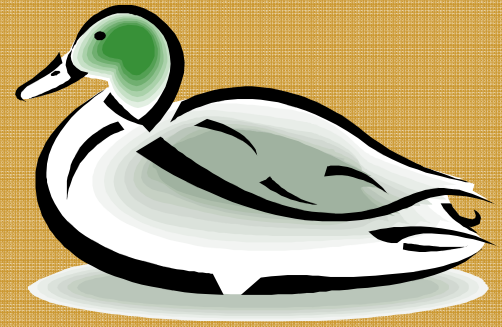


The Richardson Duck Creek Quacker

United for Fellowship, Safety and Civic Pride



Richardson Duck Creek Homeowners Association, Inc.

April 2008

The Hunt is On!!

Saturday, March 22nd at 10:30am



This year's 9th Annual RDCHOA Easter Egg Hunt is looking to be a great success! We placed our request with Mother Nature that she provide us with blue skies and warm temperatures early in the year! RDHOA will hide approximately 3,000 eggs and over 250 children will hunt for them. Please remember to get there a few minutes early to get a good spot and to prepare the children for the fun...sometimes with the younger ages in can be a bit overwhelming 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!!! 10:30 am

Under 3yrs	Group A
3 - 6 yrs	Group B
6 - 9 yrs	Group C

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RDCHOA Board for 2008



Left to right. Pat Maher, Darryl Brown, Scott Morrison, Gordon Swink, David and Diana Clawson, Barbara Davenport, Laurie Wilkinson, Wendy Jones, Larry Menke, Richard Quintana, Victor Sandoval, Marie Talamini, and Kevin Dilliard

Spring General Meeting Thursday April 17th 6:30pm



A Letter from the President....

Right at Home

What convinced you to buy property in the Duck Creek neighborhood? Was it the 1.5 mile creek and Linear Park? Was it our beloved Dartmouth and Apollo schools within the comfort of walking distance? Maybe the aged trees and well-maintained homes were your decision-makers? Or how about the bragging-rights for comparing daily commute times? Our Duck Creek neighborhood has become home to so many families for different reasons. For my family—in addition to the reasons above—the diverse floor plans radiated a neighborly feeling rather than a manufactured cookie-cutter atmosphere of typical newer neighborhoods. Thus it is the purpose of this homeowners' association to uphold all of these values through voluntary effort and membership.

This year we will again celebrate two traditions that unify our children and families: the Easter Egg Hunt and Independence Day Parade. Most surrounding neighborhoods would be eager to have either one of these events—alas, we have both. It is by no mistake, however, so we can thank the volunteers on the Duck Creek board and our residents who make these events happen. Remember the \$25 membership fee you paid (or will pay after reading this article)? These two events are only the beginning of the yearly HOA benefits. Don't forget the free dinner for your family twice yearly at our April and October meetings. Oh, and not to mention the equipment support for the Crime Watch Patrol as well as the safety email alerts. Again, all included for only \$25.

Change is coming this year both inside and outside of the neighborhood. The City will break ground on a brand new Huffhines Recreation Center to replace the aging building. Additionally, our neighborhood will see an extension of the Linear Park to Huffhines, as well as new entry signs and bridge improvements thanks to efforts of the HOA's Revitalization committee. And with the end to our well-remembered Richardson Square Mall comes celebration at the grand opening of Lowe's home improvement store. No more driving to Garland or Plano for home improvement needs.

My wife and I are thankful to be a part of a neighborhood that is reinventing its future with rejuvenation inside and all around. With a bargain-priced HOA and watchful volunteers, we know that the future of Duck Creek rests in good hands. For these many reasons we realize that we are *right at home*.

Sincerely yours,
Scott Morrison

Events & Dates

Easter Egg Hunt

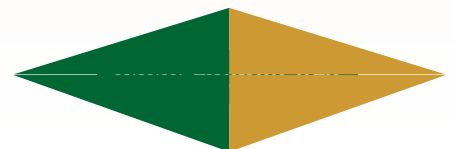
Saturday, March 22nd
10:30am

Spring General Meeting

Thursday, April 17th
6:30pm Dartmouth Elementary
Kevin Dilliard, Beautification
Chairperson presents "Shape up
your Lawn and
Landscaping for the Spring!"

Bylaw Changes

Please go to www.rdchoa.org
to see what bylaw changes
are being proposed.



Duck Creek Homeowners Safety Page

S AFETY - It Is Everybody's Business

As your Home Owners Association (HOA) Safety Committee Chairperson, safety is my primary Duck Creek area concern. However, it is best for ALL of our residents if safety has a place in your daily life. The following paragraphs touch on several Safety concerns that likely justify some additional thought for all of us.

School Zone Safety

This topic could be the exclusive topic for a later SAFETY e-mail to all HOA members. However, the school year is already past the halfway point. For now, here are a few off the top of my head safety concerns we should be thinking about anytime we are in the Dartmouth or Apollo school zones.

- Please obey the school zone speed limits. RPD has recently been asked to give some special attention to the Duck Creek school zones. If you are stopped at the Yale/Apollo light, remember that when the light turns green this is NOT the signal to start a race. You still have school zone speed limits to observe regardless of which direction you are headed.
- Please familiarize yourself with, and follow, the special driving rules and guideline relevant to vehicle traffic when delivering or picking up students from either Dartmouth or Apollo. No double driving in the carpool lanes comes to mind. No U-turns in front of the schools just makes good safety sense.
- Remember that there is no right turn on the red light during school zone speed limit times. We have already had one such accident at Yale/Apollo this year. Let's make it the last.

Alley House Numbers

There is a City Of Richardson (COR) ordinance dealing with this topic. You won't be bored with the specifics now. BUT, It is a COR Code violation if you don't have the residence address number visible from the alley. This is a legitimate SAFETY concern for multiple reasons. Our Police and Fire Department folks may have need to find your residence from the alley in some emergency or enforcement situations. Every second counts in an emergency.

Nearly all of the Crime Watch Patrol (CWP) needs are non-emergency. However, the CWP folks also need to identify your residence from the alley. If they spot something of concern at your residence, their first action will usually be to call you. Quickly knowing your address is essential to finding your phone number in the RDCHOA directory. Please help our CWP folks. Their mission and intent is to help YOU.

Weekly Crime Report

Do you want to be automatically informed of significant crime events in the Duck Creek area on a weekly basis? You do? Well, such is yours for the asking.

Access the COR web via www.cor.net . Click on the **Departments** active word near the top of the page. Click on **Police** and be greeted by the RPD home page. Part of the home page is a colored 5 section map of Richardson. Immediately to the right of this map is a boxed statement "Click here to receive weekly crime stats for your neighborhood via e-mail". The "Click here" words are an active link taking you to the final page.

On this page there is a box to enter your e-mail address. The next step is using the same 5 section colored COR map to find our Duck Creek area. **Important** - Our Duck Creek area is **250H**. If you click on the Duck Creek area the **250H** box will be checked. The last step is to press the infamous **Submit** button. Please don't be stymied by the use of incident reporting area (IRA) terminology on the maps. This is simply the Richardson Police Department way of sub-dividing the city into information (data = crime stats) management areas.

Also read and be aware that the list you receive is not a comprehensive list. Some of the crimes not listed are; juvenile, parking, solicitor, traffic violations, code violations, noise and animal complaints, and similar "low intensity crimes" (my terminology). The reported crimes of interest to most of us are; sexual assaults, robbery, burglary, theft of motor vehicles, theft of motor vehicle part, thefts, and criminal mischief.

Darryl E. Brown
Safety Committee Chairperson



Attention all members and neighbors... If you would like to suggest or write an article to The Quacker please contact Marie Talamini at marietalamini@tx.rr.com

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 Dillard with your questions to beautification@rdchoa.org



You're invited to the City of Richardson's **TRASH BASH**

Saturday, April 12, 2008 - 9 a.m. to noon
Richardson Civic Center, 411 W. Arapaho Rd., Richardson

April is Keep America Beautiful month. This year's Trash Bash will focus on pollution prevention. Let's improve our environment and have some fun. The day's events will include:

- Seedling trees will be given to participants in recognition of Arbor Day
- Photo opportunities for participants and prize winners
- Door prize drawings and awards
- Great food- hot dogs and trimmings will be served from 11-12

Come join us! All citizens, civic groups, social and service organizations are invited to participate. Trash bags, release forms, and area assignments will be made available at a pre-event meeting for the contact person (s) on Thursday, April 10th, at 6:30 p.m. at the Richardson Civic Center. On Saturday morning, participants will disperse to designated streets, alleys, or parks of their choosing to fill trash bags with litter and recyclables, then return to the Civic Center for refreshments and fun between 11 and 12.

For further information contact the Health Department at 972-744-4076. You may also register by filling out the form below and faxing it to 972-744-5802 or mail by April 5th to: City of Richardson, Health Department, P.O. Box 830309, Richardson, TX 75083.

Name (contact person): _____
 Group name (if applicable): _____
 Address: _____
 Day phone: _____
 Number of participants: _____



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Doggie Doo Alert

Hello Fellow Duck Creek Residents! We face a serious issue along our linear creek besides the fact the city has not yet completed the work along the creek but instead overabundances of doggie do. To think, this even after the city has installed these very nice biodegradable poopee sack dispensers at most major intersections of the trail AND trash cans to dispose them into! Come on neighbors, if you have a pet and they defecate in your yard, you pick it up or at least I hope you do. Can you please do the same on the trail? Not only is it like walking through a very active mine field but disease prone, other pet owners should not have to clean their dogs paws after stepping in some other animals mess. In addition, what if a child were to step in or fall in the piles?



Did you also know there is a city ordinance which enforces pet owners to clean up after their pets? And if caught could lead up to a \$250 fine? I sure would hate to spend \$250 for a very stupid offense that could have been easily avoided. Heck, I could think of at least 15 uses for \$250 instead of giving it to the city. As a reference, the ordinance governing such activities fall under the Parks and Recreation rules and can be found below.

So, I have a challenge for each of pet owner in the neighborhood, next time you see one of those nice poopee sack dispensers on the trail, take a couple with you so you are armed and ready for the next event. Just like the old American Express commercial 'don't leave home without it.'

Reference:

ARTICLE III. PARK RULES*

Sec. 15-61. Unlawful acts.

(21) To allow an animal to defecate in the park without immediate removal and disposal of such feces in proper waste receptacles.

(Code 1966, § 14-5(A); Ord. No. 3235-A, § 1, 7-12-99; Ord. No. 3465, § 2, 5-24-04)



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The doorway to information about **what's going on in and around your neighborhood...**

Did you know that you can receive email updates about code enforcement activity in your neighborhood? If you would like to be notified about ongoing code enforcement activity in your neighborhood the City of Richardson's Neighborhood Services Department invites you to sign up for the "Neighborhood Awareness" Email Update program.

Twice-monthly email reports. Please send your name, address, email address and neighborhood to don.magner@cor.gov or call 972-744-4166.

Are you planning to embark on a home repair or remodel in the near future?

Whether it's putting up a new fence or remodeling your bathroom there are many things to consider before you get started, including what building permits are required for your project. The following types of jobs require permits from the City of Richardson Building Inspection Department:

- Fences and retaining walls over 2½ ft. in height
- Storage buildings
- Detached buildings (i. e. detached garages, workshops, etc.)
- Greenhouses
- Roof repairs, replacement, or re-covering
- Patio covers and enclosures
- Carpools
- Interior remodels
- Garage enclosures
- Room additions (enlarging existing house)
- Swimming pools, spas, and hot tubs
- Foundation repair
- Driveways
- Decks or porches over 24 in. in height at any point above the ground.
- Radio tower antennas
- Exterior siding installation or replacement

For more information on acquiring building permits, please contact Building Inspection at 972-744-4180.



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School News and Events



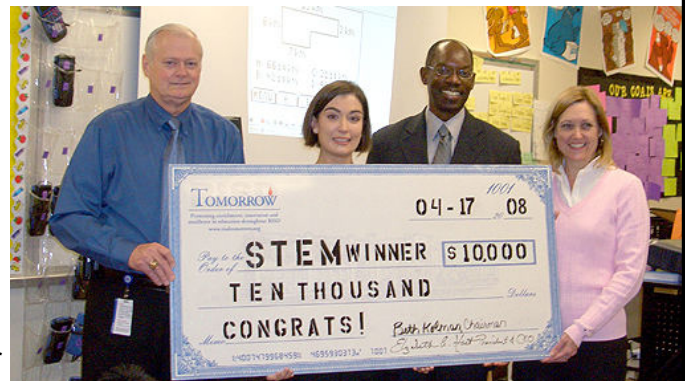
Please Dartmouth parents...Let's keep our children safe!!!

I am a new parent to the elementary school and have noticed that many parent's in their haste do not obey pickup and drop-off rules at Dartmouth. I am still amazed at the parent's who are on cell phones or in a hurry and don't stop at stop signs or even lights!! When pulling through the carpool lines, you are NOT supposed to double park. This creates chaos when the students have to walk in between vehicles to get to your car. Please think and care about your child's safety as well as my child's! We have had some close calls on our campus .

Sincerely....a parent who cares!



"Believing in my students is what really counts." Such is the teaching philosophy of Apollo Junior High's Karrie Kellerman, the 2007-2008 winner of the prestigious Texas Instruments Foundation Innovations in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Teaching Award. Ms. Kellerman, a seventh-grade Pre-AP and block mathematics teacher, received the \$10,000 award in a surprise ceremony at her campus.



The Berkner High School and Berkner STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Academy robotics teams successfully collaborated at the 2008 Southwest Regional FIRST Tech Challenge at the UT Arlington College of Engineering this month. This was their final competition of the year and the members wanted to make their mark and they did, ranking 3rd overall and the winning the distinguished THINK Award for unique and innovative design created using the design process and a well-documented engineer's notebook.



In order to encourage Richardson residents to do business with local chamber members and to keep residents informed on various activities of the Richardson Chamber of Commerce, we are asking each HOA and Neighborhood Association with a web site we are asking each HOA and Neighborhood Association with a web site to add the new **Shop Smart Shop Local** logo (attached) along with its link:

<http://members.telecomcorridor.com> which takes users to the Chamber's membership directory.

By making this chamber link available on your HOA web site, you will be helping to:

1. Give local residents information on Richardson businesses
2. Keep our sales tax dollars here in Richardson by shopping locally whenever possible
3. Provide access to news and information on Chamber activities and events

If have any questions, please contact me Bill Sproul, President/CEO Richardson Chamber of Commerce

merce



Sponsored by: Richardson, Texas CHAMBER of COMMERCE

Cub Scout Pack 871

Our local Pack 871 meets at Dartmouth and most of the Cubs live within DCHOA.

Coming up will be our Arrow of Light Ceremony at Huffhines Park on March 13 and our participation in the Richardson Trash Bash. The Arrow of Light is the last big Cub event before bridging to Boy Scouts. We have 7 boys graduating/transferring to Troop 1001 in the Canyon Creek area on Campbell. There are many boys in the neighborhood currently active with Troop 81 that meets at the Richardson Bible Fellowship. We also have a group of boys who will be working on duck boxes for the linear park, but the date is yet to be set. Finally, Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts alike will be setting out soon to sell Scout Show tickets, but the kick off date has yet to be determined.

I know the boys always look forward to participating in the DCHOA parade and this year's Pack 871 Rain Gutter Regatta promises to be our best ever! We schedule our sailboat races to follow the parade at Huffhines.

Please feel free to call me, anytime, with questions or ideas. Our boys would be happy to participate in any other upcoming opportunities for community service, including decorating for upcoming HOA events or planting public property plants or helping to keep them watered

Yours truly,
Jeremy Wanamaker
Cub master Pack 871
214/535-9816



Girl Scout Troop 1727

Hello... I'm the leader for Troop 1727, a Junior Girl Scout Troop. We have seven 4th graders and one 3rd grader from Dartmouth Elementary.

At the end of March, Troop 1727 will be wrapping up this year's Girl Scout Cookie Sale. We've had a great time, and will use the money earned to go camping and participate in all kinds of fun events. Our girls are very proud to have sold over one hundred boxes of cookies that will be donated to US servicemen and servicewomen at home and abroad via "Project Troop to Troop".

This April, we're looking forward to doing our part for the City of Richardson Annual Trash Bash on the 12th. We'll also attend Camporee (a two-night campout in Breckenridge Park for our Service Unit), and Mother Daughter Bingo night at Apollo Junior High. We want to thank all of the residents of Duck Creek for their support as we sold cookies door-to-door, and at Dartmouth.

We LOVE being a part of this neighborhood, and if there's any way that our troop can be of service, please let us know.

Ruth Vandruff
Leader Troop 1727
972-437-3038 hm
214-927-1002 cell



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Beauty Tips

Audrey Hepburn was one of America's premier actresses. Her beauty and natural grace communicated with audiences through film and stage, making her one of the country's most beloved stars. Someone asked Ms. Hepburn to share her "secret" of remaining beautiful through a long life of public exposure. Her response was simple, practical, and a testimony to a life that was well lived.

Here's what the famous actress wrote:

- For attractive lips, speak words of kindness.
 - For lovely eyes, seek out the good in people.
 - For a slim figure, share your food with the hungry..
 - For beautiful hair, let a child run his/her fingers through it once a day.
 - For poise, walk with the knowledge that you never walk alone.
-
- People, even more than things, have to be restored, renewed, revived, reclaimed and redeemed. Never throw out anyone.
 - Remember, if you ever need a helping hand, you will find one at the end of each of your arms.



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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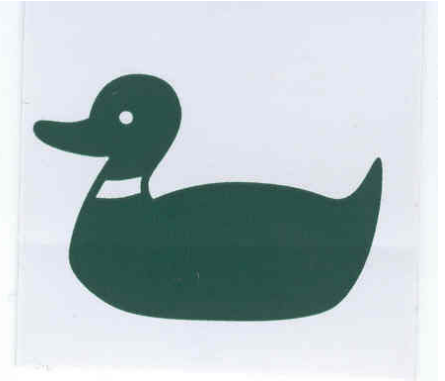


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A Duck That Represents ALL Duck Creek Residents

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’ 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

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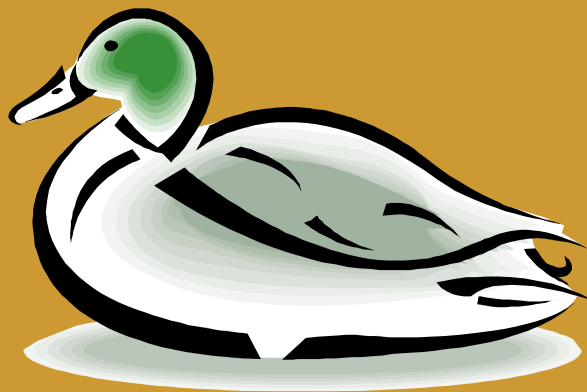
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Social Wendy Jones	972-470-0338
Welcoming Barbara Davenport	972-690-8376

Section Leaders

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SW Richard Wilder	972-644-9327
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 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 scott@ti.com

Retiring Old Glory

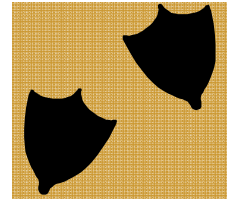
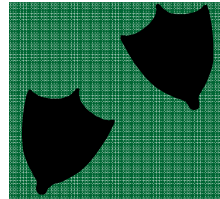
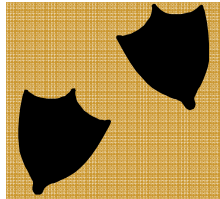
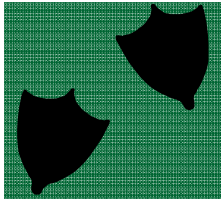
It started with 13 stars and has grown to 50. It flies over this great country of ours in so many places to numerous to mention. But, there comes a time when it deserves the honor of being retired. We all know how to do it, but never seem to have the time. If your "Old Glory" is ready for retirement,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

Richardson Duck Creek Quacker
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.