The Richardson Duck Creek Quacker

Richardson Duck Creek Homeowners Association, Inc.

June 2007

"The Spirit of America"

United for Fellowship, Safety and Civic Pride

June 30th marks the fourth year that Duck Creek has celebrated our nation's independence with its own tribute. This year we are honored to have as our Grand Marshals several *Tuskegee Airmen*, the famed pilots from WWII.

Captain Claude R. Platte Mr. Platte served as a primary flight instructor, training over 300 black airmen to solo and fly PT13's, PT17's and PT19's. He was assigned to the 301st Training Squadron and was the first black officer to be trained and commissioned in the newly opened Air Force Pilot Training Program at Randolph Field AFB, Texas, the "West Point of the Air." Among the famous pilots who soared under his tutelage was Norman Scales Sr., a Texan who flew 70 missions over enemy territories earning the Distinguished Flying Cross and Certificate of Valor.

Lt. Calvin J. Spann Mr. Spann received his wings at Tuskegee, graduating in Class 44G. He trained in the P-47 Thunderbolt in Walterboro, South Carolina in preparation for overseas combat duty. He was a member of the 100th Fighter Squadron which was part of the legendary 332nd Fighter Group. His commanding officer was Benjamin O. Davis Jr. Spann flew 26 combat missions completing his tour in Italy.

Sgt. John Flanagan Mr. Flanagan served as a communications technician. Flanagan maintained military records and provided communications for officers and enlisted personnel. John Flanagan was attached to the 1316 Engineer Battalion, 93rd Infantry and the 935 Air Base Security Battalion. Inspired by the opportunities for blacks in this era, Flanagan went on to secure a private pilot's license and flew such planes as the Cessna, P39, P40, P51.

The festivities will begin with introductions of all of our guests including the Mayor and City Council, the Police Chief, the Deputy Chief and the Dallas County Commissioner at 10:00am in front of Dartmouth Elementary. At 10:30am "God Bless America" and our "National Anthem" will be played followed by a flyover and the beginning of a great event.

At the conclusion of the parade please come and enjoy the traditional picnic lunch at Huffhines Pavilion consisting of hot dogs, apple pie, BLUE BELL ice cream and an ice cold COKE.

This is a parade you will not want to miss so your Duck Creek HOA Board invites you to line the route and welcome everyone with a lot of cheers and applause.

Don't be left out! Wagons, bicycles, floats, walkers, costumes are welcome to participate. Email Bill Denton at billdenton2003@sbcglobal.net and let him know who, what and how many will be in the parade. This will be a lot of fun with lots of BIG SURPRISES.

NOTE: If you live on the parade route (see page 7) please do not park your vehicles on the street between 10:00am and 11:30am.

U.S. Congressman Pete Sessions (R-TX32)



Special guest United States Congressman Pete Sessions will also be on hand. A conservative community leader, United States Congressman Sessions has combined hard work, innovative thinking, free-market solutions and common sense principles and values to build a successful family, business, and congressional career. Congressman Sessions was born on March 22, 1955 and grew up in Waco, Texas. He graduated from Southwestern University in 1978, and married Juanita Diaz in 1984. They have two sons, Bill (age 17) and Alex (age 13), and they make their home in East Dallas.

Yards of the Month

Southwest Section

June 1600 University Sid and Carolyn Kelley



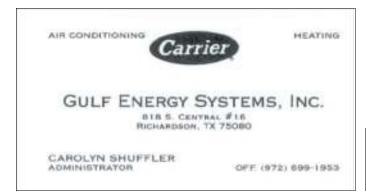
Southeast Section

May 202 Mistletoe Jeff and Kim Lott

Hidden Creek

May 1516 Creekside Drive Larry and Sylvia Pendley

June 405 Shadow Bend Bert and Linda Topper







Northwest Section

Light up the Neighborhood

Front Porch Lights: Meant To Be Turned On By Scott Morrison

Only a single street lamp illuminates most Duck Creek neighborhood streets at night. Besides our major roads—Yale Blvd and Apollo Road—the city-funded street lamps provide spotty but up-to-code coverage throughout our neighborhood.

We can do better with a simple solution: Please turn on your front porch lights at night.

While walking our yellow Labrador in the evenings, especially during the dark winter months, my wife and I noticed the brilliant difference made by just a few porch lights. An otherwise dark sidewalk becomes navigable—and safer—with a few houses having their front porch lights on at night. Imagine the impact of more residents helping to illuminate their streets at night?

You might be surprised at the low cost of operating a single 100-watt incandescent light bulb for 10 hours every night for a full year: roughly \$50, which is less than \$4.25 per month. You can save even more money by using a compact fluorescent bulb with equivalent light output for less than one-fourth the operating cost of a traditional bulb. Residents with dual outside fixtures may find that using two 60-watt bulbs is sufficient for lighting their yards.

To make life easier than manually turning on and off the light switch every day, I installed an inexpensive in-wall timer that replaced the traditional light switch. It would be equally as inexpensive to install a photo sensor in your existing light fixture. By leaving the wall switch in the 'on' position, the photo sensor would automatically turn on at dusk and off at dawn.

Another way to help neighborhood safety is to immediately report broken street lights by calling **TXU** at **1-888-313-4747**. Listen to all options in order to select "Report street or guard light outage."

A simple way to improve the safety and comfort of our neighborhood, turning on your front porch lights at night will provide a noticeable difference in street illumination at a low cost to homeowners.



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Contact

RDCHOA at 972- 943-4663 or by email at info@rdchoa.org.

Newsletter editor wanted.

Safety Alert by Rick Wilder

On Tuesday May 15th, we HOA presidents and some council members met at City Hall to express our concerns to ONCOR's Bill Harper.

We wanted to ensure that affected residents are notified before ONCOR subcontractors start pruning trees whose branches overhang utility lines. Mr. Harper was very pleasant to work with and he agreed to the following:

- ONCOR will leave a door hanger notice 3-5 days prior to that resident's trees being pruned.
- HOA presidents would be emailed in advance of the ENCOR teams coming out.

Each time ONCOR crews come (about every 4 yrs), they prune back 6-10 feet from the lines (to account for line sway, branch sway and future growth).

"Emergency pruning" is done to restore powerthat's what occurred after our last storm when over 300,000 residences were affected.

According to the DMN article (see accompanying *To prevent Oak Wilt*): each branch should be treated with "pruning paint" immediately after cutting--not after the tree is fully pruned. If you're there, or if a neighbor can oversee for you, you can ask for this. Also, you can ask the crew to disinfect their equipment before cutting your trees (w/bleach solution--you may want to have some on hand, in case they don't).

Once trees touch the utility lines, you can NOT hire an arborist/pruner to trim the branches, UNLESS that person is LICENSED to do so. Suggestion: prune your trees BEFORE they touch the lines.

Here is what John Murphy (City Council member) wrote Stephen Springs, our HPNA Civics Chair:

"I tried to get my regular trimmers, Arbological Services, to do the work but they were not certified to work around power lines. In fact, very few tree trimmers have the insulated equipment to do the dangerous work around power lines and therefore when you find someone they charge a fortune."

Prevent Oak Wilt Dallas' Stately Trees In Danger

08:35 AM CDT Thursday, May 10, 2007

By REBECCA PERRY / Special Contributor to The Dallas Morning News

Oak wilt, the devastating disease that has killed millions of oak trees in Central and West Texas counties, is infecting trees in the Dallas area, according to the Texas Forest Service. Making the situation worse, strong winds accompanying recent storms have wrenched limbs from trunks to create open wounds that can be infected by the fungus in an instant.

"It is definitely a major problem in the Dallas area," says Matt Grubisich, a regional

igus in an instant.

Matt Grubisich, a regiona

urban forester with the Richardson Duck Creek Homeowners Association, Inc.

Texas Forest Service, "with some sections worse than others. It's more of a problem in neighborhoods that have older, established live oaks and red oaks."

While any oak can get the disease, live oaks and red oaks (including Shumard, Spanish and blackjack oaks) are the most susceptible. White oaks (including post, bur and chinkapin oaks) are resistant to the fungus and rarely die from the disease. But oak wilt can kill a live oak within six to 12 months and a red oak in just four to eight weeks.

The culprit

Spores from the disease-causing fungus Ceratocystis fagacearum clog the tree's water-conducting system. A group of old oak trees will develop a common, interconnected root system, with one tree's roots grafting onto others' roots. Once one tree becomes infected, the spores can travel throughout the entire group of trees. If your neighborhood has been around for 30 to 60 years or more, you especially want to be familiar with oak wilt symptoms and realize that your oak trees are at great risk.

The carriers

Oak wilt also is spread through sap-feeding nitidulid beetles. The tiny beetles are attracted to fungal mats that can form underneath the bark of a red oak tree; the mats smell something like a rotten banana. The beetles feed on the mats, get covered inside and out with fungal spores, then fly off in search of other food.

Freshly wounded oak trees also have a sweet smell that attracts the beetles. Therefore, if a contaminated beetle feeds on a cut in a healthy oak tree, it can spread the fungus.

Mr. Grubisich can only theorize how the disease has spread to North Texas, but he suggests firewood transported to the city from other regions could be a cause. Should the fungus develop under the firewood's bark, the beetle is attracted to the smell of the fungus, feeds on it, then feeds on a pruning cut on an oak near the stack of firewood. That's how the disease could get a foothold in a neighborhood.

Because the beetles are most active and fungal mats are most likely to form in mild weather, the Texas Forest Service advises against pruning oak trees from February to June. The best times to prune, in terms of lowering the chances of oak wilt infection, are when the tree is not active: either in the dead of winter or during the hottest part of the summer. "Whenever you don't want to be outside is usually a good time to prune," says Mr. Grubisich.

In light of recent storm damage, where pruning wounds on trees are unavoidable, it is important to take extra precautions to prevent infection. There is no cure for oak wilt once it strikes.

Pruning paint

No matter when you prune an oak tree, immediately treat the cuts with a pruning paint. It only takes a few seconds for a tree to become infected, warns Mr. Grubisich. Do not go through a tree making all the necessary cuts, then come back and paint over the wounds. Make one cut, then paint over the cut area.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

While it hasn't been proven that the disease can be spread through contaminated tools, Mr. Grubisich also suggests disinfecting pruners when moving from tree to tree. If an arborist comes to prune your trees, request that the tools be disinfected before trimming your trees. A mild bleach solution should suffice.

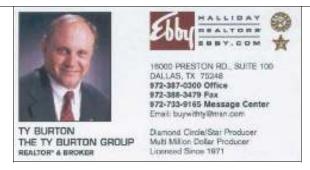
Halt the spread

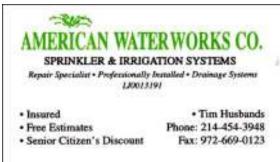
In an oak wilt infection area, there are two techniques used to stop the spread of the disease, but they are difficult, costly and must be conducted by a professional. Arborists can sever the root connections between live oaks or a dense group of red oaks by trenching at least 4 feet deep and 100 feet beyond the perimeter of an infection center. Application of the fungicide **propiconazole** as a preventative can reduce oak wilt symptoms in live oaks. However, the fungicide does not stop the transmission of the fungus, and application must be timed carefully with the arrival of the disease.

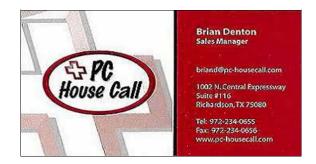
"There is no silver bullet, no treatment for oak wilt," says Mr. Grubisich. His best advice: Watch your neighbors' trees for signs of oak wilt to know whether your own trees are in danger. If you know oak wilt is in your area, he advises not planting live oaks or red oaks at all.

To help prevent new infections, try to burn all firewood by spring. If you cannot, do not store unseasoned firewood near healthy oak trees. In addition, you should cover it with clear plastic, burying the edges of the plastic. Cut and dispose of diseased red oaks immediately.

Rebecca Perry is an Ellis County freelance writer.







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DUCK CREEK INDEPENDENCE PARADE June 30, 2007

(FORMING AREA IN FRONT OF DARTMOUTH ELEMENTARY)

Introduction of Guests - 10:05am, National Anthem - 10:30am (Flyover), Parade Start - 10:35am

- 1 Police Car
- **2** Fire Rescue Unit
- 3 Red Dodge Magnum "The Spirit of America"
- 4 Tuskegee Airmen (Grand Marshals)
- 5 Marine Honor Guard
- 6 Army Honor Guard
- 7 Navy Honor Guard
- 8 Air Force Honor Guard
- 9 Coast Guard Auxiliary
- 10 Congressman Pete Sessions
- 11MayorSlagel12Mayor Pro TemMurphy13Council Member Place 1Townsend14Council Member Place 2Allison
- 15 Council Member Place 5 (To be determined in run off election)
- 16Council Member Place 6'Mitchell17Council Member Place 7Stewart18Police ChiefZacharias19County Commis. Deputy Cof SChris Davis20HOA PresidentWilder
- 21. Rough Rider Mascot
- 22. Residents---Walkers, Riders, Cars, Floats
- 23. HOA's and Vintage Cars
- 24 Music
- 25. Embroid Me
- 26. Quiznos
- 27. Christensen Tire Company
- 28. LA Fitness
- 29. Super Suppers
- 30. PC House Call
- 31. Babe's Chicken Dinner Fire Truck
- 32. Police Car and Parade End

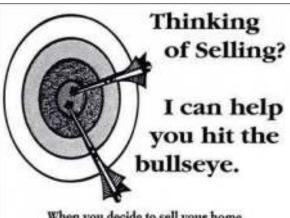






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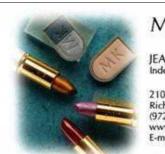
Call me today for details I AM HERE FOR YOU!



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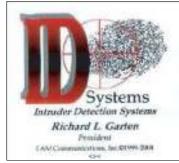




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Preside	nt Rick	Wi	lder	 	 	

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972-783-7095
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972-690-8376

Section Leaders

972-571-1722
972-238-7436
972- 690-5898
972- 480-8536
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 August nominate a yard. 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.

Play Group

Neighborhood play groups meet on Thursday afternoons or Friday mornings. If you are interested in joining a play group, please call Cheryl Payton at 972-235-9221 or email rcpay2000@yahoo.com

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

2007 DUCK CREEK HOA DATES

Jun 14 Board Meeting

Jun 30 (Sat.) 4th Annual Independence Day Parade Dart

mouth 10:30am

Aug 9 Board Meeting
Sep 13 Board Meeting
Oct 11 Board Meeting

Oct 18 Fall General Business Meeting Dartmouth

6:30pm

Nov 8 Board Meeting

Nov 17 Holiday Decoration Set-Up Apollo & Yale

9:00am

Dec 8 Holiday Lighting Ceremony Apollo & Yale

7:00pm

Dec 13 Board Meeting

THIS SPACE COULD BE YOURS

The Duck Creek Quacker is published and distributed 4 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.

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



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We would like to thank the sponsors who donated food for our parade picnic.

Coca Cola Blue Bell Ice Cream Eckrich Foods

Special thanks to Duck Creek neighbor Frank Lanza for donating the hot dog buns.



Street Parking Creates Problems

There has been some concern that more and more cars are being parked on our neighborhood streets. This not only makes our neighborhood look cluttered, but it also affects the safety of you and your neighbors.

Cars parked in the street could delay emergency personnel such as police and paramedics from reaching their destination in a timely fashion. This also hinders speedy delivery of your mail.

Most important are our children who may appear from behind these parked cars with little or no warning. Please remember to park your vehicles in your driveway or garage when possible.

Congratulations by Dorothy Hill

Congratulations to Diane Brilz and the Rich-Tone Chorus for bringing home the Gold last October when they took 1st place in the annual Sweet Adelines International Chorus Competition in Las Vegas, Nevada. This is the fourth gold medal championship for the Chorus. They earned their first three titles in 1992, 1995 and 1998, becoming the first chorus in the history of Sweet Adelines to win three consecutive International Championships. Diane and her family live at 308 Amherst.

DUCK CREEK CRIME WATCH PA-TROLS by Sharon Swink

Perhaps you have noticed a slow moving car in the neighborhood recently; quietly driving up and down streets and alley with a magnetic sign on the sides and back that announce "Crime Watch Patrol." In recent months, more than

____ Duck Creek homeowners have been trained to participate in this civilian volunteer crime prevention service.

Following six hours classroom training and a test provided by the Richardson Police Department, the volunteers were then trained by experienced representatives from the Spring Ridge Crime Watch Patrol, in two, two hour segments. These training sessions were given during patrols, where the volunteers got "hands-on" practice.

Luckily, so far the main complaint in our neighborhoods seems to be OGD – Open Garage Doors! When possible, the Crime Watch Patrollers notify the resident so that the door, if left up accidentally, can be closed. Open garage doors account for a lot of opportunistic robberies. Let's keep those doors closed!

Patrollers are trained to be alert for suspicious looking individuals, things that seem "out of place" or anything that might signify that something is just not right.

Burglars who might be "casing" our area hopefully become aware that we have an active crime watch patrol, and will seek business in other neighborhoods! Preferably, far from Duck Creek.

Frank Krejci is the Crime Watch Patrol Coordinator for Duck Creek. Group meetings are held once a month on the third Wednesday at Dartmouth Elementary when possible. If you are interested in finding out more about the Duck Creek Crime Watch, please call Frank at 972 690 9829 or send him an email at fekrejci@sbcglobal.net



Richardson Duck Creek Quacker Richardson Duck Creek Homeowners Association P.O. Box 851691 Richardson, TX 75085-1691 PRSRT STD U.S. POSTAGE PAID RICHARDSON, TX PERMIT NO. 1042

TO:			

Richardson Duck Creek Hotline: 972-943-4663

www.rdchoa.org

Please use to call about: births, deaths, new addresses neighbors, promotions, for nomination of Yard Month, the 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.

Dear Neighbor,

Richardson Duck Creek Homeowners Association (RDC-HOA) applications and dues for <u>2003 membership</u> are now being accepted. Among many other activities, RDC-HOA maintains a strong voice at City Hall, promotes neighborhood camaraderie and beautification, and is devoted to helping maintain home values in our "square mile" neighborhood. Your financial support makes sure we can continue to do good things for this area. When your dues are received, we will provide you with a "Duck Yard Sign," if you need one, and a 2003 sticker to be placed on your sign. Thank you for your participation and support.

Cut out application form and mail back in

2003 RDC-HOA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Dues of \$25 payable to: RDC-HOA P.O. Box 851691 Richardson, TX 75085-1691



DIRECTORY INFORMATION

Please show your r	name(s) and how you would like th	nem listed. Do 1	not list ch	<u>ildren</u> .	
Last Name(s)	Name(s) First Name(s)				
Street Address	Tel. No				
Your occupation & E-mail addi	ess will be kept on file but will n	ot be included	in the di	rectory.	
First Name(s)	Occupation	E-mail Address			
Would you like to be <u>added</u> to	the broadcast E-mail listing for	RDC-HOA?		TES	_ NO
Block Captain Section Leader Beautification Civic Communications Directory	Membership Revitalization Safety Social				
Do you need a new or replacen Require new wood stake only?	<u> </u>		YES _	NO	
Your signature		Date	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
Thank you very much for your	participation and support.				

Top Four RDC-HOA Goals



Promote neighborhood cohesiveness and stability Protect the residential character of the community Maintain a high level of appearance in the neighborhood Promote safety in the neighborhood



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