their family. As the holiday season drew near, the youngest child placed a broken candle in a paper bag, partially filled with sand, and placed it outside their home to keep the tradition and welcoming spirit alive. These "little lights" or farolitos have become one of the most popular ways for people to extend this custom to the present day.

ATTENTION NW HARRIS COUNTY TRI DELTA ALUMNAE

Mark your calendars to join your Tri Delta sisters for our annual "Salad Social" to kick off the year on Tuesday, September 14th at 7:00 pm. Our group meets on the second Tuesday of every month September - April. We have a diverse group of women of all ages from a variety of colleges. For more information, please contact Christina at 281-855-6893 or Karen at trideltanews@yahoo.com

CY-FAIR STORM 8U SOFTBALL TEAM

Is Holding their 1st Annual Golf Tournament at Longwood Golf Club on October 1st.

We are looking for players as well as sponsors. For more information, please contact: cfstorm2002@yahoo.com.



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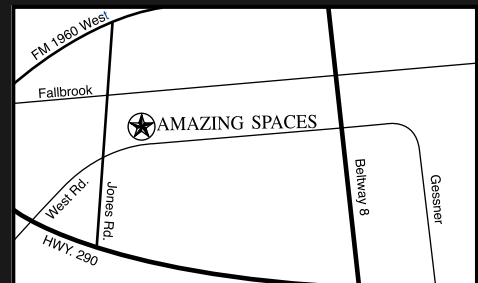
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Milestones

New Teenagers - Happy 13th!

09/15 - Isaac Soliz
09/23 - Huy Tong

Happy 10th Anniversary!

09/09 - Matt &
Alicia Albanese

New Drivers - Happy 16th!

09/04 - Zachariah Aubut

Happy 15th Anniversary!

09/30 - Robert &
Kimberly Dunn

New Voters - Happy 18th!

09/03 - Julie Jackson
09/04 - Riki Clement
09/17 - Amelia Vasquez
09/22 - Jacobi Howard
09/23 - Hannah Fouts
09/28 - Kelli Hudgins

Happy 25th Anniversary!

09/14 - Fred & Kathy
Montgomery

Happy 30th Anniversary!

09/06 - Rick & Chaille Slater
09/13 - David &
Marilyn Taylor
09/27 - Charles & S
haron Chude

New Adults - Happy 21st!

09/06 - Logan Suter
09/10 - William Gray
09/10 - Patrick Guevara
09/18 - Kerry Stonebraker
09/29 - Christina Movaghar

Happy 35th Anniversary!

09/13 - Greg & Carolyn Feigh

Happy 5th Anniversary!

09/11 - Dwayne &
Ginie Hebert

Melissa Zmerzlikar
directory@winchestertrails.com

**NOT AVAILABLE
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Winchester Trails

GREENTHUMB CORNER

It's time to get ready for the fall growing season, when the cooler weather makes yard work more of a pleasure and less of a chore. It doesn't matter if your preference is for shrubbery, flowers, fruit, vegetable or herb growing - the calendar for this month includes "action items" for all of us, and the first hint of lower temperatures makes it a lot easier to get them accomplished.

Our lawns are surviving the heat pretty well this year, probably because our cumulative rainfall is running a few inches ahead of normal, but it's a good idea to give the grass a boost with a light application of fertilizer. Water generously to avoid fertilizer burn.

It's hard to beat chrysanthemums for early fall color. In pots on the patio or as permanent perennials in the beds, they are an excellent addition to any yard. They should be fertilized every two or three weeks until flower buds appear, then weekly until the buds show color. Water as necessary. For best garden display, pinch out the center bud of each cluster (but if you want to produce "show quality" blooms with the large-flowered type, leave the center bud and pinch off all laterals).

Keep the roses well mulched, well fed and well watered, and they can reward you with fall blooms that may be even better than spring and summer. Cut out dead wood. As cool weather approaches, water in the morning to discourage black spot and mildew, and maintain a

regular spray schedule to prevent black spot from entering leaf tissue. Check azaleas for soil acidity and keep well mulched.

Now is a good time to get started on digging up and dividing perennials like day lilies, iris, violets and cannas. And if you want to start a bed of perennials, this is the time of year to think about planting from seed or nursery transplants. Just make sure the bed is well prepared with lots of organic material mixed in, because it's not going to get the benefit of the same regular cultivation as the beds of annuals. Also consider taking cuttings of tender plants such as coleus and geranium; root them in pots to carry over to next spring.

After the first cool spell, clean up the beds and dispose of old stalks and dead leaves which may harbor insects and diseases - you can add them to the compost heap, where the heat generated by decomposition is enough to kill most pathogens.

September is also an ideal time to start a small herb garden - you can plant chives, parsley, coriander (cilantro), rosemary, dill and garlic. It needn't take much space, and the results can be very decorative and aromatic as well as useful in the kitchen.

This is a busy month in the vegetable garden if you want to take advantage of the fall growing season. If you hurry, you may not be too late for broccoli, cauliflower, brussel sprouts and tomatoes, and

(Continued on page 7)

Electricity is **ON SALE** at StarTex Power!



Alan "Petrodamus" Lammey, host of 'Energy Week', can be heard every Sunday on 1070 KNTH in Houston.

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Green Thumb Corner - (Continued from page 6)

you can plant cabbage and collards for winter greens. And it's time to seed the root crops like carrots, beets, onions, leeks, turnips and radishes. Prepare the beds with the addition of lots of organic material (compost, mulch or peat moss), and make sure that the soil is well cultivated to a depth of twelve inches or more, especially for the carrots. Try lettuce as the weather cools down. One advantage of the fall garden is that the pests are usually far less active than in the spring, so give it a try - you'll find it's well worth the effort when you savor the freshness and flavor of home-grown produce.

THIS MONTH'S TIP: If you've been thinking about establishing a strawberry bed, get started now by preparing raised beds with lots of pine bark mulch so that you'll be ready to plant in October.

Phil Richards
Prich8935@aol.com

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Cypress Christian Student Donates Hair to "Locks for Love"

Morgan Roth, sixth grader at Cypress Christian School cut her VERY LONG hair giving 12 inches to "Locks for Love."

"Locks of Love" is a public non-profit organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children in the United States and Canada under age 21 suffering from long-term medical hair loss from any diagnosis. They meet a unique need for children by using donated hair to create the highest quality hair prosthetics. Most of the children helped by Locks of Love have lost their hair due to a medical condition called alopecia areata, which has no known cause or cure. The prostheses they provide help to restore their self-esteem and their confidence, enabling them to face the world and their peers. To learn more about this organization visit www.locksoflove.org.

Morgan's mom is thankful to partner with Cypress Christian School to nurture the spirit of giving in her daughter. "I love the fact that CCS provides an environment that encourages servanthood and giving which begins in Kindergarten and grows with each year," commented Mrs. Roth. Each year, CCS students participate in multiple service projects in our local community, nation, and world. Visit www.CypressChristian.org to see how K-12 students are making a difference!



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