

Royal Ridge Recorder



Volume XXIV, Number 2

March-April 2016

<NOTE: The due date for news & ads for the next issue is Saturday, April 23, 2016>

ROYAL RIDGE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Lee Mays, President, 967-6501 Email: <u>mays7772@gmail.com</u> Website: <u>www.royalridgesa.org</u>

This is the time of year when many people are thinking about remodeling or home improvement projects. Here are a few precautions to protect yourself.

- 1. <u>Background</u> Check on the internet to see if your contractor has been sued. Check with the Better Business Bureau. Ask your contractor for names and phone numbers of at least three references. Ask if the work was satisfactory and how long ago they did the work. Ask the amount of the original budget and the amount of the final budget. Was the work quality acceptable? Were the workers neat and organized? Was the project completed on time? Was a lien filed against the property? Does the homeowner recommend this contractor?
- 2. <u>Insurance</u> Ask the contractor for a copy of his insurance policy and ask to be added as a named insured on the Commercial General Liability policy. Is the amount of insurance adequate?
- 3. Permits Check with the city and see if a work permit is required and its cost. Check with the architectural control committee for your homeowners association. If you are considering a room addition, make sure that the plans and construction do not violate setback requirements or cross property lines. If you think that this recommendation is obvious, drive across O'Connor Road and look at the house at 6312 King's Crown, across from the New Life Presbyterian Church. When the house was originally built, O'Connor Road ended at King's Crown and Royal Ridge Drive. When the city extended O'Connor Road, the homeowner on King's Crown was required to remove part of his house (look at roof line along the right side) where it crossed the property line and extended into the city's right-of-way.
- 4. <u>Licensing</u> Ensure that the contractor is properly licensed. Ask yourself do I think that my homeowner's insurance policy is going to pay for fire damage caused by an unlicensed electrician or water damage from an unlicensed plumber? Unlicensed work may cause a problem in trying to resell your house.

- 5. <u>Bids</u> Get at least three written estimates from different contractors.
- 6. <u>Contract</u> Have a written agreement covering what is to be done. The contract should include the price, payment terms, sales tax, warranties, permit fees, grade of materials, work quality, start and end dates, written change orders, final review before final payment, sign off document and debris removal. If a contractor promises something important to you, but then will not put it in writing, get a different contractor. Avoid a large initial payment and always pay by credit card or check.
- 7. <u>Contingencies</u> Work may uncover termite damage, prior electrical work that is not up to code, or plumbing that may need to be replaced due to age. It is not unusual for remodeling to cost 25%-30% more than an original estimate. Written change orders should be used to increase the price you will pay to the contractor.
- 8. <u>Lien Releases</u> Ask for signed lien releases from all major suppliers and subcontractors before making the final payment. The release ensures everyone is paid. If materials suppliers and subcontractors are not paid, they can come to you and ask for payment, even though you paid the original contractor in full. Hold 10% of the contract price for 30 days in case liens appear.
- 9. <u>Disputes</u> Decide how disputes will be resolved. You can agree to arbitration. It may be faster and less expensive than a lawsuit.

ROYAL RIDGE CITIZENS ON PATROL

Bob Robbins, Coordinator, 655-4226

We're well into the new-year already—time sure does move on. Royal Ridge Citizens on Patrol (RR COP) members continue their commitment to our collective security through daily patrols albeit we are fewer in number.

Several neighbors have taken advantage of the San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) COP training of late to learn more of how the SAPD operates, current crime trends and how they can help in SAPD's mission to serve and protect. The SAPD and we appreciate the extra eyes and ears. Thanks folks for being better prepared to witness and report suspicious activities in our neighborhood.

While we encourage everyone to take the training we understand not everyone is able or wants to patrol with RR COP. We do need new members though to continue providing the level of patrol coverage we have in the past. We are down to just over 30 active members and historically we've had 40 plus. Can we coax a few more of you to join us? There are over a thousand homes in the Royal Ridge neighborhoods and RR COP members come from less than 3% of them. Surely we see the need and can do better.

Let me know your thoughts, concerns and ideas for how we can better serve the community. Give me a call at 655-4226 (your call will go to voice mail if a caller ID is not present) or drop me an email at rrcop@att.net. Thanks for your interest and support.

UPCOMING SAPD COP TRAINING CLASSES

Saturday, April 2, 9 AM – 1 PM Monday, May 2, 6 PM – 10 PM

All classes are held at the SAPD North Patrol Substation at 13030 Jones Maltsberger. Give me a call if you are at all interested or need more information.

PROTECTION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION

Personal information includes your name, address, social security number, and medical information. Each of us must protect paper copies of our personal information. Buy a shredder and use it for outdated personal, medical, password, and bank information.

Our personal medical information is subject to being compromised. Our physicians need personal health information to help treat our medical problems. I have watched my physician enter my information in the laptop computer. A reasonable question is, how is this information protected? You can be sure that many or most physicians cannot answer this question.

It is less clear that large health care businesses should have our information. We provide personal medical information for life insurance. Some health insurance companies ask us for medical information to "evaluate" our health. That information entered into computer systems, and thus is subject to theft. Even if the information is not stolen, what is it used for? The information contained in our blood and genes may be used by a health insurance company for its own purposes. Perhaps the company can detect those at risk for diabetes or heart disease. It makes good business sense to then refuse to insure individuals once they enter the high-risk category. Under current law, there is no restriction. Should this be allowed?

Understanding the issue protection of personal information requires knowledge about computer

security. If you do not have a computer and are not on the internet, you should consider the following. As we have all seen, companies like Target and other businesses where we all spend time and money, can lose our personal information to thieves. Just because you do not put your personal information on the internet does not mean that it is not out there. Do you supply information for free on Facebook or other web sites? Do your friends or relatives put your photograph or other information on a web site? More than one person has lost a job, been convicted or denied college admission based on "free personal information."

Insist on protections, such as two-factor authentication for important accounts. If Google can establish it for its gmail accounts, banks should afford at least that level of protection for its customers.

Whether you work in a business or are retired and only are concerned with protecting your own family, our collective security is only as good as our weakest link. Use different passwords for different accounts. Use at least twelve characters in passwords including special characters, mixed numbers and letters, with some letters capitalized and others not capitalized. Do not use "123456" or "password" as passwords. Do not respond to unsolicited emails. Do not click on unknown links. Do not respond to unsolicited telephone calls. The IRS only communicates by written letter. Have at least two backups of important files, photographs, and financial information. Periodically review your credit information to ensure that a credit card is not issued to another address in your name that you know nothing about.

Many countries in Europe have strict laws concerning personal privacy. Unfortunately, the United States does not have a comprehensive framework for protecting personal privacy. Our national government must decide that our personal privacy is important, by establishing and enforcing appropriate laws and regulations. Otherwise, we are like sheep with lurking predators from all over the world, ready to steal our identities, information and money.

MONTHLY SOCIALS

Bonnie Hopkins, 650-0852

The *next socials* will be *Friday, March 25* and *Friday, April 22* at *5:30 PM*. All adult members of the RRRC are welcome. Visitors are welcome to come and see if they would be interested in joining the Royal Ridge Recreational Club (RRRC). Drinks are provided for a small donation and people are asked to bring finger foods to share. Hope to see you there!

PUPPET'S STUDIO BOARDING GROOMING 210-655-DOGS & DOGGIE DAYCARE

ROYAL RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

Counselor Michelle Martinez 407-7024

Royal Ridge Elementary School is looking for mentors for the 2016 school year. All mentors need to be Department of Public Safety (DPS) cleared. Both the mentors and students benefit from their time together so if you have questions about the role of a mentor, please give Michelle a call to find out the details.

ROYAL RIDGE RECREATIONAL CLUB

Diane Luna, President, 393-6976 Like us on Facebook @royalridgerecreationalclub Website: http://rrrecclub.org

Our annual Polar Bear Plunge held on New Year's Day continues to be a great way to start the new year. We had both young and old to brave the cold temperatures and take the plunge. The good food and fellowship that followed made it all worthwhile.

Our semi-annual *Community Garage Sale* will be *Saturday*, *April 9* at *9 AM-2 PM*. As referenced in a prior newsletter, we wanted to piggy-back the event alongside the Windcrest Community Garage Sale. Spaces are available for \$10 and open to anyone in/outside of Royal Ridge. We will also accept donated items for club sale. Contact **Deb Kennedy** at 219-2426 or <u>dkenn78239@gmail.com</u> to reserve your spot or to obtain more information.

Our *Membership Drive* on *May 28-30* and **Pool** *Opening* on *June 4* are only months away. Dues remain the same. They are as follows:

GOLD MEMBERSHIP Clubhouse and Tennis Court Access \$200

PLATINUM MEMBERSHIP
ALL Access
Pool, Clubhouse and Tennis Courts
\$225

How would you like to win a one-year all access Clubhouse membership (\$225 value) alongside five guest passes (\$15 value) and \$15 gift certificate towards concessions. This year we will offer the opportunity to do so with a Save Our Pool (SOP) Raffle. Tickets will be \$5 a chance or 5/\$20. We will begin selling *raffle tickets* on *April 9* at the Clubhouse during the Community Garage sale. You will also be able to obtain tickets from ANY board member.

With that said, we will move forward with our plans to coordinate and revive our door-to-door Save Our Pool/Membership Campaign. Last year our attempt was kind of railroaded with so many changes that came about once the Clubhouse was deeded to the community. This is a HUGE undertaking and we are in Need of Volunteers to canvass each area. Please contact Deb Kennedy at 219-2426 or dkenn78239@gmail.com if you are able to help or for more information.

We will have any/all volunteers meet at the Clubhouse on *Saturday*, *April 30* at *6:30 PM* to receive their directives and information packets. The actual *Door-to-Door Campaign* is scheduled to begin on *May 2* and end on *May 15*. We hope you will open your doors and help us reach our fundraising/membership goals.

Our next *Volunteer Days* will be on *Saturdays March 26* and *April 30* from *9 AM-Noon*. Keeping up the maintenance at our facilities is a never ending task. There is ALWAYS plenty of work to be done in/around the clubhouse and pool area. We hope you will find some time to help as we begin the process of getting things in order for our pool season.

We are putting a call-out to all our members to make a difference in the community and consider a board position. Along with the Secretary position, we have three board member positions available. No special qualifications are required except enthusiasm and a willingness to make our facilities a success. Please feel free to contact me directly at 393-6976 or diane.luna12@yahoo.com with any questions or concerns.



Paint-Your-Own Ceramics

Art Classes

Canvas Painting

Private Parties





ProScape offers year round landscape services such as: Grounds Maintenance, Irrigation Installation and Maintenance (Ll0019773), Landscape Design & Installation, and Bush & Tree Trimming. We are recommended by Barbara Rierson, a resident in the Royal Ridge area.

"SPRING SERVICE"

It is more important now than ever to prepare your lawn for the tough summer ahead. Aerating and adding compost to your lawn are the two most important steps you can take to do this. These will help generate much needed oxygen and nutrition to your soil, as well as the ability to retain moisture for longer. It's March; everything is changing color! It is time to use a Weed and Feed on the lawn. Even if you don't need us on a regular basis, it is our pleasure to help you with any questions you might have about your yard. Give us a call today!

Stephen Burkett, RR Resident sburkett89@hotmail.com 210.601.3057 Fax-210.654.9390

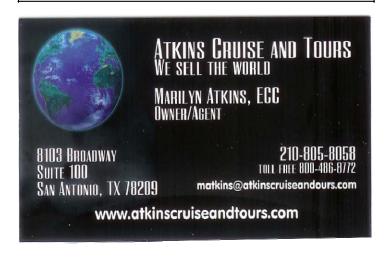
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Ready, Set, FIESTA!!! Mark your calendars. We will be hosting a *Fiesta FUN Friday* on *April 22* from *6 PM - 8:30 PM*. It will be set in a Night in Old San Antonio (NIOSA) style atmosphere with various foods/drinks to partake. A contest will be held for the best Fiesta-themed hat. So, let's get those ideas flowing and show us your creativity. This will be an adult only event. Admission is Free for members. Non-Members \$5 Donation.

Thanks everyone for your continued support!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

RRRC Volunteer Days

Saturday, March 26 Saturday, April 30 9:00 AM - Noon

RRRC Community Garage Sale

Save Our Pool Raffle Begins Saturday, April 9 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Fiesta FUN Friday

Friday, April 22 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM

RRRC SOP/Membership Volunteer Meeting

Saturday, April 30 6:30 PM

SOP/Membership Door-to-Door Campaign May 2 - May 15

Neighborhood News

GARDEN HOMES I

Polly-Dee Burrowes, Reporter, 599-1352

Pruce and Polly-Dee Burrowes attended the MacArthur High School spring production of Seussical, the Musical. Their grandson, Ethan, was a member of the cast, which provided part of the inducement, but it was very entertaining and a lot of fun

Last summer we reported after the fact on the Gilbert and Sullivan (G&S) Society of Austin's production of "The Sorcerer" so we wanted to provide a heads up for anyone who likes the comedic opera of G&S that this year's production will be "The Gondoliers" and it will be June 16-26. It is in Austin but it only takes a little over an hour to get there from our Royal Ridge neighborhood and the theater where they do the performances is very nice. You can get details at www.gilbertsullivan.org.

Congratulations to Thomas and Michelle

Steinman! They had their first baby on February 16. William is a long-awaited first grandchild for both sides of the family. William's grandparents, Thomas and Yongcha Steinman live four doors down and are ready to babysit. William's Uncle Gary Harmon III and Aunt Cathy Steinman live right next door; they cannot see enough of little William or love him more. Of course, they think he is the cutest baby in the entire universe!

Right before William was born, Aunt Cathy Steinman visited her friends in Wisconsin where it was negative (-) 11 degrees. She loved the cold weather and did just fine. She hiked through the snow on many trails and saw rivers, wildlife, and forests. Cathy also went snow-shoeing for the first time and got quite a workout.

Bobby and Barbara Younts have been drawing on some skills they haven't used in a while. They are babysitting their 7-month old great granddaughter two days a week. Her name is Rose Moore and according to Bobby she is a sweetheart. Over the Christmas holidays they enjoyed having one of their sons with his wife, daughter, and her family for breakfast on Christmas morning. Another son came for Christmas dinner.

Bobby also wants to remind Garden Homes I folks to get their annual dues in ASAP. The deadline was February 15 but there are still a few outstanding.

Also a reminder that with warmer weather the first thing to show up are weeds but the grass and shrubs also probably need a trim. Let's keep the neighborhood looking nice.

Polly-Dee has been reporting for a number of years now and she really needs to hand the job off to someone else. She says it is a great way to make contact with your neighbors. Please call her at 599-1352 for information.

PATIO HOMES I

Catherine "Taffy" Haenze, Reporter, 424-0110

My daughter, **Mei**, broke her ankle in late January.

I have been up and down Royal Ridge streets for the last month. It is wonderful to walk or ride my bike and not fear speeders. Thank all of you for slowing down. Don't forget to tell your guests we're not a speed zone.

Please continue to be patient as **Ernie Jones** and his crew work to refurbish those things that were put on hold while we did the necessary house painting. I have seen them working long hours to get caught up. I'm sure we all appreciate the work they are doing even though our/your house wasn't first on the list.

Fun news! **Chris Seeling** gave an **Open House** on January 7 to meet and greet new and longtime

residents. There was a good time had by all. Among the new residents (I apologize for any spelling mistakes) to attend were: **Geri Williams** and her daughter, **Kathy** who lives across the street. Also **Rebecca Waugh**, and **Charlsea** and **Hershel Stocks**. They are from Marble Falls. **Ernie** and **Frances Jones**, **Jane Chesa**, **Rosanne** and **Rose Vincent**, **Joanne**, **Patty** and **Joe Kirst** and **Joe Hinchcliff**. I am sure that is not all, but I had company that day and they left just as the party ended. We need to do this again!

GARDEN HOMES II

Janet Latiolais, Reporter, 655-1873

ello to our Royal Ridge neighbors! After this mild winter, my neighbor, Al Druemont tells me we will pay for it this summer with raging heat. Today, however, I'm enjoying the weather as I've spoken recently with family along the eastern seaboard telling me all about the snow and record low temperatures.

Bill and **Nancy Reese** have been staying close to home since **Nancy** recently had a hip replacement. She is doing well, with therapy coming in to help her learn to walk again. They enjoyed their daughters coming home to take turns helping their dad with mom.

Meanwhile, **Lee** and **Sandi Mays** just returned from a cruise to South America. Their ship went through Buenos Aires, Argentina to Valparaiso, Chile as well as Montevideo, Uruguay and the Falkland Islands. One of the highlights was seeing the penguin colony in Patagonia, South Argentina. As they returned from their trip, Lee's sister, Robin and her husband, Alan, came to visit from Memphis, Tennessee. They were busy with all the usual tourist stops as well as taking in a play "The Seagull" at the Classic theater. Of course, they also enjoyed our wonderful Tex-Mex food!

My young neighbor, **Heather Slater**, is also enjoying the mild weather with daily walks with her baby daughter, **Ella**. She's a beautiful little girl with lots of hair. The fresh air must agree with her as she's always asleep whenever I see her. And, on the other side of me, **Richard Pritchard** can be seen walking in our alley with his mom, **Mary**. It is nice she's getting out to see our neighbors.

My daughter, **Lori Latiolais**, was selected "Teacher of the Year" at her middle school. She was recognized along with other educators in the San Antonio Independent School District (SAISD) at an Awards ceremony. And, January brought another event in my life as I celebrated my seventieth birthday. Family, loved friends and lots of neighbors came over to enjoy social time and reminisce about the years. This neighborhood is indeed the greatest to call home!

Have a nice Easter holiday with your loved ones and friends.

PATIO HOMES II

Wanda Espinosa, Reporter, 382-0613

Lathie Obeck wants to thank **Wanda Espinosa** for volunteering to be the reporter for Patio Homes II. Please give her a call at 382-0613 if you have any news for the *Royal Ridge Recorder*.

We have new neighbors **Jennifer Alley** and her daughter, **Mikaela** on Archwood, and **Roy Burley** on Grandwood. Let's make them feel welcomed.

Spring is on its way and to help keep Patio Homes II neighborhood looking great, we all need to start controlling the weed growth before it gets out of control. Not only the front yards, but the alley areas also. When you cut back weeds with a weed eater, it just encourages the weeds to repopulate.

For our neighbors, send your name, address, phone number and email address to **Bob Robbins**, who manages the Royal Ridge Neighborhood Association (umbrella group for all Royal Ridge neighborhoods) email groups and keeps us up with what is happening in Royal Ridge on crime and missing animals, etc. The email address is RRNA@att.net. If your email has changed, please let him know also. The RRNA does not share email addresses with others and your email address will not be visible to others on any RRNA, RR COP or RRRC email.

COMMENTS FROM A RRI RESIDENT

The following things come to mind every time I walk in our neighborhoods and springtime is the time to address most of them:

- 1. Homeowners should trim their shrubs back about a foot from the sidewalk to allow for spring growth. In a number of areas, one must step on the homeowner's grass to get around the bush.
- 2. Trees should be trimmed over the sidewalk; I'd think at least 6 feet. Also, trees and bushes that restrict parking or driving should be trimmed.
- 3. Leaves and mud must be cleared from the sidewalks in front of the home by the homeowner. If wet, the sidewalk becomes dangerous.
- 4. In the fall, homeowners should clear the sidewalks of the many acorns as these, too, are dangerous and messy.
- 5. I believe, and haven't checked city code, that automobiles should not extend over the whole sidewalk.

In all, even if we are not concerned with complying with city codes, we should be concerned for our neighbors as well as the appearance of our community.

DIRECTORY

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RRRC Pool Management Manager
Club ActivitiesTripoley (Fri)Shirley Bryan392-6095Socials (Fri)Bonnie Hopkins650-0852
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Other Association Presidents Patio Homes I
Royal Ridge Citizens-on-Patrol (COP) Coordinator

CALENDAR

March 2016

08 Tue	7:00 PM, Citizen's-on-Patrol Meeting
11 Fri	7:00 PM, Tripoley
15 Tue	6:30 PM, RR Recreational Club Meeting
25 Fri	5:30 PM, Monthly Social
26 Sat	9:00 AM to Noon, RRRC Volunteer Day

April 2016

02	Sat	9:00 AM to 1:00 PM, SAPD COP Training
80	Fri	7:00 PM, Tripoley
09	Sat	9:00 AM to 2:00 PM, Community Garage Sale
09	Sat	9:00 AM to 2:00 PM, RRRC SOP Raffle Begins
12	Tue	7:00 PM, Citizen's-on-Patrol Meeting
19	Tue	6:30 PM, RR Recreational Club Meeting
22	Fri	5:30 PM, Monthly Social
22	Fri	6:00 to 8:30 PM, Fiesta FUN Friday
23	Sat	Royal Ridge Recorder articles due
30	Sat	9:00 AM to Noon, RRRC Volunteer Day
30	Sat	6:30 PM SOP/Membership Volunteer Meeting

May 2016

02 Mon	6:00 PM to 10:00 PM, SAPD COP Training
02 - 15	SOP/Membership Door-to-Door Campaign
10 Tue	7:00 PM, Citizen's-on-Patrol Meeting
13 Fri	7:00 PM, Tripoley
17 Tue	6:30 PM, RR Recreational Club Meeting
27 Fri	5:30 PM, Monthly Social
28 - 30	RRRC Membership Drive

June 2016

04 Sat RRRC Pool Opening

PET SITTER

High school student is great with pets! Will walk your dogs, feed, and babysit your pet while you are away. Will even water your plants! Sandra Jean **862-9833**.

SAPD COP TRAINING CLASS

Saturday, April 2, 9 AM – 1 PM Monday, May 2, 6 PM - 10 PM

FOR SALE

Modern style oval-shaped coffee table, still in box, never been used, only \$50.

Thomas **386-2448**

HOUSE CLEANING BY MARIA

Royal Ridge references available upon request. Experienced and dependable housekeeping. Maria 268-8422

FOR SALE

64x39 Rectangle Glass Top Patio Table with 6 chairs and cushions, \$100.
Please call **598-9766**.

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Must be over 18 to apply.
Call or text **210-862-9823**.