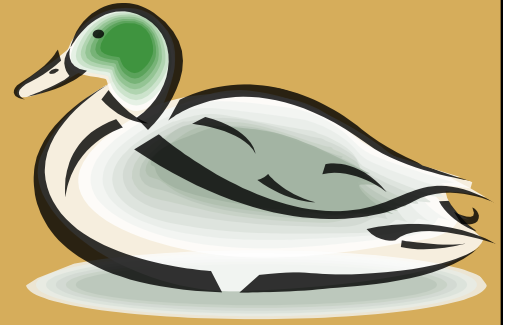


# The Richardson Duck Creek Quacker



Richardson Duck Creek Homeowners Association, Inc.

March 2009

## Duck Creek Annual Easter Egg Hunt is

Please remember to get there a few minutes early to get a good spot and to prepare the children for the fun...sometimes the younger ages can be overwhelmed if they are just thrown into it! If your child has allergies to certain candies or chocolate, please be cautious!

Come ready with your baskets.

Under 3 Yrs      Group A

3-6 Yrs          Group B

6-9 Yrs          Group C



*This summer mark your calendars!*

*On Saturday, June 27th, Duck Creek is having a family picnic at Huffines Park.*

***In lieu of a parade this year...the Duck Creek Homeowners Association is hosting a fun-filled afternoon with food, drink, music and activities for everyone to share with our neighbors, friends and families.***

Duck Creek Annual Easter Egg Hunt  
Saturday, April 4th  
9 AM

Spring General Meeting and Dinner  
Thursday, April 23rd 6:30 PM  
Dartmouth Elementary Cafeteria

## A Letter from the President...

Hello, neighbors. For my first President's Letter, with apologies to the David Letterman Show:

### The Top 12 Reasons to Love the Duck Creek neighborhood:

12. Easter Egg Hunt, Holiday lighting (with hot chocolate on a chilly evening), and very special summer celebrations
11. The dedicated volunteers of the Crime Watch Patrol
10. A homeowners association that delivers information, two family meals, and strength in numbers that City Hall notices, all for only \$25 a year
9. Ducks, geese, turtles, beaver, coyotes, horses and many other critters
8. Dartmouth and Apollo in easy walking distance for the kids
7. Park and rec center improvements that will see major progress in 2009
6. Seeing our duck stickers on the rear window of cars all around Texas
5. \$929,000 in Neighborhood Vitality bond dollars that we will see the result of in 2009
4. The very unofficial "Duck Creek Golden Retrievers Club"
3. Chick-fil-A, Dos Charros, Amigos, Quizno's - great food, nearby!
2. Duck Creek Linear Park - thank you to all who worked to build this center to the neighborhood

And now, the number one reason to love the Duck Creek neighborhood:

1. Everyone who reads The Quacker - It's all about the neighbors!

We look forward to seeing you all at the April General Meeting. If you have any questions or suggestions, please let us hear from you.

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## *A Letter from the Crime Watch Patrol...*

### Richardson Police Department Volunteer Home Security Check

Going on vacation or an out of town business trip? The Richardson Police Department encourages residents to utilize our Home Security Watch program to help prevent criminal opportunity while you are away. As time permits, our trained Volunteers in Police Service will check on homes for short periods of time. This program is NOT available to vacant homes or residences where family/friends might be temporarily visiting in your absence. Please contact the Crime Prevention Unit at 972-744-4955 if you have any questions about this program. You may also fill the form out online and submit.

<http://discovery.cor.gov/Public/Police/housewatch.nsf/HouseWatchWeb?OpenForm>

Hello,

I am a Duck Creek neighbor and this coming June I have been challenged to ride a 100 mile endurance bike ride to raise \$4500.00 to fund the eradication of the scourge of blood cancers in our lifetime. Between now and June I will train by riding more than 1000 miles.

In this endeavor, I have joined the North Texas Chapter of Team in Training (TNT) which is the money raising arm of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Last year 1,800 bicycle riders from across the US raised over \$9 million for cancer research during this one day event. The North Texas TNT, by itself, contributed over \$350,000. In the course of the last 20 years TNT has raised an incredible \$800 million! Drugs that patients are using today were not available even two years ago, so immense progress has been made. Today, more than 823,000 Americans are battling blood cancers.

This fund raising effort is personal to me because, in the course of the past year, I have lost one friend to leukemia and am slowly losing another to T-cell lymphoma. Bill L., a lymphoma patient has been battling T-cell Lymphoma for more than seven years. He has had numerous rounds of chemotherapy and even endured one highly experimental stem cell transplant. Bill is currently in the hospital dealing with complications from the cancer and its debilitating treatments. He is one of Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Honored Heroes. Several members of this year's TNT Cycling Team are honoring Bill as their inspiration to complete the training and the 100 mile ride.

These are difficult times and there are many worthy causes but, if you are able, please consider supporting this cause. Any donation, no matter how small, will make a difference. Visit my website: <http://pages.teamintraining.org/ntx/ambbr09/gswink> to make your donation. If you do not feel comfortable donating on line I will be honored to personally pick up and deliver your check to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society in your name. Your check should be made out to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Do not make the check out to me!

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you.

Gordon Swink  
1513 Creekside Drive  
Richardson, TX 75081  
972 238 8118 (H)  
214 5321430 (C)  
[gordonswink@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gordonswink@sbcglobal.net)





**Richardson Duck Creek Homeowners' Association**  
 "United for Fellowship, Safety and Civic Pride"

Web: [www.rdchoa.org](http://www.rdchoa.org)  
 Email: [membership@rdchoa.org](mailto:membership@rdchoa.org)

## 2009 Membership Application

The RDCHOA is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization of residents of the Duck Creek Neighborhood, bounded by Arapaho and Beltline Roads, and Plano and Jupiter Roads. We seek to promote a vibrant and safe neighborhood with secure property values. Please mail this application with a \$25.00 check right away to become a part of the most effective and active HOA in the City of Richardson.

Step 1: Dues

Description	Amount	Mail this form and payment to
Membership dues for January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009	\$25.00	RDC-HOA PO Box 851691 Richardson, Texas 75085-1691

Please make checks payable to: RDC-HOA

Step 2: Contact Info

Please complete the following information which will be listed in the Neighborhood Directory:

Last Name(s)

First Name(s)

Please do not list names of children

Street  
Address

Phone  
Number

Neighborhood news, neighborhood protection, city issues and other important information will be sent to your email address, if provided. Your email address will remain private and NOT published in the directory.

Email 1

Email 2

Step 3: Participation

Please mark the boxes of the following areas you would like more information to assist the activities of the RDC-HOA:

- |   |   |                                    |
|---|---|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Block Captain  | <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Section Leader | <input type="checkbox"/> Directory      | <input type="checkbox"/> Social    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beautification | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership     | <input type="checkbox"/> Welcoming |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Civic          | <input type="checkbox"/> Revitalization |                                    |

Do you need a new or replacement "Duck Yard Sign?"  Yes  No

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

We can answer your questions in several ways:

- For immediate attention, please send an email to [membership@rdchoa.org](mailto:membership@rdchoa.org) or call 972-943-4663.
- Please write on the back of this form any additional questions or suggestions for the neighborhood.

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD**

The Richardson Duck Creek Homeowners' Association is a registered non-profit corporation in the State of Texas, file number 123073701.  
 RDCHOA\_Membership\_App\_2009.v02-Application.doc



# Fireworks Display

May 8 & 9,  
approximately 9 p.m.

celebrating the  
Richland College Graduation

Again this year, a fireworks display sponsored by Richland College Corporate Services will follow commencement ceremonies at approximately 9 p.m. We hope you will enjoy the fireworks display and that the sounds do not alarm or disturb you. For more information, or to watch Graduation live via webcast, visit [www.richlandcollege.edu](http://www.richlandcollege.edu).

Weather Permitting



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## Upcoming Events in Richardson!



May 2 & 3rd



May 15-16-17



May 15-16-17

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# Duck Creek

## Diocesan Spelling Bee

In January of this year, students from 32 Catholic Schools took stage at All Saints Catholic School in Dallas to compete for the title of the Diocesan Spelling Bee Champion. After two exciting hours, Victor Sandoval from our very own Duck Creek, who attends the 4th grade at Good Shepherd Catholic School won the competition.



## Improvements at Apollo/Yale Bridge Park

Look what the city has planned for our corner park at Apollo and Yale! These pictures are a representation of what the park could look like based on the city's description of the park improvements.



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# Critters of the Creek

## The Coyote (*Canis latrans*)

By Gordon Swink

For better or worse, Duck Creek lies within the active range of a variable and transient population of urban coyotes. While not frequently seen, it is a safe bet that there is a mating pair and their offspring somewhere along the creek in our neighborhood; most likely at the northwest end of our area on the Housely Farm property. If you are out along that portion of the creek after dark and an emergency vehicle happens to pass nearby with its siren wailing, you will almost certainly hear their distinctive howls.



Richardson Animal Control sets traps to catch these critters alive when they are notified of a problem. In fact, the city has a contract with a trapper whose job it is to find, capture and remove coyotes from our area. I am told that there is a “large” population of coyotes living and scavenging happily in the business and light industrial area just north and west of the intersection of Arapaho and Plano Road. Last winter, animal control personnel told me that they had taken more than two dozen of these animals out of that area and that “that was just the tip of the iceberg.”

Coyotes are slightly larger than the average sized dog. In Texas, they normally weigh about 30 pounds. They are classified as “opportunistic carnivores, (which) readily eat fish, rabbits, rodents, deer, and carrion, as well as birds, plants, insects, and even small domestic animals.” (wildtexas.com.) They are quite content to eat garbage when they can get it. Dissected coyote stomachs have also revealed vegetable matter and insects.

Interestingly enough, around 100 years ago, coyotes were not native to this part of Texas. The predominant large predator/scavenger was the red wolf. Human enterprises such as lumbering, ranching and farming eradicated the red wolf and opened up this ecosystem for the more versatile coyote.

Another rather interesting bit of trivia is that in terms of economic importance, the coyote is the second most important fur bearing animal in the state. This harvest is exceeded in dollar value only by the raccoon.

The breeding season usually begins in January and terminates around May. They only have one litter per season which might consist of anywhere from two to 12 pups. The young are nearly full grown by November. The large litters are necessary because the mortality rate is very high. Coyotes, especially pups, are vulnerable to predation from hawks or owls and even other coyotes. Few of these animals live more than six to eight years in the wild.

Coyotes can be active during daylight hours, but they are normally most active just after dusk and before sunrise. To scotch one old bit of folklore, there is no evidence that coyotes howl at the moon. “Coyote vocalizations were not related to the intensity of moonlight...but coyotes vocalized more often during nights without moonlight than on nights



with a full moon...The increased vocalizations on nights without a moon may have compensated for a presumed lower ability to see other coyotes during lower light.” (texnat.tamu.edu.)

These animals instinctively shy away from contact with humans. However, they may become habituated to people if fed, either deliberately or accidentally through poor trash disposal techniques. They are very intelligent and adaptable and quickly learn to avoid poisons and traps. And even though they not normally approach humans, there are documented instances of pets being taken by coyotes right here in our neighborhood, even in the presence of the pet owner! It is always a good idea to keep your animals secured and confined at night. Cats, which are very close to rabbit size, would no doubt be considered a welcome morsel by most coyotes.

You can howl about it if you want to, but it looks as though the coyotes are here to stay.



## North Texas Doggie Daycare Partners with The North Texas Food Bank to Kick Off Much Needed Pet Food Donation Program.



***With tough economic times forcing many families to choose between feeding themselves, or their beloved pets. One North Texas Dog Daycare, The Velvet Snout Canine Adventure Center, LLC is working with the North Texas Food Bank, to provide relief to hungry pets.***

Dallas, TX (PRWEB) 15th, April, 2009 -- In conjunction with The North Texas Food Bank, The Velvet Snout Canine Adventure Center, LLC in Richardson, TX. Kicks off it's "Hungry Snout" Pet Food Donation Program on May 1st, 2009. The program is designed to help provide pet food donations to families that are suffering through tough economic times, and to stop more family pets from ending up in our local shelters.

Velvet Snout General Manager Diana Hall says "I think it's important for us to remember that when we suffer hard economic times, our pets do too, and when people have to choose between feeding their families or their pets, often, many family pets end up at our already over-crowded shelters." "The Hungry Snout Program just seemed like a logical alternative." "In our business we hear far too many tragic stories where Mom or Dad have gotten laid off, and sadly are no longer able to afford to feed and care for their pets." "As a small business, we felt that we had to do something to help out where we could, so we decided a pet food donation program might offer a viable alternative for those pet owners who just need a little help."

Starting May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009, anyone who stops by The Velvet Snout and donates a new bag of pet food (unexpired and unopened) will be given a certificate for a free day of dog daycare as our way of saying thank you. The North Texas Food Bank has agreed to help get those donations to the people that need it. Velvet Snout Owner Laura Couch says "The Velvet Snout is going to run this program as long as there is a need for it." "We really hope someday soon that there's no longer a need, but for now, sadly, that's just not the case."

For additional information on how you can donate to the Hungry Snout Program please contact The Velvet Snout Canine Adventure Center, or visit our Website.

Contact:  
Diana Hall, General Manager  
The Velvet Snout, LLC Canine Adventure Center  
1230 E. Beltline Rd. Richardson, TX  
972-907-DOGS (3647)  
<http://www.thevelvetsnout.com>

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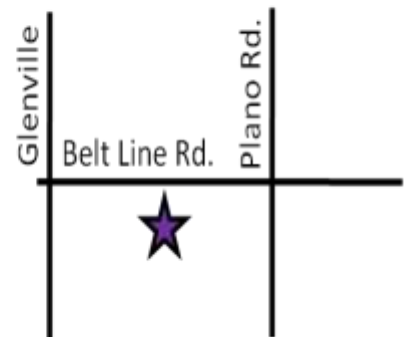
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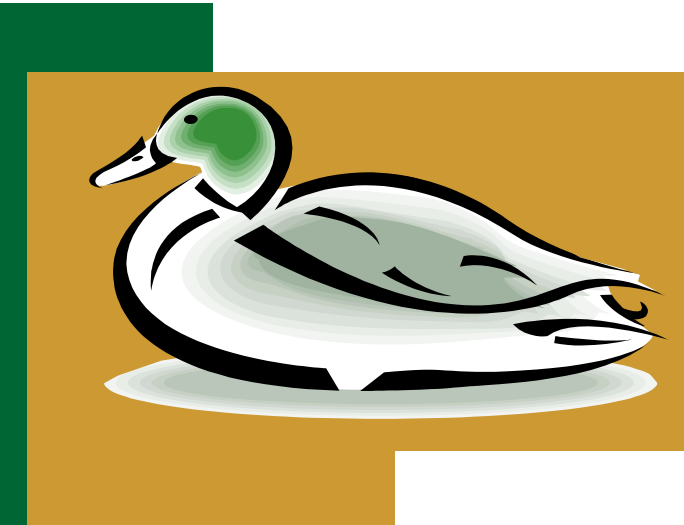
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NE Diana Clawson	972-690-5898
SE Cindy Villela	214-697-9584
HC Scott Stephenson	972-235-2600

If you would like to help with a section or committee please contact the section leader or committee chair. We are always in need of good hard workers to help with all of the committees and sections. If you have questions or concerns please feel free to contact any member of the HOA.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Yard of the Month

April through September To nominate a yard call your Section Leader.

Recycle

Recycling helps us all! Purchase your blue bags at Huffhines Recreation Center or at the City of Richardson Water Department at \$3.50 for 25.

Quacker News

If you have announcements that you think are "Quacker" worthy please email to [communications@rdchoa.org](mailto:communications@rdchoa.org).

New Yard Signs

If you need a yard sign or need a replacement yard sign please call your Section Leader.

Email Addresses

If you would like to receive informational emails from the Duck Creek Home Owners Association please email [info@rdchoa.org](mailto:info@rdchoa.org) with your email address and street address.

Retiring Old Glory

It started with 13 stars and has grown to 50. It flies over this great country of ours in so many places to numerous to mention. But, there comes a time when it deserves the honor of being retired. We all know how to do it, but never seem to have the time. If your "Old Glory" is ready for retirement, contact Jeremy Wanamaker, Cub Master-Pack 871 at 214-535-9816. The pack performs a retirement ceremony at their fall campouts.

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