



Royal Ridge Recorder



Volume XXV, Number 6

November-December 2017

<NOTE: The due date for news & ads for the next issue is Saturday, December 16, 2017>

ROYAL RIDGE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Dan Calderon, President, 210-693-2744

Email: rrna@royalridgesa.org

Website: www.royalridgesa.org

An Introduction from The New Royal Ridge Neighborhood Association (RRNA) President. My name is **Dan Calderón** and I am honored to be the new president of the Royal Ridge Neighborhood Association Board of Directors.

I took on the role at our annual meeting held on National Night Out on October 3. **Janet Latiolais** graciously agreed to once again serve as secretary. Next year, we will hold elections for vice president and treasurer.

We all want to thank outgoing RRNA President **Lee Mays** for his service. Lee has assured me he will continue to be a resource in helping to keep our neighborhood a great place to live and play. Most importantly, he will be around to help me learn the ropes and keep things moving in the right direction.

At the moment, we have an opening for vice president on the RRNA board. I'll take this opportunity to ask anyone interested in volunteering for the job to contact me at rrna@royalridgesa.org. The job is fairly low-stress but you can be as involved as you want to be in helping guide the direction of the neighborhood association. Technically this could be just a one-year commitment as we will hold elections for vice president and treasurer at next year's National Night Out meeting.

Some big news to come out of the annual meeting was a warmly received update from **John Alvarez**, Vice President of the Royal Ridge Recreational Club (RRRC). This past summer's membership drive brought in 50 new families for 2017-2018, which is a welcome turnaround in terms of growth for the pool.

Diana Luna and the recreational club folks also recognized **Bob Robbins** and **Ernie Jones** before the residents at the meeting for the volunteer work both men have done around the clubhouse grounds. Plaques were presented to each. Bob also deserves added thanks for all the hard work he puts into making the National Night Out event a success.

Our RRNA website www.royalridgesa.org has

been gathering a lot of traffic indicating increased interest in our community. This year, the average number of site visitors was 971 per month, but for the month of September we had 1,588 visitors. We plan to add a Facebook page soon to complement the social media presence enjoyed by the Royal Ridge Recreational Club. I will have an update on that project next month.

I am a resident of Patio Homes II where my wife **Norma** and I have lived since 2003. We welcomed fellow resident and daughter **Isabella Calderon** to the neighborhood in 2004, and she has known no other home other than the Royal Ridge community. Isabella attends Ed White Middle School where she is enrolled in the DATA magnet school program. My wife is Assistant Partnerships Director in the Northside Independent School District (NISD), and I work as Director of Communications at WellMed Medical Management.

I plan to attend the Northeast Neighborhood Alliance Meetings held at the Northeast Service Center (also known as the Tool Yard) at 10303 Tool Yard, located on the south side of Wurzbach Parkway between Perrin Beitel and Thousand Oaks. If any of you plan to be there, be sure to look for me. I will likely be wearing a fedora during the winter months. If there is an issue you would like for us to explore in an upcoming issue of the *Royal Ridge Recorder*, please email me.

ROYAL RIDGE CITIZENS ON PATROL

Bob Robbins, Coordinator, 210-655-4226

Email: rrcop@att.net

Wow, mid-October at the time I write this and, by the time you read it, it'll probably be mid-November. Here's hoping the fall weather we are having this week will stick around for a while and not turn too cold too soon.

Halloween is past us, we are back on daylight savings time, the days are getting shorter and the nights longer, Thanksgiving is upon us with Christmas and the New Year right around the corner. It's time to take stock of our security measures for sure.

Is your place well lighted during darkness, i.e. do you leave your porch lights on at night? If your

residence has a rear alley, is your address showing on the structure and are your security lights working?

Are you watching out for neighbors, especially during their absence whether during a normal week or when they are traveling, and looking for unusual things about their property? 'Tis the time of year holiday decorations are stolen or vandalized, not just enjoyed. Are you remaining vigilant and reporting all suspicious persons, vehicles and activities?

Are you watching out for yourself, family members and shopping partners during trips to the mall, theme park and other attractions? Do you leave your purse unattended in shopping carts or on a table at restaurants? Your phone? Are you keeping everything of value out of sight in your vehicles whether at home in the driveway, parked at the curb or in parking lots?

This is not an exhaustive list of precautions and you can bet the ne'er-do-wells are way more creative than we'd like to believe. Be careful out there. Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

And if you must make a New Year's resolution, give joining Royal Ridge Citizens on Patrol (RR COP) serious consideration. Thanks for your interest and support.

Thanks too to the past and present RR COP members for their commitment and contributions to our collective safety and security. We have had another successful year due to your dedication and I, our community leaders, and residents truly appreciate it. Thanks again.

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Gary H. Harmon Jr., Editor, 210-884-6926

Email: gharmon@idworld.net

The due date for news articles of the next issue of the *Royal Ridge Recorder* is displayed under the heading on the top of the first page and in the Calendar located on the last page. I usually send a reminder email several days before it is due. Please mark your calendar.

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.

Qualified volunteers are still needed in key Royal Ridge areas. Check the *Royal Ridge Recorder* as well as the Calendar on the last page.

Recommend use of Nextdoor.com. Nextdoor is a free, private social network for neighborhoods and you can filter it specifically for the Royal Ridge subdivision. It is one way for us to hear what is happening in our local community. When neighbors start talking, good things happen. Lost and found, giveaways, wanted items, recommendations of

repair folks, and many other interesting things are discussed.

Suggest you review the trash can information under the Patio Homes II section on page 7.

COMMUNITY CAT PROGRAM

Most folks are not aware that San Antonio has a Community Cat Program (CCP) that will spay/neuter and vaccinate the feral/stray/community cats of San Antonio. They received a grant from PetSmart. The website of Animal Care Services (ACS) states certain zip codes can use this grant, but right now the CCP coordinator has opened this program to all of those living in the City of San Antonio. With that being said, it is the perfect time as a community to do TNR in our neighborhood. What is TNR? It is humanely trapping the cats, taking them to ACS, and having them spayed/neutered and vaccinated. Why should we Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR)? Why not remove them instead? Because removing them creates a vacuum effect, where other's will move in and take over their territory. TNR is the best way to control the over population of feral cats. The CCP phone number is 210-207-6696. You need to pick up vouchers from the CCP at ACS prior to TNRing. Pickup your vouchers on Tuesdays, Thursdays, or Fridays 11 AM - 4:30 PM, Wednesdays 11 AM - 6 PM, Saturdays 11 AM - 2:30 PM. Surgery days are Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. Please remember it is against the law to harm community cats. Helpful websites:

- Animal Control at www.sanantonio.gov/Animal-Care/What-We-Do-Services/Outdoor-Cats-TNR
- San Antonio Feral Coalition at www.sanantonioferalcats.org/
- Alley Cat Allies at www.alleycat.org/

Don't like the stray cats? Please see Animal Control for ways to deter the cats from your yard with fresh citrus peels/plants such as lemon grass, etc.

MONTHLY SOCIALS AND TRIPOLEY

Bonnie Hopkins, 210-650-0852

Email: bhopkins9@satx.rr.com

The next *Monthly Social* will be **Friday, January 26 at 5:30 PM** and held at the RRRC Clubhouse. There are no Socials in November and December. All adult members of the RRRC 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! The next *Tripoley Nights* will be **Fridays, November 10, December 8, and January 12 at 7 PM** and held at the RRRC Clubhouse.

ROYAL RIDGE RECREATIONAL CLUB

Diane Luna, President, 210-393-6976

diane.luna12@yahoo.com

Website: rrrecclub.org

Facebook.com/royalridgerecreationalclub

The Fall Community Garage/Rummage Sale and Fundraiser was held on Saturday, October 14. Turnout was once again outstanding and accompanied with great weather. Our parking lot was indeed quite the place to be. Residents took advantage of rental spots/tables to sell their goods. There were quite a variety of items for sale from plants to kitchen cabinets. Not to mention LOTS of baked goodies by our local Girl Scout Troop. We made \$140 in rentals. Our Spaghetti Plate Sale also was a success by us selling and raising \$280. Thank you for generous donations from a couple of our members (**Sandy Lockwood** and **Kathy Obeck**), all monies received were profit.

We will once again host our **Spring Community Garage/Rummage Sale** in **March or April**. No definite date has yet been determined. We normally attempt to piggy-back the event alongside the Windcrest Community Garage Sale. We will notify everyone via e-mail and Facebook with a date as soon as we confirm a date from Windcrest.

The annual Halloween Boo Bash took place on Saturday, October 21. This year's attendance was nowhere near our last. We were prepared for another large crowd by adding 400 extra eggs to the bunch making a total of 900. The families attending reaped the rewards by ending up with more goodies than anticipated. The event also included arts/crafts, a scavenger hunt and Halloween Bingo. We ended the evening with the showing of the movie, "ParaNorman".

A HUGE THANK YOU to my volunteers for this event, **Norma Rabago**, **Dan Calderon** and their Awesome daughter, **Bella**. I also wish to thank **Debbie Edens** and her family especially **Darrel** for being the BEST Bingo caller yet. We indeed look forward to continuing this annual event in 2018.

Our annual National Night Out on October 3 was a little extra special this year. Alongside the norm of the Royal Ridge Neighborhood Association meeting and visits from our San Antonio Fear Free Environment (SAFFE) Officer, Jason Reno and Councilman, Clayton Perry, we honored two Very Important Persons (VIPs)...**Bob Robbins** and **Ernie Jones**!

The RRRC Board presented both with a plaque and a \$50 gift card to a choice of several restaurants. This is a mere drop in the bucket for ALL the hard work and dedication they put forth in the upkeep of the Clubhouse facilities. It is the hard work of these two individuals that keep the facilities up and running. Without them, we CANNOT afford

ongoing professional services such as pool and lawn maintenance. They also save us hundreds of dollars by doing any/all minor repairs within their capability including plumbing or air conditioning. We will forever be indebted to these two individuals for ALWAYS going above and beyond the call of duty.

Keeping in the line of volunteers, we cannot continue to depend on these two individuals to meet the maintenance needs of the Clubhouse. Our lack of volunteers plays a large factor as to why we do not proceed with our pool repair. We need volunteers to sustain operations. It is imperative that we attempt to assist with whatever special skill one may have or contribute an hour or two with lawn/pool maintenance.

Our last membership drive was indeed one of the best by bringing in the most members to date. The membership numbers (165) were great however financially we are short from last year by approximately \$2,000. We will need to re-evaluate our current dues and hopefully still be able to offer an amount whereby we can keep up with our operational costs and yet make it affordable to join. We plan to once again offer an Early Bird special from January to March 2018.

Last couple of years we have hosted a Polar Express themed event for the holidays. Unfortunately, attendance was low and we may need to consider redirecting our efforts on this event.

On **Monday, January 1**, we are keeping with tradition, so mark your calendar for the infamous **Polar Bear Plunge, New Year's Day, 1-3 PM**. Let's eat, drink and be merry as we cheer on those brave enough to take the plunge. This event is open to the entire Royal Ridge community.

As always, our goal is to keep our Clubhouse up and going for as long as our efforts allow. Let's combine ALL our efforts and strive to make our Clubhouse the hub of our community.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

GIRL SCOUT TROOP 00871

Diane Luna, 210-393-6976

diane.luna12@yahoo.com

Our recruiting attempts for this year were extremely successful. Our troop now consists of 15 Daisies, 10 Brownies and 11 Juniors. We started off on a positive note with a service project to help victims of Hurricane Harvey by making hygiene relief kits for men, women and babies. The girls all combined assembled a total of 160 kits. This project was a great way to introduce the girls to what Girl Scouts values are about and will be rewarded with a Hurricane Harvey Relief patch.

On October 3 during our annual National Night Out, the troop acquainted themselves with the



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residents in attendance. The Daisies passed out snack-size bags trail mix and the Brownie/Junior scouts passed out fun-sized bags of M&Ms. A trefoil-shaped note was attached explaining the symbolism of the colors of the candy to the diversity of girls found in Girl Scouts. The girls also presented San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) Officer Reno with a basket of muffins to take back to the station. We also announced/promoted our Bake Sale held at the Community Rummage Sale on October 14. The Bake Sale was a huge success and yielded \$436. We will use these funds for ongoing community projects as well as supplies required for our badges.

At our November 1st meeting, we will be celebrating our founder's birthday, Juliette Low. We will have a joint meeting of all three levels. The meeting will consist of reading the Juliette Low story as well as other activities to include games and arts/crafts. We will end it with a community service project by assembling "birthday bags" to be given to the transitional center at Haven for Hope.

Our first troop field trip was on October 28. We toured the Airport Fire Department. We enjoyed seeing and hearing all about their responsibilities and daily challenges.

We will have a troop sleepover on November 17. Some of the activities planned include a nature walk, making s'mores, spa time, games and arts/crafts. We will also have the girls participate in the Painted Rock project. The girls will paint designs on the rocks and then place them out in public for others to find. Once found, they are to be hidden again for someone else to find.

In December, the Daisies plan to visit the Ronald McDonald Fisher House and bake cookies for the residents. We will also volunteer with Wreaths Across America on December 16. We will be placing wreaths at gravesites at the Ft. Sam Houston cemetery.

Last but not least, we start our Cookie Sale Campaign on January 1. Be on the lookout for us throughout the area as we participate in our cookie booth sales. We will once again be hosting several sales at Clubhouse and be making some door-to-door visits. We will keep you posted via NextDoor and neighborhood email blast.

Neighborhood News

PATIO HOMES II

Wanda Espinosa, Reporter, 210-382-0613

Email: wandamespinosa@gmail.com

From **David Simpson** - Code Enforcement Supervisor for our area: Waste Containers may be placed at the designated point of collection

no earlier than 6 PM. of the day preceding scheduled collection. All containers must be removed from the collection point by 10 PM on the same day as the collection except where such containers may be stored in alleys designated for collection. Containers not removed shall be declared a public nuisance and may be subject to an administrative citation with fines.

As you know, our Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions state under Article VII, Section 16, "..... garbage cans, service yards, woodpiles, or storage piles shall be kept screened by adequate planting or fencing so as to conceal them from view of neighboring dwellings and streets." Please be aware that our area is governed by our Covenants and you may be subject to an administrative citation with fines from Code Enforcement if you leave your waste receptacles out and not concealed.

We have new members to our community, **Carole Hickenbottom** on Archwood, **Linda Marion** on Grand Circle, **Luis** and **Efi Mirjarez** on Royal Ridge, and **Antonio Mascorro** on Grandwood. Plus if you see **Phil Freeman**, wish him well with his move. Let's give our new residents a nice welcome.

Dan Cretaro attended his 70th High School Reunion, Class of 1947 on August 19 from Rome Free Academy, Rome NY. There were 206 in the class. About 15 of them were returning World War II veterans.

Our sincere condolences to the **Sandlin** family. **Mike Sandlin** passed on September 11 with family by his side. **Mike** and **Haydee** have lived in Royal Ridge for many years off and on.

Doug and **Kathie Obeck** spent a lovely week with their children and grandchildren (14 of them) on the Mexican Maya Riviera. With four now in college, it wasn't easy getting them all together, but very well worth it. They also spent three wonderful weeks on a trip to Botswana, Zambia, and Zimbabwe on a photo safari. They took many wonderful pictures with friends from New Jersey and Austin, Texas.

Wishing a speedy recovery to both **Mario** and **Wanda Espinosa**, and **Dan Cretaro**.

PATIO HOMES I

Lisa Gerlich, Reporter, 210-397-8577

Email: lisagerlich@me.com

Hello - I am taking over the *Royal Ridge Recorder* bimonthly updates for Patio Homes I. I have lived in the neighborhood since 2004. I attend Mt Calvary Lutheran Church and work for the Northside School district as a software engineer. I have recently volunteered to serve as Vice-President on the Patio Homes I Board. I generally have two cats. Two is my limit.

The only neighborhood news that I have to report is from **Taffy's** last report when she told us that the **Haenzes** and the **LaDues** were combining families and moving to a bigger house in a different neighborhood. We will miss the **Haenzes** and the **LaDues**. Taffy contributed to the Royal Ridge newsletter for as long as I can remember and **Barbara LaDue** served on the Patio Homes I Board for many years.

Speaking of the Board, we could really use some volunteers. Our wonderful secretary and my former next door neighbor **Emily** no longer lives in Royal Ridge. She has continued to take notes at the last two of the quarterly Board meetings and will continue to help until her term is complete next year. We really appreciate her continuing help.

We also need to replace the Treasurer and Maintenance Director. **Francis Jones** has been serving as treasurer and **Ernie Jones** has been serving as maintenance director for many years now. It is time for someone else to step up and help out. If we cannot fill the positions, we will have to hire a management company and dues may be increased or homeowners will be responsible for their own maintenance which will be strictly enforced by the management company.

Repair and painting of the wood trim on the ground stories of the Patio Homes I residences is continuing. **Ernie** is soliciting bids for the repair and painting of the wood on the second stories. The Board made a decision to pare the nine existing paint colors down to three. The decision to limit the color palette was not taken lightly. The painting process is more expensive when you have nine different pigments. Some the pigments had faded more than others and some (we thought) were not very attractive. We considered the color choices very carefully. Our goal was to choose colors that would provide contrast to give the neighborhood an individual look. Colors that (we thought) were attractive and had aged well. However, we have for the time being stopped changing the paint schemes until the community can give us feedback. This will occur at the **Annual Meeting** which is scheduled for **Wednesday, February 28 at 7 PM**. Please plan to attend.

Feel free to send me an email or call me with news. I definitely agree with Taffy that knowing a bit about your neighbors is a very good thing. A sense of community helps all the individuals in a neighborhood.

GARDEN HOMES II

*Janet Latiolais, Reporter, 210-655-1873
Email: jmlatch@satx.rr.com*

I t's been a nice Fall, even with the hot days after being teased for a few days with cooler

weather. The **Arnold** yard is reminding me once again the holidays are quickly approaching. I'm thrilled to see the decorations up especially since I can see them every time I step onto my front sidewalk.

Two things I'd like to remind all neighbors throughout the local area. Please, if you are out walking and decide to smoke, please keep your cigarette butt with you after you finish and dispose of it properly instead of just throwing it along the street. Seeing the discarded cigarette butts reminded me of by-gone days in the military when the young troops were sent out to police the grounds on the posts/bases/stations from the folks throwing their butts away. Not cool, neighbor!

And, the second thing, a reminder to the dog walkers, please clean up after your four-legged family member. Folks, the corner lots in your neighborhood are not your personal dog park. People live in the house on those lots and wish to keep their yards just as nice as the rest of us. We need to give their greenery extra respect as it's tempting to allow "junior" to use the yard as his own doggie park/toilet.

We've had some new folks move in. Please stop by and welcome them to our neighborhood.

The walkers are out in force again with the cool weather. And, on my street, we also have a cyclist some mornings that uses our street to do his exercise. **Russell** is fun to look for each morning. He's a past resident of Garden Homes II and recently moved back to our subdivision. He's a good example of visiting with those who are out exercising; you can come away with an interesting story of their life as why or what brought them to Royal Ridge. We also hear and laugh over many stories among the ladies at our monthly luncheon.

From all your neighbors in Garden Homes II, we wish each of you a nice Thanksgiving, a great Merry Christmas; and, a blessed, safe new year.

GARDEN HOMES I

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

We had our annual meeting on October 11. New officers were nominated and voted in. Our President is **Bobby Younts**, Vice President and Secretary is **Susan Ryan**, and Treasurer is **John Bertram**. Many thanks to **Ralph Rodriguez**, **Susan Ryan**, **Debbie Gousie**, and **Jerome Allen** for their service. We discussed animals, trash cans, weeds, By-Laws and Covenants, and dues. Suggest you review trash can information provided under the Patio Homes II section. Attendance was light as usual. More residents need to take an active interest in our community.

DIRECTORY

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Collator/Distributor .. Jeanette Gittinger .. 210-656-0656

Royal Ridge Neighborhood Association

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Vice-President..... **Volunteer Needed**
Secretary Janet Latiolais 210-655-1873
Treasurer Cathy Steinman..... 210-392-5057

Other Association Presidents/Points of Contact

Garden Homes I Bobby Younts..... 210-655-6670
Garden Homes II Lee Mays 210-967-6501
GVH/Pulte..... Jimmy Vaughn 210-474-0165
Inwood Place **Volunteer Needed**
Patio Homes I Damon Tabor 210-831-5962
Patio Homes II Sue Hassell..... 210-601-6936
Royal Ridge I Tom Minkley 210-650-3467
Royal Ridge II Pam Mahan..... 210-823-3567

Royal Ridge Recreational Club (RRRC) Board

President Diane Luna 210-393-6976
Vice President John Alvarez 210-326-8614
Secretary Pam Carlton..... 210-630-8192
Treasurer Deborah Edens..... 210-861-9512
Board Member..... Bill Kelly..... 210-273-6846
Board Member..... Carolyn Story 210-392-6088
Board Member..... Pam Carlton..... 210-630-8192
Board Member..... Dixie Weese 210-241-4337

RRRC Website/Email

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

RRRC Committee Chairpersons

Club Reservations.... Diane Luna 210-393-6976
Alternate **Volunteer Needed**

RRRC Pool Management

Manager..... **Volunteer Needed**
Maint. Supervisor Bob Robbins..... 210-655-4226

Club Activities

Tripoley (Fri) Bonnie Hopkins 210-650-0852
Socials (Fri) Bonnie Hopkins 210-650-0852

Royal Ridge Citizens-on-Patrol (COP)

Coordinator..... Bob Robbins..... 210-655-4226

Neighborhood SAFFE Officer

SAPD Officer Jason Reno 210-207-5196

CALENDAR

December 2017

No Monthly Ladies Luncheon in December
No Monthly Social in December
No Kundalini Yoga Class in December
08 Fri 7 PM, Tripoley
11 Mon 7 PM, Citizens-on-Patrol Meeting
16 Sat *Royal Ridge Recorder* Articles Due
18 Mon 6 PM, RRRC Board Meeting

January 2018

Monthly Ladies Luncheon, Date TBD, Call 210-655-1873

01 Mon 1-3 PM, Polar Bear Plunge, RRRC

04 Thu 7 PM, Kundalini Yoda Class
08 Mon 7 PM, Citizens-on-Patrol Meeting
11 Thu 7 PM, Kundalini Yoda Class
12 Fri 7 PM, Tripoley
15 Mon 6 PM, RRRC Board Meeting
25 Thu 7 PM, Kundalini Yoda Class
26 Fri 5 PM, Monthly Social

=====

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VOLUNTEERS - NEWSLETTER DELIVERY

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ROYAL RIDGE COMMUNITY WEBSITE

Your site for neighborhood-wide information or just for your section of Royal Ridge including RRNA, RRRC, and current/back issues of the *Royal Ridge Recorder*.
www.royalridgesa.org

Check it out!

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PATIO HOMES I ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, February 28, 7 PM