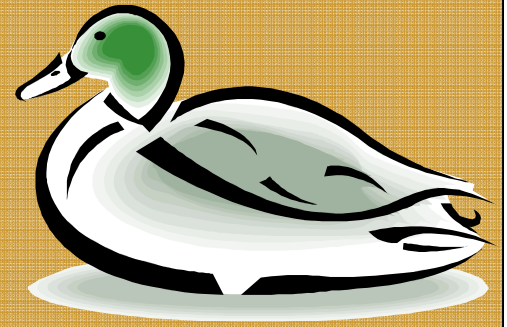


The Richardson Duck Creek Quacker

United for Fellowship, Safety and Civic Pride



Richardson Duck Creek Homeowners Association, Inc.

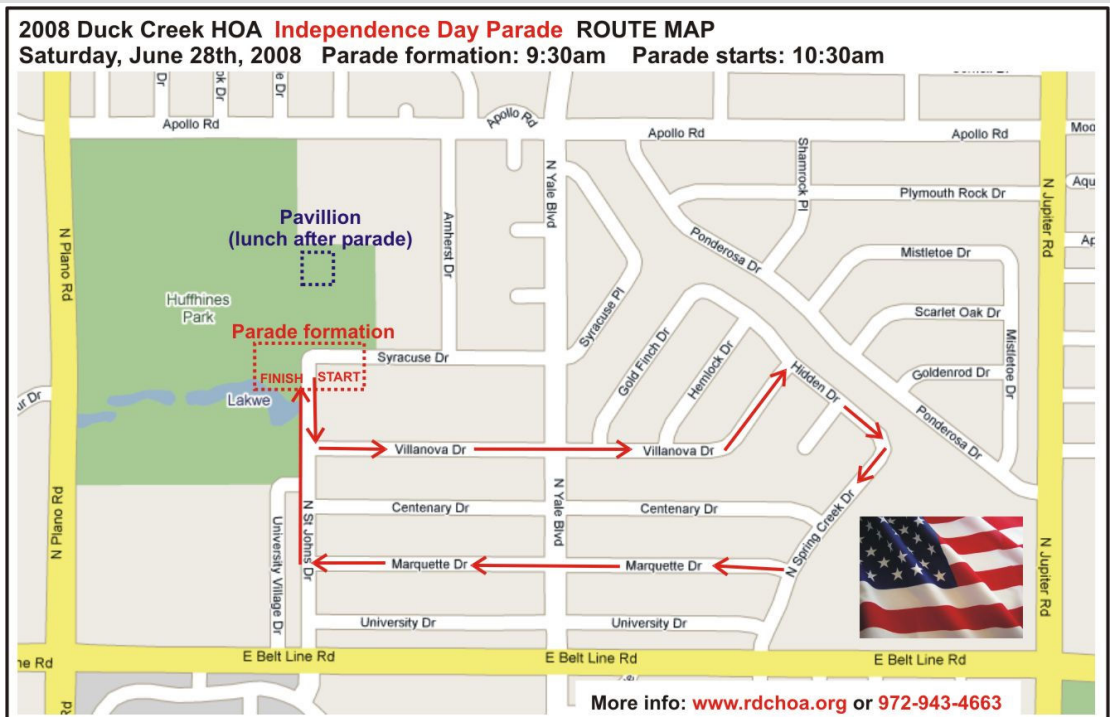
5TH ANNUAL DUCK CREEK PARADE : June 28th

The Duck Creek Annual Independence Day Parade will wind its way through the neighborhood Saturday, June 28th. Joining us will be the Mayor, City Council, Police and Fire Chiefs, Scottish Rite Hospital, Honor Guards from all branches of Service, The Eisemann Center, The Citizens Fire Academy Alumni Association, but most of all **you** the residents of Duck Creek. Put on your costumes, dress up your bikes and wagons and join us. This year the parade will form in the parking lot behind Huffhines Park at 9:30am. Introductions will begin at 10:00am and the parade will commence at 10:30am following our National Anthem and a flyover. We will go down St. Johns, Villanova, Hidden Drive, North Spring Creek, Marquette and back to the park for the picnic. The picnic will include Hot Dogs, Blue Bell Ice Cream, soft drinks and a special treat this year will be Snow Cones, popcorn and a Bounce House. The Richardson Fire Department will have its Child Safety House in the park. This is a great opportunity for the young ones in the neighborhood to learn what to do in case of a fire. Invite your friends over for a morning of fun as the parade comes down your street. Please do not park your automobiles on the parade route between 9:30am and 11:30am.

CONVERTIBLES NEEDED FOR PARADE.....

If you have a convertible and would like to participate in this year's parade, please call Bill Denton at 972-783-7095.

We need 6.



How to Help Your Plants Get Through the Hot Summer!

By Kevin Dilliard CA, CTP, CGM Assistant Director of Landscape-Grounds

As we get closer to those dog days of Summer, there are some things that we can do to help our landscape make it till Fall. Let's begin with what is under foot. The best thing you can do for your lawn is to irrigate deep and infrequently so the roots will grow deep into the soil. By having the roots grow deep, they will be able to withstand long periods of drought and will require less water. You can also fertilize the lawn during the active growing season which makes the turf healthier and helps it withstand any attack from disease or insects. The last thing you can do is mow your lawn at the highest recommended setting for your specific turf type. This will reduce the stress on the turf and will help shade its roots.

If you have planted a new tree recently, there are some things you can do to help them. The first is to mulch around the trees. The ring should be no more than 2-3 inches deep and the width should be 12 inches for every inch in tree diameter. Keep the mulch away from the base of the tree. The next thing is to make sure the tree is getting sufficient water during its establishment period. You should water the tree until the water will no longer soak into the soil, then let it stand for a couple of days before you water it again. This should be done for a couple of weeks then back off to once per week for a month, then water as needed. This will allow the roots to get established and gets the tree acclimated to less water over time. You can use a root stimulator, such as Super Thrive, to help the tree get a jump on healing in.

Your perennials will also need a fresh layer of mulch to help prevent water loss due to evaporation. The mulch will also act as insulation for the root systems. If you don't add the mulch, the roots can get too hot and die. This simple act will make sure the plants do not dry out without having to water every day. The annuals can be treated like the perennials in many ways. Mulching is necessary for annuals as well. You will have to pay a little more attention to newly planted annuals, so more watering may be required.

The most important thing you can do, to help reduce the amount of work you will need to help your landscape through the summer, is to plant the right plant in the right place. This sounds simple, but this is the number one mistake home owners make. Check the information on the plant labels before buying. They will tell you what conditions the plant will grow best in. If you have any questions, ask someone you trust for help. Finally, get to know your garden so you can tell when it is in stress and you can take action to help. If you have any topics you want me to address in future Quakers, please send them to me at the Duck Creek HOA home page under the Beautification Chairman. beautification@rdchoa.org

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Duck Creek Homeowners Safety Page

D UCK CREEK CRIME WATCH PATROL *by Frank Krejci*

We have a very active “**Crime Watch Patrol**” in our neighborhood. You may have seen some of us driving slowly through the alleys with our signs on the sides of the car. We do not have a set schedule for patrolling and we patrol any time day or night.

Our object is to enhance the neighborhood security by providing a visible presence within the neighborhood and to report suspicious activity to the Richardson Police Department.

One of the things we do while patrolling is to try to contact residents if we find their garage open. In recent months the number of open garages has diminished greatly, but now that spring is here the residents have a tendency to leave their doors open. When they leave the doors open it is just an invitation for someone to help themselves. We would like the residents to be extra vigilant and make sure that their doors are closed.

To help us while we are on patrol, we use the numbers in the HOA Directory to contact the Residents. To help us we recently updated the phone numbers in our directory. After you receive your directories, please check your name and number for accuracy. If there is an error, contact me and I'll see that it gets corrected in the next directory and on our patrol address sheets.

As a concerned neighbor, if you see something suspicious do not hesitate to call 911. If you are the victim of a crime, be sure that it is reported to the Richardson Police Department. We let the patrollers know of reported crimes and have them watch the areas. If you are interested in joining us or just learning about us, you can contact me or attend one of our monthly meetings on the third Wednesday of the month at the Dartmouth Elementary teachers lounge at 7:00 pm.

I can be reached at: 972-690-9829 or cell no. 214-543-2296.

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A Letter from the President...



Wooden Fences: Recommendations from Our Experience

By: Scott Morrison, President president@rdchoa.org

Our wooden fence was leaning and falling apart ever since my wife and I moved into the Duck Creek neighborhood. The 8-foot high leaning fence was within the 15-degree limit allowed by city codes, and the three-foot retaining wall was still (miraculously!) holding up the backyard behind the alley. However, the fence and retaining wall were clearly beyond repair.

It took just seven days and a hefty check to have a new fence constructed at the beginning of May. The purpose of this article is to help you—our fellow Duck Creek neighbor—learn from our experience in getting a new wooden fence. It is not an ordinary repair job and thus not just any contractor or fence features will do. This is a once-in-a-generation experience—or at least it should be if you do it correctly.

We were pleased with our chosen fence company; however, this article is not an official endorsement of this company. The HOA does not officially endorse businesses. You are welcome to drive by our home (1804 Hanover Dr) and see the fence and company logo for yourselves. It is a beautiful and well-constructed fence and retaining wall. The following is a summary of important steps—in my opinion—to get a high-quality wooden fence with minimum headache.

Step #1. Don't jump the gun. Do not give deposit money to a contractor, no matter how reputable, before materials are delivered to your property. We made that mistake three years ago and have not seen a dime's refund of this deposit, and thus had to choose a different company. Live and learn. All money should be paid upon fence completion—or, at the most, give no more than 40% after materials have been delivered. Keep reading.

Step #2. Decide on what is important to you. Realize that a wooden fence is much more than just a privacy screen—it is an architectural improvement that will enhance the beauty and value of your home. Avoid yellow pine or other wood that will warp, shrink, or rot in less than 10 years. Cedar or other high-quality wood should be mandatory. The most popular is “#1 cedar.” The more expensive choice is “clear cedar” which has no imperfections or knots (read: more expensive). We chose #1 cedar as many of the fences in our neighborhood use #1 cedar. For maximum privacy, board-on-board fence pickets allow no visibility through the fence—so we chose 6-inch board-on-board cedar pickets. Because we were willing to spend a little more money to get an aesthetically appealing fence, we opted to get some bells-and-whistles such as a 2-by-8 cedar top-cap, with additional cedar trim and decorative arched trim. These options improved the look of the fence as an architectural extension of our home, and of course increased the final price.

Step #3. Know your stuff. For a wooden fence to last for 25 years or more, there are a minimum set of guidelines you should follow. Use metal fence posts for maximum strength and longevity. Fence posts should be spaced no more than 6-feet apart. For retaining walls, fence posts should be spaced no more than 2-feet apart. All posts should be anchored in 3-foot deep holes with full-depth concrete. Do not skimp on this. Our old fence was leaning because its holes were barely 2-feet deep and the posts were spaced 8-feet apart. All nails should be ring-shank galvanized to prevent rust and drip stains, or better yet stainless steel (more expensive). You must ask this question specifically, otherwise the company might use cheaper plain nails that will come apart in just a few years.

Step #4. Get estimates. Not only is price important, but you will learn about different fence features and contract options as you interview more contractors. Get at least three estimates from reputable companies. How do you know which company is reputable? Start with neighbors and co-workers, then check business reputation from the Better Business Bureau (www.bbb.org), as well as the Texas Secretary of State (www.sos.state.tx.us). The Secretary of State's office responds quickly to email inquiries, and will report to you the incorporation status of the company (is it a real company?). The two other companies from which we got estimates required no payments until the work was finished. We used these offers to get the same treatment from the company that we selected. Our chosen company offered the best combination of price, decorative features, and reputation. They were not the cheapest, but they were well worth it.

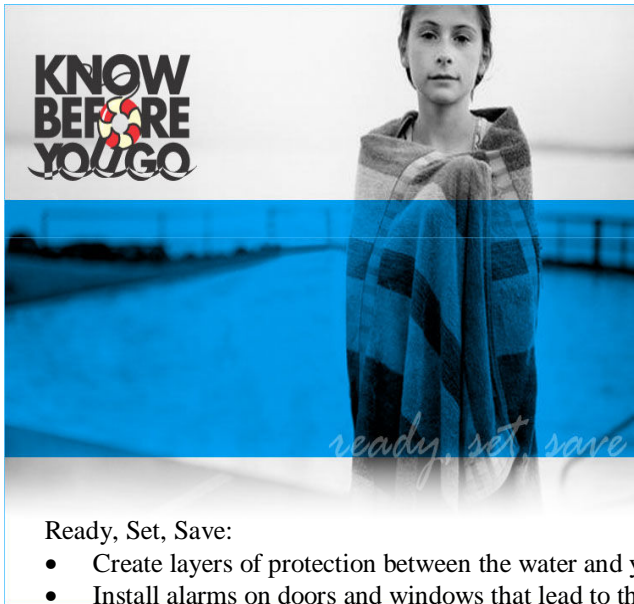
Step #5. Check references. It is easy to skip this step, but it is mandatory. Would you buy a house without looking at it? Of course not. Reputable companies will provide a list of former customers where you may see fences similar to yours. This is important. Ask for specific references that have features *similar* to the fence you are considering, especially if you are getting special features such as retaining walls or stone accents. It will take you only an hour to drive around and see two or three of these reference fences, but it will enable you to come to a conclusion about the company: Go or no-go. Don't be shy of knocking at the front door of the reference homes—we did this and received friendly feedback about the homeowner's experience. It doesn't hurt to ask, especially if it helps you wisely spend thousands of dollars.

Step #6. Contract and terms. Require the fence company to get a permit from the City of Richardson—some companies (illegally) attempt to skip this step. Also, retaining walls higher than 4' require an additional permit. You should require the fence company and any sub-contractors to supply to you a release of lien. Google this if you don't know what it is. Also demand a photocopy of the contractor's insurance policy. *Do not* use an uninsured contractor. No money up front. Pay 100% upon fence completion, worksite cleanup, and city permit final inspection. If the contractor balks, then offer to pay 90% upon fence completion with the final 10% after the permit has been closed. If the company absolutely needs some money up front, then pay no more than 40% *after* materials are dropped on your property, another 40% upon final completion, and the final 10% upon permit closure. The contract should include tearing down and hauling away your old fence. All fence details and price should be clearly stated in the contract, as well as warranty terms which are usually three years to ten years. Most fence contracts do not include the price to stain the fence. This is handled separately by a stain contractor. Ask your contractor which stain company is recommended.

Step #7. Preparation and construction. Your rear driveway might be used as a work area for the old and new fence material as well as a table saw and other equipment. Because access to your garage will be blocked, park your vehicles on the front street. As a courtesy, notify your neighbors that a construction crew will be at your house for the next week. When the crew arrives ask to have a copy of the initial city permit. The work crew will need electricity and a water hose from the outside of your house. Other than that, they should not have to enter your house. They will use the restroom at local businesses (hopefully). During construction, we recommend that you visually inspect progress at least once a day. For example, check that the post holes are dug at least 3-feet deep (don't eyeball, use a tape measure). Notify your contractor immediately of any concerns. The crew can fix mistakes quickly while on-site. After the crew leaves, changes will be difficult unless you have retained some money.

Step #8. Final inspection. Upon completion of work, walk around the entire fence with the contractor to inspect that all features were installed properly. Was the fence top-cap installed? Or did they forget to do it? Was your property sufficiently cleaned-up of all debris, nails, and driveway free of any cement residue? Submit final payment (minus 10%) when you are satisfied that the fence is complete. Request a final inspection from the City of Richardson. When your fence permit has been approved and closed by the city, then submit the final 10% payment to your contractor. In exchange for final payment, the contractor should provide you a release of lien and a signed notice that you have "paid in full."

Good luck!



It only takes a small amount of water to drown a child. At the Duck Creek Annual Meeting on April 17th Lori Villarreal, Executive Director for the Richardson YMCA, shared that more than half the drowning among children ages one to four years were pool-related. Of those drowning most occurred in the child's own pool and within only five minutes of the child being out of site. The US Safety Commission reports more than half of the drowning among infants less than one year occur in bathtubs. Other threats for children under age five include spas, hot tubs, five-gallon buckets and toilets. The YMCAs of Metropolitan Dallas, Children's Medical Center, American Red Cross, and Dallas Area Safe Kids Coalition have joined together to bring water safety education to the community. The goal is simple - to save lives. This campaign, Know Before You Go, offers information through educational pieces and interactive presentations to anyone who

Ready, Set, Save:

- Create layers of protection between the water and your children.
- Install alarms on doors and windows that lead to the pool.
- Build a non-climbable five-foot fence between the house and pool.
- Use self-closing gates that open outwards with latches out of children's reach.
- Have rescue equipment and a phone mounted by the pool.
- Talk to adults that are caring for your child around water. Share with them your concerns.
- Enroll children in Swim Lessons.

Know safety tips:

1. Maintain constant visual contact with children in a pool area and don't ever assume someone else is watching your child. Prepare in advance by having everything you or your children might need so you don't have to walk away. If you must step away, pull the children out with you or assign a responsible "water watcher".
2. If a child is missing, check the pool first; seconds count in preventing death or disability.
3. Don't rely on swimming lessons, life preservers or any other devices as a substitute for supervision. If wearing a flotation device be certain it is Coast Guard approved.
4. Don't leave objects such as toys that might attract a child in the pool or pool area.
5. Don't think you will hear a child who is in trouble in the water; child drowning is a silent death, with no splashing to alert anyone that the child is in trouble.

To ensure a safe water experience for your family, there is no substitute for watching without distraction. Permanent brain damage and death related to water submersion can happen in a matter of minutes and without the drama of splashing water. Drowning occurs below the water's surface, silently.

Drowning continues to be a leading cause of preventable death in children ages one to 14 years. Know what you can do to prevent such a tragedy before you go for a swim. For more information log onto www.knowbeforeyougo.org or contact Lori Villarreal at loriv.richardson@ymcadallas.org or call 972.231.3424.

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Attention all members and neighbors... If you would like to suggest or write an article to The Quacker please contact

Did you know that we have a person in our neighborhood who can help you with your general lawn and landscaping questions? Please email Kevin Dilliard with your questions to beautification@rdchoa.org

DUCK CREEK Night at SMU **October 18th**

Come out and enjoy a great night of fun & football with your family, neighbors and friends on Oct 18th at 7:00PM as the SMU Mustangs host the University of Houston Cougars at Ford Stadium on SMU's campus. This is the 2nd year in a row that Duck Creek residents are taking part in this social activity and we want you to be there! Cash parking on campus is available and you can also take the DART from the Arapahoe Station to the Mockingbird Station and walk to the stadium.

TICKETS: Tickets are only \$10.00 each for a reserved seat in the block for RDCHOA! Ticket sales will begin August 1st. All orders must be placed by Oct 13th if you want tickets mailed to you and by Oct 17th to be placed on WILL CALL at Ford Stadium. A Hotdog & Drink Voucher is available for only \$2.50 each -- This is a \$7.00 value inside the stadium

CONTACT: If you have any questions or to order tickets by phone please call Terry Hemme direct at 214-768-2476 or email at themme@smu.edu - Please make sure to confirm any FAX'd orders by calling after faxing in this form.

Please return Form to:

SMU Athletics, Attn: Terry Hemme
5800 Ownby Drive :: Dallas, TX 75275 :: Phone – 214-768-2476 :: FAX – 214-768-2044

OF GAME TICKETS _____ # OF FOOD VOUCHERS _____ TOTAL AMOUNT \$ _____ (Add \$5.00 to total for processing)

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ADDRESS _____ CITY/ST _____ ZIP _____

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4th of July by the Numbers

On this day in 1776, the Declaration of Independence was approved by the Continental Congress, starting the 13 colonies on the road to freedom as a sovereign nation. As always, this most American of holidays will be marked by parades, fireworks and backyard barbecues across the country.

11 places have "independence in their name. The most populous of these is Independence, Missouri.

1 place named "patiot" - Patriot, Indiana.

\$128.8 million

The value of fireworks imported from China, representing the bulk of all U.S. fireworks imports (\$135.6 million) in 2002. U.S. exports of fireworks, by comparison, amounted to \$13.5 million, with Germany purchasing more than any other single country (\$5.0 million).



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New Neighbors?

If you see new neighbors on your block or “for sale” signs that are marked “sold”, please let me know so that the welcoming committee can stop by. We’d like to tell them about our homeowner’s association. We are always happy to answer questions. We encourage everyone to participate in our fun activities. We also pass out “duck” stickers and explain the program. Please give us a heads up if new neighbors need welcoming! Thanks.

Barb Davenport, Welcoming Committee Chairperson
972-690-8376
Barbdavenport@sbcglobal.net

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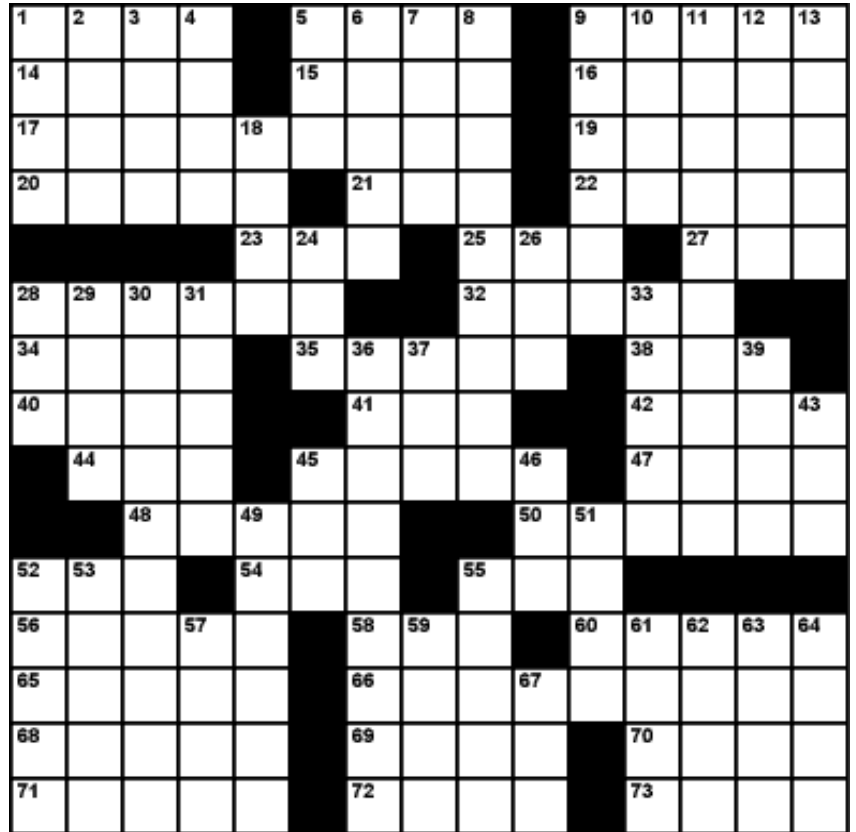
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July 4th Crossword



Across

1. Hawkeye State
5. Grocery, e.g.
9. Scruffs
14. Comparison: abbr.
15. Throb
16. Bay window
17. Deluxe insulation
19. Above: prefix
20. Lost, figuratively
21. Indian bread
22. Associate
23. Commercial-free network
25. Hole in the head?
27. Martini option
28. Kindle
32. It has riser and tread
34. Tom, Dick and Harry, for example
35. So __
38. These in Ste-Thérèse
40. Omen
41. Lyric poem
42. Baseball Hall-of-Famer, Slaughter
44. Frat letter
45. Paid the pot
47. Westwood campus
48. Gloucester good byes
50. Opie to Bea
52. Afternoons
54. Compass pt.
55. Michigan or Ontario in French
56. Very eccentric
58. IV tripled
60. Minor official
65. Braid
66. Limitless
68. Bunsen burners
69. Once more with a difference
70. Salty sea
71. Sashay
72. Period of calm

73. Just

Down

1. UN nuclear watchdog
2. Taking care of (as a task)
3. Large amounts
4. Away from the wind
5. Boy
6. Desktop images
7. Unstressed vowel
8. Volunteer State
9. Cosa __
10. Wild sheep
11. Hand tool with jaws
12. Spooky
13. Incline
18. Engrossed
24. Maude portrayer
26. _ Z
28. " __ You" (Hollies hit)
29. Film crew member
30. Bit of bedroom furniture

31. Ancient Greece
33. What windows do in cold weather
36. Platonic
37. Banned pesticide
39. Dover fish
43. Spotted
45. Support grps.
46. Test often in the news
49. African bloodsucker
51. Color of unbleached silk
52. John Paul et al
53. Opposite of uni-
55. Slander
57. Iranian dollar
59. Northern natives
61. Within: prefix
62. The ideal garden
63. Scallopini, often
64. Whirlpool
67. Potter bird



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SW Richard Wilder	972-644-9327
NE Diana Clawson	972-690-5898
SE Kathy & Richard Quintana	972-480-8535
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 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 call RDCHOA at 972-943-4663 or email at 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 call Scott Morrison at 972-690-5774 or email at info@rdchoa.org

Retiring Old Glory

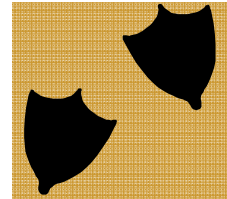
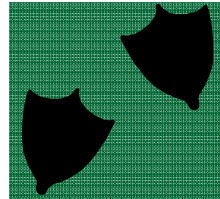
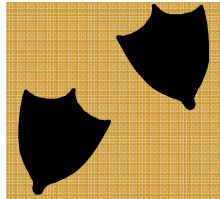
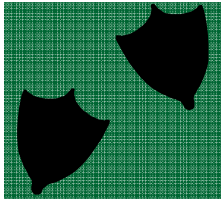
It started with 13 stars and has grown to 50. It flies over this great country of ours in so many places to numerous to mention. But, there comes a time when it deserves the honor of being retired. We all know how to do it, but never seem to have the time. If your "Old Glory" is ready for retirement, contact Jeremy Wanamaker, Cub Master-Pack 871 at 214-535-9816. The pack performs a retirement ceremony at their fall campouts. 't it great! When one is retired, another takes its place to proudly fly over this great country of ours.

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Richardson Duck Creek Homeowners Association
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Richardson, TX 75085-1691

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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.