



Royal Ridge Recorder



Volume XXIII, Number 4

July-August 2015

<NOTE: The due date for news & ads for the next issue is Saturday, August 22, 2015>

ROYAL RIDGE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Lee Mays, President, 967-6501

Email: mays7772@gmail.com

Website: www.royalridgesa.org

In my last newsletter, I emphasized the need for greater participation in the Royal Ridge Recreational Club (RRRC) – the Clubhouse and pool. I volunteered to present four seminars on different topics that will be of interest to many of the Royal Ridge residents. The only requirement is that each person provide one hour of service to the Club for each seminar hour attended. For persons unable to work, an individual may instead donate \$20.00 to the Club. A couple may attend for \$25.00. **Debbie Kennedy**, the RRRC vice-president, can be reached at 219-2426 and will be present to either collect donations or schedule what you can do to help and when.

The **First Seminar** will be **July 21, 2015** beginning at **7 PM** in the Clubhouse, 5859 Royal Ridge Drive. The **Second Seminar** will be **September 15, 2015**, after the RRRC Board meeting, beginning at 7:45 PM.

The first one-hour seminar will cover ESTATE PLANNING including Wills and trusts, powers of attorney, guardianships, living wills and DNRs. Tax consequences and probate costs will be part of the information presented.



The second one-hour seminar will discuss TAXES. If you have a household employee or a home caregiver, you may be liable for payroll and unemployment taxes. What amount triggers those responsibilities? In addition, Attorney Jeff Altman will discuss insurance issues for homeowners and HOAs.

Please keep **October 6** open from **6–8 PM**. That is our planned **National Night Out** for Royal Ridge. It will be at the Clubhouse at 5859 Royal Ridge Drive. We usually have visitors from the police and fire departments, as well as many of our elected representatives. We will have our annual meeting of the Royal Ridge Neighborhood Association. If there are things that you like in the neighborhood, please

come and share them. If there are things you would like to see improved, now is the time for you to join the Board and work with us for a better Royal Ridge. Don't forget to check our neighborhood web site – www.royalridgesa.org for information about your Homeowners Association (HOA).

I recommend that you occasionally look at the City of San Antonio's web site. The City has developed a comprehensive plan – SA Tomorrow. It projects that we will grow by 1.1 million residents and 500,000 new homes by the year 2040. The Sustainability Plan is the city's roadmap for enhancing our quality of life and overall resilience while balancing the impact of our expected growth with



existing economic, environmental, and social resources. The San Antonio Sustainability Forum meets periodically for resident input.

311 is the non-emergency telephone number for the City of San Antonio. They handle potholes, stray animals, street signs, trash collection and can provide general city information. You can sign up for emails and other periodic information releases.

Some of you have asked about businesses and zoning around the Royal Ridge area. The city zoning commission has that responsibility. Violations should be registered with Code Enforcement. The resource is <http://www.sanantonio.gov/dsd/zoning.asp>.

A big thank you to all of our neighbors who work so hard to make this a great place to live. Where there are issues, let us discuss the situation so that we can eliminate minor irritations before they become problems. It is easy enough as ringing a doorbell and we may find new friends by just talking.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Gary H. Harmon, Jr., 884-6926

Email: gharmon@ldworld.net

The much needed and refreshing rains are wonderful, but weeds love them too. Remember, it's much better, albeit more time

consuming, to pull and spray the weeds. It is not a good idea to cut back the weeds with a mower or weed eater. This just makes the weeds happy and encourages them to repopulate stronger and bigger than ever. We need to keep the alleys nice too. Those of us who transverse the alleys daily like to see them clean and neat. Rocks, weeds (growing and otherwise), trash cans left out for days, mildewed driveways and fences, etc. leave a bad impression for current and potential residents. Let's all work together to make Royal Ridge as nice as it can be. "Help a neighbor – Pull a weed!"

There are a number of homes on the market in Royal Ridge. Looks like we will have new neighbors soon. If you see a new neighbor, welcome them to your area. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

Take advantage of the forthcoming seminars by **Lee Mays**. They both should be very informative and useful to all of us.

Lee is right on target with his comments on the need for greater participation in the Royal Ridge Recreational Club (RRRC) – the Clubhouse and Pool. These capabilities are essential to Royal Ridge. I remember seeing a similar configuration at a housing area on Judson Road years ago. The residents had quit supporting their clubhouse and pool. The pool became useless, the clubhouse became shabby and weeds were as high as an elephant's eye. What do you think was the impact on the house values in that area? What did visitors think as they drove into the area and immediately past the run-down club house and pool? We ALL need to support the RRRC. If you can't afford to join the RRRC, think about donating what you can afford.



An issue from a resident – "I was wondering if you can post something in the *Royal Ridge Recorder* about people letting their dogs go to the bathroom on other people's yards and not picking it up. Just because I have rock on property doesn't mean it's a public restroom for everyone's dog in the neighborhood to use. There's currently four piles of dog droppings on the Royal Ridge side of my house and also in my front yard. This has been going on for quite a while but had stopped, and now it's starting up again. I appreciate your help."

ROYAL RIDGE CITIZENS ON PATROL

Bob Robbins, Coordinator, 655-4226

Thanks to all who keep an eye out for our safety and security, Royal Ridge enjoys a

relatively low crime rate. Thanks to our Royal Ridge Citizens On Patrol (RR COP) members, we maintain a deterrent through regular patrolling and the reporting of illegal and suspicious activity. And thanks to **Officer Reno**, our community policing officer, and the entire San Antonio Police Department (SAPD), we get excellent support in our crime prevention efforts. Keep it up folks!



Neighbors call SAPD to our neighborhoods an average of one and half times a day for routine and emergency police matters. We've reported a theft from a residence or a residence burglary roughly once every five days and a vehicle theft or burglary just over once a month so far this year. The biggest reason we've called SAPD this year is to settle neighbor and family disturbances, about one every other day. Surely we can do better here. We are doing okay in reporting suspicious persons, vehicles and activities calling in an average of one a week but, based on informal neighbor conversations, we actually witness more, and for whatever reason, are reluctant to call them in. We can do better here too as having SAPD check out the suspicious circumstances sends a strong message to those who see them checking things out.

Our membership remains steady but is near an all-time low making it difficult to have a patrol out every day of the month for a couple of hours. If you have time, consider taking the SAPD 4-hour training class and then patrolling with RR COP once or twice a month for a couple of hours a day. We'd appreciate the extra help and the entire neighborhood will benefit. **SAPD classes** resume in September—plan now on attending the **Monday, September 14** class from **6-10 PM**.

Thanks again to all who contribute to our collective safety and security. Please call with any questions or concerns.



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SUMMER SERVICE

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Stephen Burkett, RR Resident
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ROYAL RIDGE RECREATIONAL CLUB

Diane Luna, President, 393-6976

Like us on Facebook @royalridgerecreationalclub

Website: <http://rrreclub.org>

The Special General Membership Meeting FINALLY took place on May 18 with a quorum. The proxies acquired/required were presented and approval of the amended Articles of Incorporation, Deed and By-laws were recorded respectively. Thank you to everyone who made these new changes possible allowing us to go forward in a new direction.

Let us welcome on board (no pun intended) two new Board Members, **Deborah Edens** and **Mario Saldana** and bid farewell to our Treasurer, **Tonya Thayer**. Deborah has been a long standing member and will use her skills/experience in accounting to replace Tonya. Mario is a brand-spanking new resident to Royal Ridge and immediately decided to become part of the community by becoming a board member. He wasted no time in volunteering to step up in assisting with lawn maintenance and is eager to assist in our upcoming events. I would like to thank Tonya for ALL her hard and dedication during her tenure as Treasurer.

Rain, Rain, Go Away, RR Residents Want To Play... This has pretty much become our slogan beginning with Opening weekend and continuing to date. I'm sure everyone can agree that this wet weather has overstayed its' welcome. I wholeheartedly give kudos to ALL who did brave the downpours and made the trip to bring your memberships and support our Fundraiser Plate Sale. Our Fundraiser Plate Sale yielded \$300. This low figure again falling a victim to weather conditions. We extended our Free Weekend to May 30 and 31 in hopes of making up for Opening weekend. Much to our dismay, weather conditions did not help with attendance.

Be it as it may, club membership is around 100 members at the time of my article submission, June 24. We need at least 125 memberships to break even for our annual costs and 150 to allow us to set aside monies towards an emergency fund. We hope that it is the weather or early vacations that has kept most of you from stopping by. On a brighter note, we have 30 first time members to date and the majority of our renewals are at the Platinum level, \$225, with added donations ranging from \$5 to \$500.

Our Pool Season officially started on June 5. Attendance and pool parties are at an all-time low partly due to this on-off rainy weather. June rentals and pool parties were booked months in advance. Bookings for July-August are finally being filled. I am very pleased to welcome back a very dedicated

and efficient young lady as our Lead Pool Attendant, **Lauren**. Your safety doverall pool experience is her priority.

Our Concession Stand attendant, **Victoria** is ready to assist with concessions, guest passes, and receiving memberships during our new hours 3-7 PM. Pay us a visit on **Sundae Sundays** and make your own sundae for \$1 Regular Bowl and \$2 Waffle Bowl. Yum!

We are now hosting **Family Fun Nights** on **Fridays** by staying open an extra hour until 9 PM. We are also featuring a different food item at the Concession Stand on these nights. We have featured such items as watermelon slices, root beer floats, and Frito pies to name a few. Add Fridays at the pool to your calendar.

Future **Teen Night** dates are **July 18** and **August 15, 8-10 PM**. These will be lock-down events with no in-out access. Admission will be \$5. We will end the season with an **Aloha To Summer Luau** on **August 21, 7-9 PM**.



Please make note of our website and Facebook page. We use these sites to keep our members and community updated on our on-going clubhouse activities/events. Please take a minute to visit our website and LIKE us on Facebook.

I would like to end this article with my undying gratitude and appreciation and give:

A BIG "THANK YOU" TO BOB ROBBINS AND ERNIE JONES!

These two individuals continuously go above and beyond their call of duty year-round. They step up by giving their own time to take on huge tasks like draining and pressure-washing the pool, maintaining the lawn and pool, repairing any and all needed items at the clubhouse and pool, etc., etc. We Appreciate ALL You Do!!!



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MONTHLY SOCIALS

Bonnie Hopkins, 650-0852

The next two socials are **July 24** and **August 28** at **5:30 PM**, the fourth Fridays of the month. All adult members of the RRRC are welcome. Visitors are welcome to come and see if they would be interested in joining RRRC. Drinks are provided for a small donation and people are asked to bring finger foods to share. Hope to see you there.

ROYAL RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

Counselor Shannon 407-7024

Royal Ridge Elementary is looking for mentors for the 2015-16 school year. All mentors need to be Department of Public Safety (DPS) cleared. Both the mentors and the students benefit from their time together. If you have time to give to a student, please give Shannon a call.

NEIGHBORHOOD LADIES LUNCHEON

Janet Latiolais, 655-1873

The monthly Neighbor Ladies' Luncheon has had a good response. Any lady or her adult female family member can join us. It is a great way to meet your neighbors throughout Royal Ridge. Ladies, please join us on the following dates:

Monday, July 20, 11:30 AM

Williams Confectionery Restaurant
12107 Toepperwein Rd., 967-5200

Thursday, August 20, 11:30 AM

Salsalito Mexican Restaurant
14435 Nacogdoches Rd., 646-8088

Carpool available from the RRRC
Parking Lot at 11:00 AM

Neighborhood News

PATIO HOMES I

Catherine "Taffy" Haenze, Reporter, 424-0110

We have one or more than one good Samaritan as a neighbor. While I was still figuring out how to undo the small rocks that had flooded off my front yard and across the sidewalk while balancing on a walker or cane, a wonderful miracle happened at the hands of an unknown neighbor. The rocks are back in the yard where they belong! Thank you, thank you gracious friend who cleaned this mess up.

Our mailman has informed several of us that mail you put out is not safe, especially checks. No, it's not some run amuck, bored kids. We have true skunks coming into our neighborhood stealing our outgoing mail in order to get their hands on our checks. They wash them, alter them, copy them and use your signature to get your money for their use. Do NOT use the mailbox for checks. Take them to the Post Office on Landmark or in Windcrest (for the closest ones). Alternately, you can pay on-line by credit card or "bill pay:" a service of most banks. Just don't take the chance of feeding these vultures.

Please remind your visitors that the safest speed in the alleys is 15 mph. Yes, even late at night. Someone else is going to get seriously hurt trying to get out of the way of a speeder. Do we really need to get the city involved in such a simple matter? Some of us just don't jump fast enough, or far enough anymore. And, I'll repeat again, I, and others on the curves, can't SEE cars coming when we are backing out. I'm nearly ½ out before I know a car is coming. I nearly got one a couple of months ago. Stay in the middle, and go the 15 mph. Thank you for caring enough to do so and tell your guests.

Use the phone number below my name to call in items you want covered. Thanks.

PATIO HOMES II

Kathie Obeck, Reporter, 967-5038

Welcome to another new neighbor, **Ellen Brodsky** on Grandwood. If you see her, give her a friendly Hello.

I am reaching out once again to our neighbors to please let me know of anything that you would like to share with our neighbors, like helpful news, tips, trips, visitors, graduations etc. This is what our *Recorder* is for - to promote community communication, helpfulness, and knowledge within our neighborhood.

The **Obecks** had a great trip to the East Coast to celebrate **Doug's** 50th reunion from Veterinary School at the University of Pennsylvania. They also



got to visit a lot of family while there and made a trip to Connecticut to see good friends. Upon their return, they had two grandchildren graduate from Smithson Valley High School. Where do the years go?

Just a friendly reminder that our yards need to be spruced up. I know that we have had a lot of rain, and when it's a nice day, we all want to get out to do something fun, but please try to keep our neighborhood looking nice.

Thank you to all the neighbors that responded to the request for pool membership. They still need more to make a go of this year and years to come. The Pool is an asset to our wonderful neighborhood.

GARDEN HOMES I

Polly-Dee Burrowes, Reporter, 599-1352

Jerome Allen, Reporter, 999-5485

Bruce and Polly-Dee Burrowes had a busy June. Their niece, Kathy Chambers, visited from Denver, Colorado, while her daughter, Allie, participated in the EGIRL Engineering Camp at Texas Tech University, June 15–19. Bruce, Polly-Dee and Kathy drove up to Lubbock for the team presentations on Friday. The presentations were very interesting but the real purpose of the camp was to motivate young women to consider

engineering as a career opportunity and in that regard the camp seemed to be a real success.

After the presentations, Kathy and Allie headed back to Denver and Bruce and Polly-Dee drove over to Glen Rose, Texas to celebrate their 51st wedding anniversary. On Saturday, they visited the Creation Evidence Museum which was very interesting and well presented.

On the way home from Glen Rose one of the surprises of the trip was a lunch stop in Hico, Texas where The Koffee Kup Cafe served enormous hamburgers (and lots of other good things too). Apparently they are well known for their pies. Their slogan is "pie fixes anything" and lots of people must agree because while they ate lunch, they saw at least 25 folks buying one or more pies. Unfortunately they were too full to enjoy a slice themselves.

On Sunday, June 21, Bruce and Polly-Dee, and friends, made their annual trip up to Austin to see this year's Gilbert and Sullivan production of "The Sorcerer." Not one of their better known works but the story and music was good and as usual the cast was outstanding.

CONGRATULATIONS Bruce and Polly-Dee on 51 years of marriage!

GARDEN HOMES II

Janet Latiolais, Reporter, 655-1873

Isn't the neighborhood looking beautiful this summer compared to other years. I can't believe how thick my grass feels under foot. One piece of unfinished business: the individual who gives out the newsletter to part of Royal Ridge residents wishes to apologize for her lateness in her duty. Her brother was ill and she went to visit him during the time the newsletters came out and no one stepped in to help out.

Al and Carmen Dreumont just returned from a trip to Guatemala, Central America. They went with two other family members and enjoyed the beauty of the country as well as the delicious food.

Some of us grandparents have new graduates in our family; my granddaughter, Chelsea, has graduated from McArthur High and plans to begin college in the Fall. **Bill and Nancy Reese** have a grandson, Ian, who also graduated from high school, Strake Jesuit in Houston. He plans to attend the University of Houston also in the Fall.

One of our neighbors, **Loretta Camp** was recently given the San Antonio Association of Health Underwriter of the year award. It came as a complete surprise to her; both her husband, **Steven** and son, **Jeremy** were there to see her accept the award. Loretta then went to New Orleans as a voting delegate for the national convention of the Health underwriters. Congratulations to Loretta!

DIRECTORY

Recorder Staff

Editor (News) Gary H. Harmon, Jr..... 884-6926
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Collator/Distributor .. Jeanette Gittinger 656-0656

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Vice President Debbie Kennedy 219-2426
Secretary Brenda Littleton..... 410-0609
Treasurer Deborah Edens.....
Board Member..... Mario Saldana
Board Member..... Danielle Navarro..... 771-9293
Board Member..... Frances Jones 653-8206
Board Member..... Christine Maldonado.... 471-8834

RRRC Website/Email

Website.....<http://rrrecclub.org>
Email. rrrclub@att.net

RRRC Committee Chairpersons

Club Reservations Diane Luna 393-6976
Alternate Debbie Kennedy 219-2426

RRRC Pool Management

Manager..... **Volunteer Needed**
Maint. Supervisor Bob Robbins..... 655-4226

Club Activities

Tripoley (Fri) Shirley Bryan 392-6095
Socials (Fri) Bonnie Hopkins 650-0852

Royal Ridge Neighborhood Association

Website.....royalridgesa.org
President Lee Mays 967-6501
Vice-President **Volunteer Needed**
Secretary Janet Latiolais 655-1873
Treasurer Cathy Steinman..... 392-5057

Other Association Presidents

Patio Homes I Terry Maloney 653-6779
Patio Homes II Sue Hassell..... 601-6936
Garden Homes I Bobby Younts 655-6670
Garden Homes II Lee Mays 967-6501
Inwood Dale Prashad..... 609-2168
Royal Ridge I **Volunteer Needed**
Royal Ridge II **Volunteer Needed**
GVH..... **Volunteer Needed**

Royal Ridge Citizens-on-Patrol (COP)

Coordinator..... Bob Robbins..... 655-4226

CALENDAR

July 2015

*Refer to RRNA article on Page 1 for Seminar details

*No Neighborhood Monthly Games in July

10 Fri 7:00 PM, Tripoley
12 Sun 4:00 PM, GHII Annual BBQ Meal/Meeting
14 Tue 7:00 PM, Citizens-On-Patrol Meeting
18 Sat 8-10 PM, RRRC Teen Night
20 Mon 11:30 AM, Ladies' Lunch – Williams Confect
21 Tue 6:30 PM, RR Recreational Club Meeting
21 Tue 7:00 PM, RRRC Seminar on Estate Planning
24 Fri 5:30 PM, Monthly Social

August 2015

*No Neighborhood Monthly Games in August

11 Tue 7:00 PM, Citizens-on-Patrol Meeting
14 Fri 7:00 PM, Tripoley
15 Sat 8-10 PM, RRRC Teen Night
18 Tue 6:30 PM, RR Recreational Club Meeting
20 Thu 11:30 AM, Ladies' Lunch – Salsalito
22 Fri 7-9 PM, RRRC Aloha to Summer Luau
22 Sat *Royal Ridge Recorder* articles due
28 Fri 5:30 PM, Monthly Social

September 2015

*Refer to RRNA article on Page 1 for Seminar details

08 Tue 7:00 PM, Citizens-on-Patrol Meeting
11 Fri 7:00 PM, Tripoley
14 Mon 6-10 PM, SAPD COP Training Class
15 Tue 6:30 PM, RR Recreational Club Meeting
15 Tue 7:45 PM, RRRC Seminar Taxes and Insurance
19 Sat 7:00 PM, Neighborhood Monthly Games
25 Fri 5:30 PM, Monthly Social

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Please call **Jeanette** 656-0656.

SEEKING ROOMMATE

A new Royal Ridge resident is looking for a responsible, tidy and fairly quiet non-smoking single or couple to rent a room in her peaceful home here in the neighborhood. If you know someone who might be interested, please give **Ellen Brodsky** a call at (512) 567-5157.

FOR SALE

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