



**CHERIE &
MATTHEW**

Famous people are lucky some of us don't live in New York or LA. The unspoken rule is to play it cool, respect their privacy, and act normal, but let's be honest, that's easier said than done. When it comes to celebrity sightings, it's hard to show some sense of decorum.

Enjoy this roundup of Zachary locals and their brushes with fame!

Cherie Masterson and Copper Mill Elementary teachers and students were delighted when Matthew McConaughey showed up for a surprise visit in 2008. See pg. 26 for more on his ties with Z!

CLAIM TO FAME



**MIRANDA
& FRED**

Miranda Edmonds, Zachary resident and member of the Krewe des Fleurs, met actor and comedian Fred Armisen at Mardi Gras this year in New Orleans.



**JEN &
THE
HOFF**

Jen had a fortuitous encounter with David Hasselhoff AKA Mitch Buchanan himself in the Catacombs in Rome in 2001. "I worked diligently throughout the underground tour to ingratiate myself into the Hasselhoff family. Perhaps they'd see me as the quirky but helpful nanny they never knew their girls needed? Perhaps not."



SHIA, STEPHANIE,
RANDY, KAREN & BRYAN

Teacher friends Karen Collins and Stephanie Albarez, along with their husbands and Collins' newlywed son and daughter in law, saw stars at a recent LSU Gymnastic meet—and we're not talking about the gymnasts!

"We were excited to have the famous movie star Shia LaBeouf sitting in front of us!" Collins posted on Facebook, although admitting she didn't initially know who he was. "We of course asked for pics and became 'bffs' during the meet. He thanked us for giving him info about gymnastics and he blessed Jamison and Becca on their marriage," she went on. "Needless to say, I'm not sure if we watched him or gymnastics more!"

The *Transformers* actor has been spotted around South Louisiana several times in the past few months, posing with police at the Slidell St. Paddy's Day Parade, and servers at Duke's Seafood in Denham Springs. No word yet on what his current project may be, although it's worth noting that his dad is originally from Louisiana.

While ZHS Dean of Students and Head Track Coach Chris Carrier didn't play basketball for LSU at the same time as Shaquille O'Neal, the two big guys are both alumni of the team. Carrier explains that he, a football letterman at the flagship university, was recruited to help the team practice in 1986 after a chicken pox outbreak sidelined many of the players. "After a few weeks, I was the only one who stuck around during LSU's Final Four run that year," he recalls. Additionally, his wife Wanda Thomas Carrier was the men's basketball secretary under Dale Brown when Shaq played at LSU a few years later; so, when LSU hosts basketball alumni events, the Carriers and Shaq are all in attendance. They've also been spotted chatting multiple times on the big screen during LSU football games!



JOHN, AMY & ALEX

In 2018, Amy and John Higgins were contacted by a film studio to request the use of their West Feliciana home in the filming of the movie Backroads, starring Juliette Lewis and Alex Pettyfer. The couple got to attend the film's premiere in New York!



SHAQ &
CHRIS



Claim to Fame

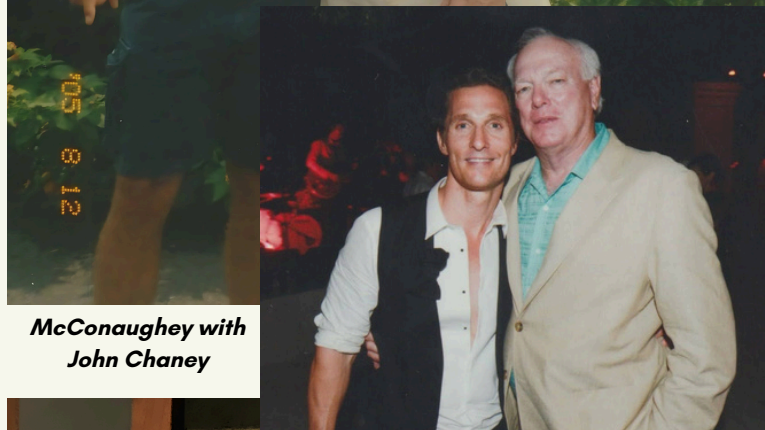
by Jen Gennaro

Alright, Alright, Alright.

Once upon a time, at the height of his career, Matthew McConaughey was a regular in Zachary. Swimming in locals' pools, attending a ZHS baseball game, eating at Subway on Church Street, getting a haircut at Shear Distinction, tossing a football in a Fennwood front yard. We realize this is a bewildering fact for newcomers; let me explain.

Lifelong Zachary resident John Chaney, who passed away in 2023, started a company with his brother to provide livestock, set decorating and movie props to the motion picture industry. While active in the movie business, Chaney joined j.k. livin, a foundation started by McConaughey to empower high school students to make healthy choices. The two became lifelong friends, with Chaney acting as somewhat of a manager/assistant/father figure for McConaughey. Movie productions took them across the globe; from 1999 to 2011, Chaney is listed on IMDB as "additional cast: assistant" in more than 20 McConaughey movies. In the downtime, McConaughey parked his airstream in Chaney's Fennwood driveway, where he stayed multiple times a year.

McConaughey also spent time in Zachary after Hurricane Katrina. Here's an excerpt from his Katrina diary, published on Oprah's website: *We finally got gas and headed towards Zachary, Louisiana, population 12,000...in the last seven days, the population has more than doubled. At the Cornerstone Church in Zachary, we met Lois, who had no idea where her family was. We were able to contact Lois's daughter by telephone.*



McConaughey with
John Chaney



MCCONAUGHEY!

Here are some of Zachary residents' memories of this wonderful, bizarre time in our town's history.



Ginny Gautreaux hanging poolside with the actor in this undated photo.

Came swimming in our pool! Had pizza and beer a few times. He practiced diving and they brought a high platform for him to practice. They ended up not making the movie. He even watched me teach swimming!

Mary Lou Eckert

He played in a tournament at Copper Mill and I told him where the tee box for hole 1 was. Realized after the fact it was him.

Chris Lemoine

Our hair salon on Main Street in Zachary, Shear Distinction. He wore an ink pen around his neck in case we wanted an autograph. But we were so nervous that none of us figured it out until he left. One of the only times you will see him with his head shaved. He shaved it because someone told him it would grow out thicker. And it did.

Monique Lord



Monique Lord, far left, when McConaughey visited Shear Distinction in 1995.

I remember that Spectrum gym employees ran to the pool and weight rooms to tell people not to look at him. The seniors in the pool were like, "Who? Okay, we'll be sure not to!" Mom had to come home and ask me who he was, giggly the whole time about the class making jokes that they just had to go spy on him!

Terri R. Henderson

Matthew and wife Camila (center) on their visit to CME in 2008.





KELLY SLATER



MR. T



EDDIE MONEY

Local + Legends

The six degrees of Charles Dohs

BY JEN GENNARO

Growing up in Los Angeles, seeing celebrities was just part of everyday life for Zachary resident Charles Dohs. Long before the era of selfies and smartphones, celebs weren't as camera-shy as they are today, and for Dohs, meeting them became almost routine.

"I literally met hundreds over the years," Dohs says. "Some encounters were quick, just a handshake or a hello, but others turned into stories I'll never forget."

Among his favorites was Mr. T. "He was super nice," Dohs recalls. Then there was Henry Winkler—better known as 'The Fonz'—and boxing legend Sugar Ray Leonard. He met Pam Dawber from Mork and Mindy and even Dr. Dre. But perhaps one of the wildest run-ins happened not in Hollywood but on an "airport shuttle from hell."

"I was on this rental car shuttle, and it broke down. Total disaster," Dohs says. But one of his fellow stranded passengers? Eddie Money. "He was super cool, and we got to hang out for a while." No word yet on if Eddie broke into an impassioned rendering of "Take Me Home Tonight," but it would have been fitting.



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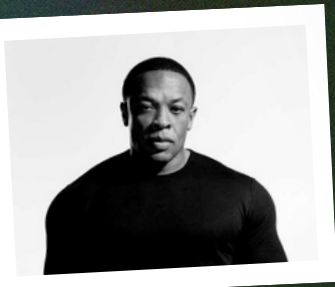
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CLAIM TO FAME



CALIFORNIA NATIVE CHARLES DOHS
WITH HIS FIRST SURFBOARD
1975



Beyond random run-ins, Dohs' family life intersected with celebrity circles in ways he never anticipated. His children attended Sierra Canyon School, an elite private institution famous for its star-studded student body. "It was completely by accident—a story for another time—but they ended up at the same school where LeBron James sends his kids. Practically every celeb in LA sends their kids there," he says.

With only about 60 kids per grade, friendships naturally formed. "My oldest son went to school with Kendall Jenner, and my youngest with Kylie. They knew each other pretty well and are still friends today," Dohs says.

And then there are those surreal Hollywood moments—the kind that don't even register as shocking until later. "I was standing in the room next to Kim Basinger when Alec Baldwin left one of his famous voicemails for Ireland," which were leaked to the press.

There are countless other stories, Dohs says, some too wild to believe, others just a funny blip in a life lived at the crossroads of celebrity and normalcy. "That's just how it was in LA," he says with a laugh. "You never knew who you'd run into next."



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