

The Richardson Duck Creek Quacker

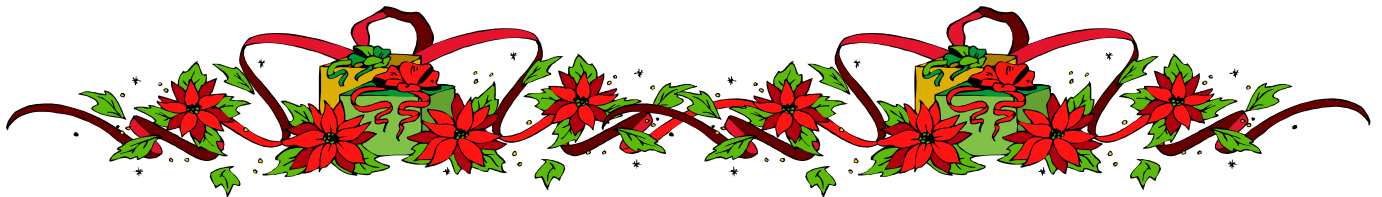


United for Fellowship, Safety and Civic Pride

Richardson Duck Creek Homeowners Association, Inc.

November 2007

Holiday Park Lighting Ceremony



Please join us Saturday December 8, 2007 for our annual Holiday Park Lighting Ceremony. The ceremony starts at 7:00 pm. Join us for hot chocolate, cookies, and holiday good cheer as we sing holiday carols and get to meet our neighbors. We encourage all our children to make decorations to hang on the trees. Hope to see you at the park at the corner of Apollo and Yale.

The Duck Creek HOA Steering Committee

Duck Creek Home Owners Association Board for 2008

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President: Scott Morrison

Vice President: Larry Menke

Secretary: Pat Maher

Treasurer: Carol Jeong

2008 Nominating Committee:

Ann Brown

John Brown

Monica Weinman

BHS Excellence in Education Fund

“B.E.E.F.”

L.V. Berkner High School, located just south of our Duck Creek neighborhood has the largest enrollment of all four high schools in the Richardson ISD. Recognized regularly, since the school’s founding in 1970, for excellence in academics, fine arts and athletics, the school wants to not only maintain these achievements but to improve upon them.

As mandated by the current “Robin Hood” system of school finance, RISD will return more than \$ 50 million dollars to the state. This equates to almost \$1 million dollars lost to each school in the district and \$1,800 less per student than the annual state average.

Obviously this funding crisis impacts every school and every student.

There is not enough money:

- to purchase state-of-the-art equipment for instruction
- to pay for leadership or SAT/ACT prep instructors
- to pay sponsors to support student participation in extracurricular competitions
- to keep class sizes smaller; to provide academic enrichments and experiences
- to award “Grants for Good Ideas” for teachers to enhance classroom academics

Richardson, J. J. Pearce and Lake Highlands, the other three high schools in the district, already have these types of funds successfully established. It is time for Berkner area residents and businesses to rise to this challenge.

The future of academic excellence at Berkner High School depends on all of us. A tax deductible investment in the Berkner Excellence in Education Fund will ensure that BHS remains a school where academic excellence is the standard and continued improvement is the goal. Contributions can be made to:

Berkner Excellence in Education Fund

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New Weekly Crime Report Availability - National Night Out Success

The following e-mail from Richardson Police Department Officer David Spigelmyer. Officer Spigelmyer works in the Crime Prevention Unit and is assigned to all of Richardson East of Central Expressway. Hence, David is the RPD liaison to our Duck Creek Crime Watch Patrol (CWP) that became fully functional in May of this year. Of special interest to many of us is the fifth paragraph that deals with the new availability of a weekly crime report for our Duck Creek community

Good Afternoon,
Before I pass on the new information regarding the crime reports, I have to let you know that I received a call from the head man at the National Association of Town Watch, Mr. Matt Peskin last week. NATW is the sponsoring agency that spearheads National Night Out across our country.

Mr. Peskin was really impressed with our community and how we bond together not only for NNO but for everything. He stated we had the all the proper elements in place that make our NNO's so successful and the biggest element of that equation is our Crime Watch membership! In fact, Mr. Peskin made mention of some comments that we sent in over two years ago and they have portions of our post project report on the bulletin board for all to see up there in Pennsylvania.

Last Thursday I had a meeting with the chief of police, a lieutenant and sergeant from the San Angelo Police Department who wanted a detailed description of how we conduct our NNO and why our program is nationally known.

I cannot think of a greater honor than have the head man from NATW and another police agency call or visit RPD in the same week and they want to hear about our citizen crime fighters! Everyone of you should be given a pat on the back and a hug for all of your hard work and your efforts to make our community the very best! Thank you all for allowing me to brag about what you have done and what you are doing that makes Richardson so very special.

Now for some other news. The Police Department has upgraded the Crime Map and there is a sign up box on the web site. When you sign up you will receive a weekly crime report from the previous week from the Richardson areas you requested. The report is upgraded every Sunday. There is no fee and once you are signed up you will not have to continue pulling up the crime map because the information will automatically be sent to you. Please go to www.cor.net and then click on the police department. You will see a map of the city and a link to sign up. Please check out the new site.

I look forward to another banner year with you being the foundation on which we build a safer community. Please don't forget to close those garage doors, remove valuables from your car, secure those purses and keys, be alert, and share a smile with a neighbor!

Have a wonderful day!

David Spigelmyer
Crime Prevention Officer
Richardson Police Dept.
972-744-4908
fax-972-744-5941
david.spigelmyer@cor.gov



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The Drake/Tulane/ Columbia/Wake forest/Woodhill Circle Crime Watch always has a huge turnout for National Night Out !!

Photos by Marie Talamini





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Neighborhood Revitalization

by Larry Menke, HOA Revitalization Committee Chairperson

Fall is a good time for all of us to go out in the yard and spend a few minutes looking at our trees and landscaping. Most of the homes in the Duck Creek area are 30 years or older. A large number of those small trees and scrubs that were planted in the late 70's have now had time to grow into massive trees and they can easily dwarf our yards. A good indication of this is tree limbs growing over property lines, rubbing on residence walls and roofs, and draping over pools, power lines and alleys. Also, do you have problems growing grass under the big trees due to too much shade? If you haven't already done this, strongly consider having a professional tree service trim or thin out your trees. For a reasonable cost this can make a huge improvement in your home's appearance and the increased sun light filtering to the ground will help the growth of your grasses and scrubs. The professionals can do this job quickly and safely, and most will either haul off the debris or pile it in your front yard for City of Richardson (COR) bulky trash pickup. (Don't forget to call COR in advance and request a pickup. Bulky trash pickup for our area is Thursday mornings).

Look at all of your landscaping and flower beds. Are they a little outdated? Over years, those wax leaf ligustrums, red tip photinias, and 'dwarf' yaupons can take over the flower beds. If this is the case, start making plans to redo the landscaping and flower beds before next growing season. This will improve the appearance of the property and maintain your property value. Local nurseries can suggest plants that are easy to maintain and are recommended for our North Texas climate. Look around our neighborhood and you will see that several residents have added new rock borders

and/or accent lights to their landscaping that really showcases their new landscaping. If you don't have a sprinkler system, this may also be a good time to consider installing one. With water restrictions looking like something all North Texans will have to learn to live with, a sprinkler system with a timer to allow controlled watering during late night or early morning hours is fast becoming a "need" rather than a "want." (Keep in mind this time of the year sprinkler contractors do not normally have a backlog of work and they may be willing to offer you a discounted price to get your business.)

While you're at it, take a good look at your neighbor's homes, maybe they also could stand to do some work to improve the appearance of their residence and landscape. A suggestion may be all it takes to get your neighbors to upgrade their property. Remember, we all have a stake in doing whatever we can to maintain and improve the overall image and appearance of our Duck Creek neighborhood. Let's continue to keep our neighborhood neat and appealing for years to come, and make it a place where future generations will want to call "Home".

Those Who Serve

Those of us who've never gone don't always understand the sacrifices that you made protecting hearth and land.

We take for granted our freedom and forget to count the cost, to those who protect that freedom from war and holocaust.

So, this simple poem is a "Thank You" to tell you someone cares and that you are remembered in our hearts and in our prayers.



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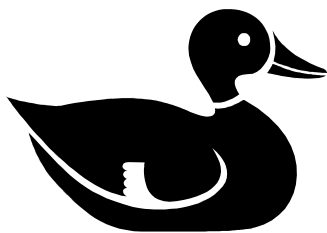
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Neighborhood Stabilization

by David Clawson, HOA Civic Chairperson

The City of Richardson is concerned about our neighborhoods and has created an advisory panel to review current policies and ensure future preservation of these neighborhoods. At the work session on November 5th, the advisory board gave their recommendations. They decided that neighborhood preservation should be initiated within the neighborhood itself. Richardson has a wide diversity of architecture and the board felt that if a neighborhood wanted to preserve the look of the area they live in, they should be pro-active and take internal steps for preservation. The advisory board is calling the process of preservation Neighborhood Stabilization Overlays or (NSO) The NSO goal is not to restrict new construction, remodeling and expansion, but to build with a certain architectural style in mind to keep a distinctive look of a neighborhood or section of a neighborhood. The NSO can be set up by a committee of at least ten property owners within a certain size area. They must sign and submit an application to be considered.

If this is something you want to investigate, you may visit the city web site for the details and contact the HOA. We can see if there is enough interest to standardize our architecture within Duck Creek and keep developers from building something that doesn't fit our neighborhood.



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A letter from the President.....

Hello neighbors, the end of 2007 is upon us. The kids are gearing up for the holidays, parents are making lists and checking them twice. We are all beginning to feel the excitement of the coming season. We also need to consider our homeowners association for next year. Now is the time to consider joining the Board of Directors or one of our committees.

VOLUNTEER POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Do you have talents going unused? Do you have an hour or so that you could spend improving the quality of life for you and your neighbors? If so, we have many opportunities to show your stuff. Would you like to be a Block Captain and be a vital link with the Section Chairpersons? Do you enjoy gardening and beautification? Are you interested in crime prevention? How about communications? You could use your talents to turn out a better newsletter than this one! We have many opportunities to participate in making our neighborhood the great and desirable place it is. If you are interested, email us at: info@rdchoa.org

Have a safe and happy holiday season

Rick Wilder

Welcome, welcome

by Barb Davenport, Welcoming Committee Chairperson

We've been busy the past few months welcoming several new families to our neighborhood. It's nice to meet such friendly people who are very pleased to live in the Duck Creek area. Some of these new homeowners already have friends and family in the area, but many have relocated from far distances.

If you know of someone new to your block, please let us know so that we can visit and deliver a welcome packet to them. Call me at 972-690-8376 or email at Barbdavenport@sbcglobal.net.

2007 DUCK CREEK HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS

General Officers

President Rick Wilder 972-644-9327
Vice President 972-783-7095
Secretary William Patrick Maher 972-783-8611
Treasurer Monica Weinman 972-234-2363

Committee Chair Persons

Beautification Michael Wortman (Interim)..... 972-235-1036
Civic David Clawson..... 972-690-5898
Communications Gordon Swink (Interim)..... 972-238-8118
Directory Travis Weinman..... 972-234-3478
Membership Scott Morrison..... 972-690-5774
Revitalization Larry Menke..... 972-783-1532
Safety Darryl Brown 972-783-9939
Social Barbara & Jerry Nauyokas 972-690-3819
Welcoming Barbara Davenport 972-690-8376

Section Leaders

NW Kyle Peavy 972-571-1722
SW Dorothy Hill 972-238-7436
NE Diana Clawson 972-690-5898
SE Kathy & Richard Quintana..... 972-480-8536
HC Gordon Swink 972-238-8118

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, \$3.50 for 25.

Quacker News

If you have announcements that you think are "Quacker" worthy, please call RDCHOA at 972-943-4663 or email at info@rdchoa.org.

New Yard Signs

If you need a yard sign or need a replacement yard sign please call Scott Morrison at 972-690-5774 or email at scott@ti.com

Email Addresses

If you would like to receive informational emails from the Duck Creek Home Owners Association please call Scott Morrison at 972-690-5774 or email at scott@ti.com

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 Greg Duvall, Cub Master-Pack 871 at 972-699-0024. The pack performs a retirement ceremony at their fall campouts. Isn't it great! When one is retired, another takes its place to proudly fly over this great country of ours.



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The Duck Creek Quacker is published and distributed four times a year. If you or someone you know would like to advertise with us please contact: RDCHOA at 972-943-4663 or by email at info@rdchoa.org.

2007 DUCK CREEK HOA DATES

- Dec 8** Holiday Lighting Ceremony (Apollo & Yale) 7:00pm
- Dec 13** Board Meeting

ALL BOARD MEETINGS WILL BE IN THE DARTMOUTH TEACHERS LOUNGE EXCEPT JUNE AND AUGUST. THE TIME IS 7:00PM. JUNE AND AUGUST LOCATION TBD.

Newsletter Advertising Rates

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- Full Page \$100.00



Attention: Southeast Section

Anyone interested in being a block captain please call us. We'd like to have block captains that can help pass out yard-signs and membership directories, etc. Block captains could also let us know if there is a new family moving onto your street. We would like to invite those new families to be a part of the Duck Creek Homeowners Association and to make them feel welcome to our neighborhood. We look forward to seeing everyone at the October meeting.

Kathy & Richard Quintana
972-480-8535



Help!

The RDCHOA is looking for a new editor for the *Quacker*. Requirements: Must be reasonably literate. Must be able to work with short deadlines and late article submissions. Ability to deal with Post Office personnel an absolute must. Desire to serve neighborhood a strong plus. A late model computer with good graphics programs would be nice too.

If you are reading this, you know that the *Quacker* is a great tool for getting information and announcements of local interest out to our area. It is an opportunity to get involved and make a positive contribution to the community. For the right person , it would be a very fulfilling creative outlet.

If you would like more information, please feel free to contact me. I would be more than happy to give you the unvarnished lowdown on the job.

Happy Holidays.

Gordon Swink
972-238-8118/gordonswink@sbcglobal.net



Duck Creek Crime Watch Patrol



Kathy Quintana



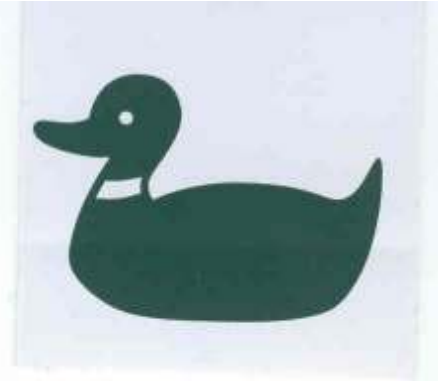
Michael Gonzales



Richard and Nancy Wilder

A Duck That Represents ALL Duck Creek Residents

Your Richardson Duck Creek Homeowners Association (RDCHOA) has created, purchased and, with the help of our Duck Creek Crime Watch Patrol (CWP), will be delivering to you a unique and descriptive sticker for each of your vehicles. What would be more descriptive for a Duck Creek vehicle than a duck. Yes - a single dark green with white neck band, duck covering most of the 2" by 2" white background. There are no words, no slogan, and no catchy phrases. Just our green Duck Creek duck. Curious? Interested? Well, here is exactly what your sticker will look like:



Who will get these stickers?

ALL Duck Creek residents will get one 2" by 2" sticker for each of their vehicles.

How will we receive our stickers?

The stickers will be personally delivered. Your 27 CWP members will take the lead with the delivery process. They will be assisted by some HOA folks. The 5 Quadrant Leaders, each Block Captain, and many of the HOA board members will participate.

What will we do with the sticker?

Each sticker will be applied to the outside of the rear window of the vehicle. For uniformity and optimal visibility, the sticker will be placed on the lower portion of the driver's side. For some vehicles, the sticker may be more visible if moved upward somewhat. The slope of the rear window and current stickers may influence final location.

Why does Duck Creek have these stickers?

First, we would like to further develop and symbolize our Duck Creek pride. We want other motorists to observe and think "what does the green duck mean?" Have you looked at some of the individualized license plates and tried to figure out what the numbers and/or letters were trying to say? **Second**, we would like to increase the effectiveness of our Crime Watch Patrol. They are touring your streets and alleys looking for criminal activity or crime clues. The Duck Creek sticker on your vehicles tells the CWP crew that those vehicles belong in Duck Creek. If a vehicle is parked in your driveway and two men are loading a TV, that vehicle had better have a green duck sticker in the lower driver side of the rear window. The absence of the Duck Creek sticker will be another CLUE that further investigation is indicated.

What do we do if we have further questions or comments?

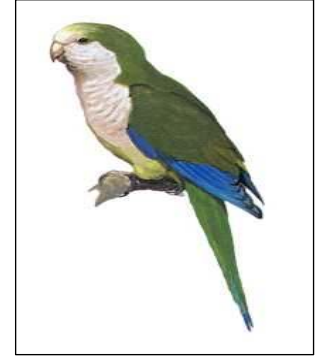
The best mechanism is to go onto the HOA web site at www.rdchoa.org and utilize one of the active links to create a written question or comment. The HOA web site also provides the names and phone numbers of board members if you don't have internet capability or if you just want to speak with a live body.

Darryl E. Brown
HOA Safety Chairperson
1804 Tulane Drive

Critters of the Creek

If you maintain a bird feeder in this neighborhood, you have probably seen some new comers to our area.

The first and, by far, most exotic is an import from South America called a Monk Parakeet. It is called a Monk or Quaker parakeet because it's gray face reminded birdwatchers of a monk's hood. A bright green bird, slightly larger than a blue jay, it has gray under parts, a long green tail and bright blue/green flight feathers.



This noisy bird lives in flocks and loves commercial birdseed. It is regarded as an agricultural pest in it's native Argentina. It is also considered non-migratory, so the birds you see are going to stay here. Since it is a native of South American uplands it is more easily acclimated to our weather than some other exotics.



Another relatively new arrival to our feeders is the White-Winged Dove. A bit larger than the more common Mourning Dove, this native of northern Mexico and the Rio Grande Valley has been moving north over the past few decades. Interestingly, ornithologists report that it's colonization route follows a northerly track along I 35.

It is recognized by the defining white wing patches clearly visible when at rest or in flight. It also has a short, rounded tail rather than the longer, narrower tail of the Mourning Dove. The tail itself has white patches.

The Eurasian Collared-Dove is a beautiful new import. Its original range was warmer temperate regions from southeastern Europe to Japan. This is a small dove, buff grey with a darker back and a blue-grey wing patch. The tail feathers are tipped white. It has a black half-collar on its nape from which it gets its name. The short legs are red and the bill is black. The iris is reddish brown, but from a distance the eyes appear to be black, as the pupil is relatively large and only a narrow rim of reddish-brown eye color can be seen around the black pupil.



This is a gregarious species, and winter flocks will form where there are food supplies such as grain. Its impact on native species is as yet unknown; it appears to occupy an ecological niche between that of the Mourning Dove and Rock Pigeon.

If you sight any other out-of-the-ordinary birds in our area I would be very interested to hear of them.

Gordon Swink
Hidden Creek Section Leader
gordonswink@sbcglobal.net





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Please use the Hotline to call about: births, deaths, new neighbors, promotions, addresses for nomination of Yard of the Month, questions/concerns about neighborhood, leaving a message for a Board member, needing new yard sign, information to be included in newsletter, reservations for meals at membership meetings, etc.