

Royal Ridge Recorder

Volume XXVI, Number 4

July-August 2018

<NOTE: The due date for news & ads for the next issue is Saturday, September 1, 2018>

Note: We apologize for the tardiness of this issue of the Royal Ridge Recorder. There will be no copy delivered to homes for this issue, only the digital edition.

The Recorder is going through an editorial leadership transition. We plan to have the next issue September-October issue out and delivered within the next 30 days,

ROYAL RIDGE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Dan Calderon, President, 210-693-2744

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I hope everyone is enjoying these longer, warmer summer days.

I attended a meeting led by District 10 Councilman Clayton Perry at the Tool Yard near the end of May. One of the interesting items that came up was about some work that will be done at the intersection of Weidner and Randolph Boulevard as part of a \$500,000 transportation and capital improvements plan.

First, some of you may have already noticed the concrete divider that went up at Interstate 35 and Weidner intersection, ostensibly to help control traffic trying to turn into the new 7-11 convenience store that has opened at the corner. Personally, I'm not happy about the longer lines that have formed to wait on the traffic light since the divider makes Weidner a one-lane westbound road approaching the I-35 intersection. But the divider is undoubtedly preventing accidents that would be occurring if eastbound traffic was allowed to turn into the 7-11 parking lot.

However, congestion at Randolph and Weidner has also been a concern over the years as new communities have popped up in our community and nearby neighborhoods. With that in mind, the

city is looking to make a few improvements to that intersection.

1. Add a dedicated left turn lane that leads from Weidner to Randolph in both directions
2. Add new lane striping
3. Improve the existing traffic signal by upgrading from string wire to a more durable light pole.
4. Add pavement markings
5. Add closed-circuit TV cameras to the intersections, with plans to upgrade to radar sensors in the near future

Whatever you think about radar sensors and TV monitors at traffic lights, they are coming, and hopefully will serve as a deterrent to people wanting to run the lights at that intersection.

A marked cross walk was not listed as part of the project, but Councilman Perry said the city would find money in the budget to have one added. We'll check back in with his office to make sure this important safety feature is added. The entire improvements project is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Councilman Perry also took the opportunity to provide an update on his priorities for the city budget.

1. Homestead exemption for seniors
2. Additional police officers on streets
3. More money toward infrastructure (streets and drainage)

The councilman pointed out the city does not have a homestead exemption for older adults in our community. We'll report on the success of his efforts since more money would have to be squeezed from other parts of the city budget to fund his other desirable priorities.

The city also provided an update on the homeless situation in our area. Overall, the number of unsheltered homeless in the San Antonio area is up 23 percent. In the District 10 area, the city has identified 27 to 30 homeless

residents in the area.

The city is looking to add a dedicated outreach coordinator to work with faith-based outreach groups and other ancillary organizations to eventually develop a long-term solutions to get the homeless off the streets in District 10. The city has about a half dozen outreach professionals for the entire community today. Getting a dedicated staffer to focus just on District 10 will be a challenge.

City staff encouraged those in attendance to discourage people from giving money directly to the homeless. Carrying hand sanitizer, socks, travel size toothbrushes and toothpaste to give is a better alternative if you want to really help.

Also, there is growing concern about so-called "professional" panhandlers, people who are asking for money who may not be in real need. Things to look for are dirty fingernails, worn-out shoes and whether the homeless person is carrying a bag with clothes and other belongings. This would indicate that the person may be genuinely in need.

If you want to report an issue with the homeless or other concerns to Councilman Perry's office, I encourage you to call 210-207-0999, or email District10@sanantonio.gov.

ROYAL RIDGE CITIZENS ON PATROL

Bob Robbins, Coordinator, 210-655-4226

Email: rrcop@att.net

The signs of a long hot summer are beginning to appear. Disturbances (family and noise), assaults (family and others) are showing up in greater numbers than in previous months. It's time to cool off and handle our differences more calmly and take greater care to respect our family members, guests and neighbors.

The longest day of the summer is past and so the sun will start to set sooner. The ne'er-do-wells are plying their trade in the wee hours of the morning and so that doesn't make a great deal of difference in detecting them. What would help is for everyone to turn on their porchlights and to make sure their security lights are in good working order. RR COP patrols note many security lights not working and many, many residences without porch lights to illuminate their front entrances. LED bulbs and fixtures have become much more affordable and cost very little to operate over time. If you don't presently routinely turn on your porch lights at night and haven't checked to see that your security lights are working, we ask that you do so to improve our overall safety and security.

(Have you noticed some residences are

displaying colored porch lights. Here's the "code" as explained to me: Blue honoring law enforcement, Red honoring fire fighters and Green honoring service members and veterans. There are other colors of course and even these three have different meanings to some and at varying times. I was curious and thought others might be interested.)

RR COP reports sometimes show frustration with walkers, joggers and bikers on the wrong side of the road and, on top of that, with dark clothing without visible markings. Yes, we live in a relatively safe neighborhood but defying convention and other's expectations is flirting with trouble. Please observe the rules of the road and make sure you are visible at night if you are in a roadway for any purpose.

The SAPD will resume COP training classes this fall with the first class on Monday evening, September 10th, 6-10 pm and another on a Saturday, October 13th, 9 am – 1 pm. RR COP needs new members to continue operating and so please plan on attending now and join us once you've been trained. Please!

Take care and watch out for one another as summer progresses, neighbors go on vacation and guests visit. **Report any and all suspicious persons, vehicles and activities immediately to the SAPD on their non-emergency number, 210-207-SAPD (210-207-7273).** We'll all benefit from the police investigating your reports. Thanks!

School will be back in session in late August...remind yourself of school safety zones and respect them. Look out for the little ones and drive defensively during school arrival and dismissal times. Thanks again!

And thanks to the RR COP members who lookout for our safety and security each and every day. We appreciate you!

ROYAL RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Counselor Michelle Martinez, 210-407-7024

Email: mmartri20@neisd.net

Royal Ridge Elementary is searching for mentors. If you are interested in dedicating one to two hours per week to a student Kinder through 5th grade who needs extra support, please contact Michelle Martinez at (210) 407-7024. It takes a village to raise a child.

MONTHLY SOCIALS AND TRIOLEY

Bonnie Hopkins, 210-650-0852

Email: bhopkins9@satx.rr.com

The next **Monthly Social** will be **August 24** at **5:30 PM**. All Socials are held at the RRRC Clubhouse. All adult members of the Royal Ridge Recreational Club (RRRC) Clubhouse are welcome. Visitors are welcome to come and see if they are interested in joining the RRRC. Drinks are provided for a small donation and people are asked to bring finger foods to share. Hope to see you there!

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Gary H. Harmon Jr., Editor, 210-884-6926
Email: gharmon@idworld.net

I've noticed several trash cans with damaged or missing lids. Call 311 and request a replacement lid, and someone will come out and replace the lid. If your trash is picked up in the alley MAKE SURE you tell them because the repair crew are not the same guys that make the trash runs.

There are eight homeowners associations (HOAs) listed in the Directory but only four provide input to the *Royal Ridge Recorder*. We would enjoy hearing from the other areas on a regular basis.

If you have input for the newsletter please let your *Royal Ridge Recorder* point of contact or me know so we can include it, if appropriate. **The due date for news articles for the next issue is Saturday, August 25.**

Qualified volunteers are still needed in key Royal Ridge areas such as RRRC, RR COP, *Royal Ridge Recorder* newsletter deliveries, and individual HOAs.

ROYAL RIDGE RECREATIONAL CLUB

Diane Luna, President, 210-393-6976
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Website: rrrecclub.org
LIKE us on Facebook @
Royal Ridge Recreational Club

The Heat Is On...

Memorial Day weekend tradition continued with the **RRRC Club and Pool Open House** on **Saturday – Monday, May 26-28 from 2-8 PM**. On **Saturday, May 26**, we offered door prizes along with our **Fundraiser Plate Sale**. Turnout was HUGE on Saturday between both new and old members as well visitors taking advantage of our open weekend.

Club membership is around **120 members** at the time of my article submission (June 30). The membership numbers are **No Where** near last year (**162 in 2017**). In **2016**, we had **110** members at **\$225** yielding **\$24,750**.

Below is the 2017 & 2018 breakdown:

127 at \$125 (\$15,875)
5 at \$150 (\$750)
30 at \$175 (\$5,250)
Yielding **\$21,875**
Shortfall = \$2,875 (2017)

84 at \$150 (\$12,600)
13 at \$175 (\$2,275)
23 at \$195 (\$4,485)
Yielding **\$19,360**
Shortfall = \$2,515 (2018)

Shortfall 2017/2018 = \$5,390

The numbers are truly discouraging and the future of the Clubhouse/pool continues to be in jeopardy. Our incoming monies should by all means be at plus and not a minus. Yes, we reference this yearly and we manage to remain open not only by being extremely resourceful but truthfully due to the **hard work/dedication of our volunteers**. Pool/lawn maintenance along with make-ready of Clubhouse for each rental is **ALL** done by volunteers.

We **truly** value each and everyone's membership however we are also striving to keep up with the operation costs of the facilities. We will need to re-evaluate our current dues and hopefully still be able to offer an amount whereby we can keep up our operational costs and yet affordable to join.

A HUGE Thank You to ALL who included added donations to their memberships ranging from \$5 to \$100. Your generosity is truly appreciated & acknowledged. Donations help us offset costs for our events that we host throughout the year.

At the time of our last article submission, our **3rd annual Fiesta FUN Friday** had not yet taken place.

Fiesta Fun Friday was held on **April 27th/5:30-7:30** with a NIOSA style atmosphere. Participants enjoyed brats/sauerkraut in the German area, chicken fried rice/egg rolls/fortune cookies in the Chinese area and a taco/chalupa bar in the Mexican area along with an assortment of Mexican pastries/bunuelos. This year we added a Cajun area serving red beans and rice. Margaritas, wine and an assortment of Mexican beers were enjoyed throughout the evening.

THANK YOU to ALL who attended. The planning for our 4th annual is already in the works.

Our Pool Season officially started on **June 8th**. The late date was due to school ending on June 7th. June rentals/pool parties were booked months in advance. Feel free to contact me (210/393-6976) or Deb Edens (210/861-9512) with any

questions/concerns regarding membership, rentals & pool parties.

Members can purchase guest passes \$3/person with a limit of five daily. We ask that everyone adhere to our pool rules/policies respectively. They are there for your safety and to ensure your visit is a pleasant one.

I am very pleased to welcome back a very dedicated and efficient young lady, **Victoria**. She has served both as concession and pool attendant in the past four years. She will return as our **Lead Pool Attendant** for the 2nd year. Your safety & overall pool experience is her priority.

I would also like to welcome two new staff members, **Matt** and **Dawson**. **Matt** will be assisting Victoria as our 2nd pool attendant on site. Our new Concession Stand attendant, **Dawson** is ready to assist with concessions, guest passes & receiving memberships during our **weekend** hours – Saturday/Sunday (3 – 7 pm). Pay us a visit on **Sundae Sundays** and make your own sundae for \$1.00.

Our first summer event started with our **Summer Bash/Movie Night** on **Friday, June 23 (5 - 11 pm)**. This event included a small fundraiser alongside our **Movie Night** featuring **"Jumanji-Welcome to the Jungle"**. Between **5 – 9 pm**, we offered **Hamburgers \$2/Root Beer & Big Red Floats \$1** at the Concession Stand.

We will be hosting **Dive-In Movies** for our members bi-weekly. The dates are as follows:

Sat, July 7th "Guardians of the Galaxy2"

Sat, July 21st "Peter Rabbit"

Sat, Aug 4th "The Last Jedi"

Sat, Aug 18th "Despicable Me3"

Sat, Aug 25th "Black Panther"

On **Wednesday, June 28th**, we hosted our **1st Teen Night** of the season from **8 – 10 pm**. These are Lock-Down events/No In & Out for ages 13-18. **Admission is \$5**. Attendance was again extremely low. If attendance continues as such, we will no longer offer this event next pool season. Future Teen Night dates will be **August 15th**.

We began our series of adult nights with our **2nd annual "Let's Flamingle"** event on **Friday, June 29th/8 – 10 pm**. Our patio area & pool were again "pretty in pink" with our flamingo themed environment. Participants enjoyed finger foods, music and good company with a BYOB option. Not to mention a dip in the pool under the stars.

Our upcoming adult nights will be themed **"Party on the Patio"**. Future dates are **Friday, August 10th**. Admission is Free for members and a \$5 Donation for non-members. We hope you will come take a dip or just chill by the pool.

We will end the season on **August 25th (7 – 9 pm)** with the **4th Annual Aloha To Summer Luau**. We hope to host another fundraiser and bring back some live entertainment. As you can see, we try our best to make your membership worthwhile and attempt to have something for all ages. Here's looking forward to a fun & memorable summer season.

Drum Roll Please... A HUGE "THANK YOU" TO:

~ BOB ROBBINS & ERNIE JONES ~

MONTHLY LADIES LUNCHEON

Janet Latiolais, Coordinator, 210-655-1873

Email: jmlatch@satx.rr.com

Every lady in Royal Ridge is invited to attend the monthly luncheons. The dates and locations of follow-on luncheons are determined by the host for that month and will be announced when available. Call me for additional information and for the next scheduled luncheon date.

Thank you, ladies, throughout Royal Ridge. Our monthly ladies' luncheon has really been a success! We average about 15-16 ladies each month with new ladies coming to check us out daily. We've gotten to know each other much better throughout the subdivision. This is important as now more are aware of where some single folks are living and are keeping an eye out daily for that single dweller.

Neighborhood News

PATIO HOMES I

Lisa Gerlich, Reporter, 210-590-6095

Email: lisagerlich@me.com

Greetings! I am now officially retired from Northside ISD. More than that, I am officially retired from Information Technology. Thirty-four years of that particular stress is enough for me. I am incredibly grateful to be able to start a new life with a steady albeit fixed income at the relatively young age of fifty-eight. I plan to spend the next couple of months improving my health and organizing my life. Early next year, I will begin to see if I can earn some extra money by starting a still-life/art/product photography business.

I am pleased to announce that **Shirley Allen** has volunteered to be the secretary for the PH1 board. We have been missing a secretary for some time now.

In May, we held the special PH1 neighborhood meeting to discuss the color choices of the paint for

the trim. Attendance was quite good. Approximately thirty-eight people were present. Five people including myself formed an architectural committee which will be meeting soon. The majority of the homeowners agreed on the following:

1) At least three colors are needed to keep the unique look of the neighborhood.

2) The three preferred colors are:

- plantation brown (dark brown)
- terracotta (darkish orange/red)
- olive grove (a light green)

The architectural committee will create a plan to distribute the colors as evenly as possible across the neighborhood. The committee will present the proposal to the board for approval in the fall.

Our maintenance director **Ernie Jones** had knee surgery on May 15th. Thankfully, he healed very quickly and can move more comfortably than before the surgery. His position as maintenance director is vital to our community.

GARDEN HOMES I

*Gary H. Harmon, Jr, Reporter, 210-884-6926
Email: gharmon@idworld.net*

We have an URGENT NEED for a new HOA President and Vice-President! We are also looking for a Secretary to take the minutes of the meeting in October. We meet once a year in October for the general meeting and once a year in the spring for a Board meeting, if necessary.



Please consider our need. Call **Suzanne Ryan** at 806-382-8426 or **John Bertram** at 210-390-7172 to volunteer and for additional information.

A big "thank you" to **Gary Harmon Jr.** for his help in getting the large metal plate removed from the alley entrance next to 5954 Royal Ridge Drive. Three years ago SAWS hired an independent contractor to work on our alley and they used a large steel plate to cover the cut they made in the alley. When the contractors finished they left the large steel plate behind. Numerous phone calls were made to different city offices trying to get the large steel plate picked up. A couple GH1 residents tried moving the plate but it was just too heavy to move. It was an eye sore and a safety hazard as someone could trip on the edge of the plate. Gary contacted our District 10 City Council Office and let them know about the problem. With Gary's persistence and **Steven Peterson's** efforts, workers

were over to remove the plate in a few days. Thank you from the GH1 Board of Directors and GH1 residents. Gary sent a thank you letter to **Clayton Perry** which was read and presented to **Steven** at a staff meeting.

Another big "thank you" to the younger **Gary Harmon** for hauling a large pile of dead brush from the alley to the front of his house for the city brush pickup.

And, last but certainly not least, another "thank you" to **Suzanne Ryan** and **John Bertram** for their leadership, planning, and follow thru regarding resurfacing the GH I alleys.

PATIO HOMES II

*Kathie Obeck, Reporter, 210-967-5038
Email: dkobeck@sbcglobal.net*

Tired of all the feral cats roaming our area, well we hope you can help. We have learned that there is an organization that will help. They will give us the traps, we deliver them and they neuter them for just \$20.00 per cat, as far as I know. We would like to hear from our neighbors as to who would be willing to help in this endeavor to lower the feral cat numbers. We would like you to call **Mary Lee Allen** at **210-657-2138**, stating that you will support this and be willing to donate the \$20.00, hopefully only one time, if we get enough people to contribute.

We like to extend a welcome to our new neighbors, **Alexander Penn**, and **Debra Ceeko**, both of Archwood. On Grandwood we have **Maria and Alex Perusquia**. On, Grand Park we have **Connie and Howard Redman**. Let's make them feel welcomed when you see them.

The Board wants to thank the residents of Patio Home II on the sprucing up of their properties. Our neighborhood looks great.

If any of our residents would like to participate in the PATROL of our area, please call **Doug Obeck** at **210-967-5038**, and if there is one of you who would like to take over the Patrol, we would love to hear from you also. The Patrol drivers have been doing a great job on our area.

We wish **Glenn St.Claire** a speedy recovery and hope to see him up and around.

Doug and Kathie had a great trip to Bella Vista, AK with friends they were assigned with in the 80's. Great memories.

From **Wanda Espinosa**, former reporter: Reminder folks, let's focus on our yards & keeping trash picked up around our homes. We want to keep our community a great place to live.

We live in a quiet neighborhood that's highly desirable for folks to move to. Let's keep our eyes open for one another to keep crime out! Check your lighting from time to time to keep area well light.

Watch for strange vehicles in the area.

With that said, everyone have a great summer, prepare for a hot one. Great time to check that Air Conditioner. Additionally, changing your filters in AC every two weeks during the summer will prevent it from working so hard.

GOD BLESS AMERICA & OUR TROOPS!!

GARDEN HOMES II

Janet Latiolais, Reporter, 210-655-1873

Email: jmlatch@satx.rr.com

Hi neighbors, hope you are having a nice summer! There's been a lot going on in our section of Royal Ridge recently. June brought graduations in many of GHII families. One in particular is **Timothy McCormick** who graduated from Roosevelt High. His parents are **Stephanie** and **Joe Cortez** and the grandson of **Wally** and **Barbara Wagemaker**. I watched him and his siblings grow up here on my street so I'm excited that he's about to begin the next stage of his life.

Our other neighbors, **Bill** and **Cho Mayo** went to Alabama for a reunion recently. And, they came away with several honors: a. the couple that travelled the furthest to attend, b. the oldest couple to attend and c. couple married the longest. It was a fun trip, they said. And, on a happy note: **Sylvia Walden** celebrated her 97th birthday on May 22nd. Many more to you, Sylvia!

A couple of neighbors on my side of the block moved away in June. **Nancy Reese** went to Houston; I sure will miss her. She and **Bill** were such advocates of the making GHII the best. They both put in many volunteer hours making our area nice without being offensive. **Colby** and **Heather Slater** moved to be closer to family up in New Braunfels. So, **Ella**, our youngest resident is no more.

Lee and **Sandi Mays** went to Alaska recently. They really enjoyed their trip until they got back to our hot temps. **Richard** and **Linda Pritchett** also took a vacation north to Montana; they loved the scenery and also the pleasant temps. It was fun to see the daily postings on FB showing what they were seeing. Of course, they still go back and forth to Corpus Christi since they enjoy fishing. **Lori Latiolais** and I went to Dallas for a quick visit to the GW Bush library to see an exhibit on loan from the Smithsonian. The library was also interesting to tour with all the latest computer technology available to showcase events that had taken place during the Bush administration. Some of the computer stuff is like what you see on some TV programs.

Bob and **Nancy Cochran** had their annual summer visit from her daughter, Robin and granddaughter, Maria. They love to come to San Antonio to soak up the sun rays, but this year was the week we actually had a few showers.

The ladies' neighborhood luncheons have been a hit. We average about eighteen ladies from all sections of the neighborhood. Each month we go to a different restaurant. In July, we will be at Clear Springs restaurant in New Braunfels; we can pool so if you are interested in joining us, please call me. Our meal/visitation usually lasts about two hours as we visit and catch up with family/activities we are enjoying. That's one thing about this neighborhood I've always liked; it's easy to feel comfortable enough to talk about family with those ladies around you.