

Chase Oaks Homeowners Association Newsletter

September-
October
2010

WWW.CHASEOAKSPLANO.COM

PINE LAKES HAUNTED CEMETERY

Come see our Home Haunt like no other!!

It's frightening!!! It's going to be the most truly-sensational display of zombies and ghostly images ever to hit the streets of Chase Oaks, that you don't want to miss. If you love a good scare, then dare to enter our Pine Lakes Haunted Cemetery of the Dead, and watch some of the scariest zombies ever come to life. Enjoy the literally-breathtaking view that only a few will live to tell about. Hope to see you there!! Only if you are not too scared!!!

This Halloween attraction will be available for your enjoyment beginning Monday, Oct. 4th until Monday Nov. 1st at 705 Pine Lakes Drive. Don't miss Sunday, Oct 31st, Halloween Night!! We will have our Tunnel of Darkness up for only the bravest of all to enter at their own risk!

705 Pine Lakes Drive is located off Oak Ridge Drive parallel to Forest Bend Drive and Water Oak Drive within Chase Oaks.

—Stefanie Webb & Tony Gilles, October Yard of the Month Winners

Look Inside for:

- **Golf Course Renovation & Water Oak Drive**
- **Chase Oaks Directory**
- **What about those two posts at the front entrance?**
- **Crime Watch, New Yard Signs, & Much More**

Hunting within the City Limits

(Reprinted from September 29th for those residents who have not registered their e-mail address to receive the Chase Oaks e-mail blasts concerning news and crime-watch alerts.)

If you live along the front nine of the golf course or have been walking the neighborhood in the afternoons, you have probably heard numerous shotgun blasts coming from about two-tenths of a mile across the golf course.

The shotgun blasts that you are hearing are actually dove hunters on the farmland adjacent to the Connemara Nature Conservancy. One rumor is that the land is part of the old Montgomery Farms ranch estate. The piece of land lies south of Bethany with 75 as the border on the east and with Connemara on the west. The south border of the land is directly next to the Chase Oaks golf course border.

Go to the *Dallas Morning News* website to find an article about this 2005 Texas state law, which permits hunting inside certain city limits. (The article can be found at <http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/spt/outdoors/stories/091910dnspoutdoorslede.247bae2.html>.) A couple of local TV stations have also run stories about the new law on the evening news.

Dove Hunting Season in North Texas is from September 1 to October 24, 2010.



Reverse 9-1-1 Contact Info with Collin County

★ “Code RED” gives county officials a way to get emergency messages out to residents and businesses at a rate of 60,000 calls an hour, and can target calls to specific geographic areas for emergencies such as evacuation notices, flooding or a public health crisis. If you are not listening to the TV and radio or have them turned off, this reverse 911 system could be a real lifesaver.

★ We want to bring to your attention in case you did not receive a testing phone call or message in the last two months from the Collin County Emergency reverse 911 system, you may want to go to http://www.co.collin.tx.us/public_information/features/code_red.jsp and click on the "Code RED" link to make sure your information (address, primary phone, cell, etc) are entered.

★ “Reverse 911 is a public safety communications system developed by PlantCML, a unit of [EADS North America](#).^{[1][2]} It is used by public safety organizations in Canada and the United States to communicate with groups of people in a given geographic area or areas. The system uses a database of telephone numbers and associated addresses, which, when tied into [geographic information systems](#) (GIS), can be used to deliver recorded emergency notifications to a selected set of people by telephone.^[3] Reverse 911 may also be used to reconnect to a telephone that has been disconnected from an emergency call.” (Sourced from Wikipedia)

http://www.co.collin.tx.us/public_information/features/code_red.jsp

www.collincountytexas.gov





DIRECTORY

The 2010 Chase Oaks Directory has been emailed to all 2010 COHA dues paying members (\$ 75 annual dues). We have chosen to provide an electronic directory to cut costs and save paper over the old hard copy Directory delivered method.

The 2010 Directory is also available in a view only mode on our web site at www.chaseoaksplano.com. The Directory online is not available for printing.

If corrections are needed for your family's information shown in the Directory, please send an email to Susan Chamberlain at coha@digichamber.com for the corrections to be made.

MISSING OUT ON NEWS & CRIME WATCH ALERTS?

Then register your email at our Web site to stay informed on community activities, two Crime Watch alerts in October, and to help with everyone's efforts to successfully find over a dozen lost pets within Chase Oaks this past year.

Knowing what is "Going On" makes you a part of the neighborhood.

**Go Online, Stay Informed, Get Involved @
www.chaseoaksplano.com !**

New Posts at Front Entrance on Chase Oaks Boulevard

The rumor of September was the new cedar posts located on Chase Oaks Blvd. and Oak Ridge Drive are the result of work done by COHA for the front entrance. That rumor is false as defined in our September email blast to all working email addresses within Chase Oaks.

The new cedar posts (called “trail bollards” by the City of Plano) are part of a new section of hike and bike trail built by the City of Plano to connect into their existing 65 miles of trail system throughout Plano.

Renee Jordan, Plano Parks and Recreation Department Trail System Planner, has given us the following update.

The trail bollards are set at trail/roadway intersections to give trail users a visual warning to proceed with caution as they are approaching an intersection with vehicular traffic. The new entrance ramps are ADA compliant, and because the ADA ramp openings are so wide, the trail bollards also serve to stop vehicles from turning onto the trail opening. In addition, the bollards will host miniature signs on the user side telling them to ‘stop’ at the intersection.

This new section of trail originally went before the City of Plano City Council back in September of 2009. This trail proposal was put before the Plano City Council a total of three times since then. The money for the trail cost is split between the City of Plano and the Collin County Open Space Program.

The cities of North Central Texas are following a trails master plan called the Regional Veloweb Plan by the North Central Texas Council of Governments. The cities are cooperating to link all the cities involved in an ongoing integrated trail system. Currently, the trail now ends at the intersection at 75 and Chase Oaks Blvd., but the next phase has it being built north to Allen. It will parallel the Chase Oaks pond; go over Rowlett Creek and then east under 75 towards Highway 5 in Allen.

If you are a runner, walker, cyclist, or are into roller blading, you can now take the new trail south towards Spring Creek and connect into the Plano trails named Bluebonnet, Chisholm, and Preston Ridge Trails.

Please go to the City of Plano web site to see the 65-mile trail system.



Not yet received the new Yard Signs which have gone out to all households who have paid their 2010 COHA dues of \$ 75.00? Send an email to eechamberlain@digichamber.com.

Forgotten to pay your dues this year? Join us by going to www.chaseoaksplano.com to pay your 2010 dues via PayPal. Thank you very much for your valued support!

Water Oak Drive and Hole #8

The City of Allen has officially given us good news on September 15th. Allen has approved of our proposal to convert hole #8 from a Par Five to a Par Three.

Beginning Friday, September 17th, hole #8 is being played as a Par Three from about 155 yards on the left side of the fairway (opposite the back yard of 640 Water Oak). Back yard parties have been occurring up and down Water Oak.

The changing of the hole layout will mean there will be no more golf balls hit into the property of 27 of the 31 homes located on both sides of Water Oak. The homes closest to the #8 green will see half as many golf balls hit in their yards with the hole being played from 155 yards.

If you see golfers playing ignoring the new signage, scorecards, and fairway ropes to play hole #8 as a Par Five (old habits), please call the Golf course Pro Shop at [214-509-4653](tel:214-509-4653) to let them know of the offending golfers. Catching the cart number (located on the back fender of the golf cart) before you call the Pro Shop will be a big help to the Chase Oaks personnel who will chase down those golfers.

This solution with the City of Allen is the result of good timing, a win – win compromise, and the simple execution of a negotiating strategy focused on the safety of all concerned.

Special recognition and thanks go out to Glenn Carter, Dave Gegg, Robert Buss, Dave White, and Billy Lane for their input, ideas, and support.

We appreciate everyone's emails, phone calls, and the beneficial front yard discussions held over the last two weeks with so many of the homeowners on Water Oak. Sixteen homeowners took the time to send detailed emails to Jeff Holt to explain their plight from the daily golf balls coming onto their property and to express their personal gratitude for the City's decision.

Jeff Holt, Chase Oaks Golf Club General Manager, was a strong advocate for the Water Oak homeowners' situation in regard to their personal safety during these meetings.

We also owe thanks and our appreciation to Peter H. Vargas, Allen City Manager, Tim Dentler, Director of the Allen Parks Department, and Lori Smeby, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation for their support and for expediting the decision-making process with the Allen City Council and the office of the Allen Mayor. We wish the City success in completing the renovation of the golf course in 2012.



Come visit us at the corner of Chase Oaks Blvd. and Legacy Dr. to experience the best Frozen Yogurt around!

Bring this Coupon in and enjoy 20% off today!

Co-Owned and Operated by Chase Oaks Residents and COHA Members, Thomas and Cindy Liu.

NEWCOMERS to CHASE OAKS

Have a new neighbor on your street? Please contact Janet Osorio, COHA Board member, at jeosorio114@yahoo.com so we can give them a big Chase Oaks welcome.

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ONCOR Meter Readers

This tip comes from Cindy Thomas, the Crime Watch Director for the Cross Creek East neighborhood which lies between Chase Oaks and Alma Drive running west from Vineyard Drive to Alma over to Razor Elementary School.

ONCOR meter readers are always a challenge. But, we have developed a solution, as we have had a couple of homes who have regularly called the police on the meter readers. A number of homes in our neighborhood have the electric meter inside their backyard. This presents a problem every month if the homeowner keeps their gate locked (as they should). In recent discussions with ONCOR, we have come up with a solution with ONCOR. Your homeowners with this situation should purchase a combination lock, then call ONCOR's Customer Contact (888-313-6862). The homeowner wants to select the ONCOR phone option that gets them to a live representative (which is option 1 and then option 3). ONCOR will insert their combination number into the customer account. When the meter reader comes to the home the lock number will come up on their display. The meter reader will unlock the combination and then relock it upon leaving the backyard.

By law, the ONCOR meter readers have a right to enter the backyard to read the meter. It is always unnerving to see someone peaking through the fence or over the fence, especially with binoculars. The ONCOR meter readers are required to wear clothing indicating that they are meter readers from ONCOR. However, when someone is startled seeing a person peering into a back yard, it is easy to over look what their clothing says. This solution with ONCOR works for us over at Cross Creek East.

—Cindy Thomas, Crime Watch Director for Cross Creek East

ABANDONED HOMES

Please contact us at COHA@digichamber.com if a house on your street has been abandoned, leaving the yard (or swimming pool) in desperate shape. This summer, we worked with three former owners and the City of Plano to make the best of a bad situation. We need your help in being our eyes and ears to avoid a property from becoming a real eyesore in the neighborhood.

From the Website Guy

The Chase Oaks website is still in its infancy. I've had fun working on it. When I first put it up, it was just a simple project consisting of a few simple pages that represented the Homeowners Association and our wonderful neighborhood.

We've come quite a way from a simple static site that provided a presence on the Web and allowed greater communication between the COHA board and the residents of Chase Oaks, to a site with numerous slideshows that feature photographs of our wonderful neighborhood, advertising, and a way to become a member of the association online. I can say that though I thought it had potential, I really didn't believe it would grow the way it has.

We've leveraged the site to:

- * Locate lost pets
- * Promote local businesses
- * Gather useful information
- * Promote individual activities
- * Reduce our carbon footprint
- * Reduce printing expenditures
- * Call attention to charity drives
- * Open new lines of communication
- * Feature Yard of the Month winners
- * Make archived newsletters available online
- * Increase visibility into COHA board activities
- * Feature local events like Funfest and the Annual Garage Sale
- * Offer email bulletins about things that matter to Chase Oaks residents
- * Disseminate information about what COHA is, what it does and how it benefits you.

I am proud to live in a true community. I value our neighbors. I value supporting our advertisers because they are also our neighbors. I value your time, attention, intellect and have seen firsthand the impact individuals have on our community. The website is for you. Just as Yard of the Month and the other events that take place here are for you. I invite you to participate in the development of your website. Whether it's by simply visiting, submitting suggestions or even writing an article, it's all welcome here.

Thank you for supporting the site. Thank you for making this fun.

—Jose Osorio, COHA Board and Web Master, josorio4444@yahoo.com

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****Rick Findlay and his crew were on-site for our three month home remodel. Rick is very talented with great attention to details. Our remodel job came in under budget and on time. Due to the efforts of Rick At the end of each work day, Rick's crew thoroughly cleaned each room that they had worked in that day. Please feel free to call us or drop by to see Rick's work first hand at our home. ****

Eric & Susan Chamberlain - 972-517-8852

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