



Royal Ridge Recorder



Volume XXIII, Number 6

November-December 2015

<NOTE: The due date for news & ads for the next issue is Saturday, December 19, 2015>

ROYAL RIDGE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Lee Mays, President, 967-6501

Email: mays7772@gmail.com

Website: www.royalridgesa.org

Thanks to everyone who attended the National Night Out on Tuesday, October 6. Our Royal Ridge Neighborhood had another great turnout. National Night Out is designed to heighten crime prevention awareness while strengthening neighborhood spirit and police / community partnerships.

A special thanks is owed to many of our members. **Carole Robbins** helped with the hot dog wrapping. **Linda Korndorffer**, **John Bertram**, **Diane Luna**, and **Debbie Kennedy** helped set-up, setting out of materials, food, etc., **Linda Korndorffer** and **Dawn** manned the sign-in and controlled door prize tickets. **John Bertram** kept the food tables organized and supplied. **Ernie Jones** provided and set up the PA system. Everyone helped with the teardown and cleanup. Attendees included **Sue Hassell**, President of Patio Homes II, **Terry Maloney**, President of Patio Homes I and **Bobby Younts**, President of Garden Homes I. **Janet Latiolais** and I represented Garden Homes II.

San Antonio Water System (SAWS) provided glow sticks, tote bags, hand sanitizers, and an assortment of conservation information. I want to also thank local businesses who donate door prizes each year for National Night Out. Lowes donated a fire extinguisher, Walgreens a \$50.00 gift certificate, and Wal-Mart two \$25.00 gift certificates. As you shop, please thank the managers - Mark Garza at the Walzem Road Wal-Mart, April White at IH-35 Walgreens and Neida Ramon at IH-35 Lowes. It shows each that their donations are appreciated and that we in Royal Ridge patronize their businesses. We also appreciate the anonymous donation of food and drinks for our famished members. Thanks as always to **Bob Robbins** for pulling it all together.

Thanks to **Cathy Steinman** for agreeing to continue as treasurer of Royal Ridge Neighborhood Association (RRNA) and welcome and thanks to **Dan Calderon** who was elected vice president. Cathy also serves as ads editor for the *Royal Ridge Recorder* and her father-in-law, **Gary Harmon, Jr.**, is our editor. Thanks for their continuing work

throughout the year.

Our San Antonio Fear-Free Environment (SAFFE) Officer J. Reno, 207-5196; members from San Antonio Fire Department; and Reuben Duron, Code Enforcement, 213-9489, were present. Councilman Mike Gallagher provided an update on northeast San Antonio developments, including the opening of the Northeast Senior Center on October 30. Please thank Mike Gallagher for replacing STOP signs and NO PARKING signs that have faded from our south Texas sun. It is a lot easier to maintain traffic control when folks can see and read the signs.

November 3rd is the date to vote on a \$500 million bond election for the Northeast Independent School District (NEISD). Upgrades are planned for almost every school. Safety and security - \$20 million, Technology - \$72.365 million, District Operations - \$60 million, Extracurricular - \$89.75 million, District Facilities - \$225.835 million and \$32 million for Management and Contingency. Please check www.neisd.net/bond2015 for more specific details.

San Antonio is beginning its "Pay-As-You-Throw" campaign for garbage. You have the choice of three garbage cans sizes and you get a green (organic waste) container for free. Prices are \$20.43, \$20.93 and \$22.18 per month. Gradually the price difference will increase between the small and large sizes. See www.sanantonio.gov/swmd for more information.

New laws passed this year affect both homeowners associations (HOAs) and residents in Royal Ridge. A brief summary has been added to the RRNA home page at www.royalridgesa.org.

I must also thank attorney resident **Jeff Altman** for providing insurance information to attendees at the September 15 Royal Ridge Recreational Clubhouse (RRRC) evening seminar. We learned about the interplay between insurance, bonding and hiring independent contractors. Jeff also discussed insurance and our HOAs when they contract to repair and paint houses. The information was very useful to everyone who attended.

San Antonio Code Enforcement exists to address many problems facing our neighborhood. Call 311 or file complaints on-line at www.sanantonio.gov/311. We, as homeowners, are responsible for sidewalk maintenance and keeping plants trimmed to allow

passage of pedestrian traffic. If our sidewalks have major cracks or non-level surfaces, we must fix them. Overhead sidewalk clearance must be at least eight (8) feet. Alley clearances must be fourteen (14) feet high and fifteen (15) feet wide to allow vehicle passage. For other requirements, see the San Antonio City Code, Chapter 14-61.

It is in everyone's interest to keep our neighborhood nice and neat looking. Please do your part to continue to make Royal Ridge the jewel of this area.

I encourage everyone to become involved with our HOAs. We need the help. It takes time to learn the needs of our community. If you join with us, we can all work to preserve our neighborhood and our home values. As you can see above, we have a community that cares and is willing to devote some, or a lot, of their time to making Royal Ridge the best place to live in San Antonio.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Gary H. Harmon, Jr., 884-6926

Email: gharmon@idworld.net

Let me echo Lee's comments on our neighborhood. I encourage everyone to become involved with your HOA, RRRC, and Royal Ridge Citizens-on-Patrol (RR COP) programs. They need the help. We can all work to preserve our neighborhood and our home values to make Royal Ridge the best community to live in.

Make sure you read the Royal Ridge Recreational Club and Citizens On Patrol articles/information.

Diane Luna and **Bob Robbins** need folks to participate in their programs. Help them if and when you can.

Thanks to all the folks who provide input for the *Recorder*. Timely input makes it easy for me to put it all together so I can hand it off to my "favorite daughter-in-law **Cathy Steinman** who lives down the street" so she can do her magic and finalization before distribution and printing.

Finally, I do appreciate all the positive comments received about the *Royal Ridge Recorder*. It's a fun responsibility so keep the input coming.

ROYAL RIDGE CITIZENS ON PATROL

Bob Robbins, Coordinator, 655-4226

Each month several neighbors give me a call or send me an email reporting burglaries, thefts, criminal mischief, etc.. Or, they simply inquire about similar activities they have heard about. I appreciate those calls and report them in-turn to our community policing officer, Officer Jason Reno, for his information and follow-up as appropriate.

I routinely review daily Spotcrime.com and RaidsOnline.com reports for the Royal Ridge and

surrounding communities and monthly San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) Neighborhood Calls-for-Service logs for happenings and trends. Our RR COP members are well aware of our relatively low crime experience and I attribute much of that to their daily patrol efforts. Having a patrol out an average of two hours daily in different vehicles at random times is a clear sign we care and is a great deterrent. Thank you RR COP members, past and present!

Similarly, our neighbors typically call the SAPD from one and a half to two times daily for some type of police matter such as reporting a crime, seeing suspicious activity, complaining of disturbances, etc.. That translates to an SAPD patrol responding to Royal Ridge roughly 45-60 times each month, some months a few more, some a few less. Unfortunately but necessarily, the majority of those calls are for cause but roughly a third are for miscellaneous reasons such as exchanging information, public assistance and similar reasons. All-in-all, we enjoy great support from the SAPD and Officer Reno resulting in the relatively crime free environment I mentioned earlier.

We are not as crime-free though as many of us would like but that's not the world we live in. That means of course that we need to continue to remain vigilant and involved. Some folks express surprise to learn we have an average of about eight residence or vehicle related thefts or burglaries in Royal Ridge each month. Many thefts from residences or residence burglaries occur during the daytime with vehicle burglaries and thefts more common overnight. Still, we only report suspicious persons and activities just over four times monthly. Should we do better or is that all we are seeing?

Disturbingly (pun intended) the majority of SAPD calls to our neighborhoods are for disturbances, e.g. loud music, barking dogs, and, most concerning and more frequently, angry family members, housemates or neighbors, just under one third of the total calls to the SAPD each month. Here, we just need to be more respectful of one another and work toward improvement. If you have a concern or need intervention, start by contacting Officer Reno, Jason.Reno@sanantonio.gov. He can get you pointed in the right direction for the assistance you may need.

Thanks to all Royal Ridge residents and particularly RR COP members for your interest and support. Remind yourselves of holiday safety and security measures whether at home, out shopping or visiting elsewhere. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

EUCHRE PLAYERS

Euchre is a card game popular among those born in the Midwest. Many southern resort communities have euchre clubs. It is a fun game. I'm wondering



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if there are any Euchre players here in Royal Ridge that would like to play. Please call **Joe Stuller** at 823-3209 (Yes, I know San Antonio has a Euchre Club).

NEIGHBORHOOD LADIES LUNCHEON

Janet Latolais, 655-1873

The monthly Neighborhood Ladies' Luncheon is cancelled starting in December due to lack of interest the last few months. We will re-evaluate after the first of the year. The **luncheon** scheduled for **11:30 AM** on **Wednesday, November 18** at **Biff Buzby's** is still on!

ROYAL RIDGE RECREATIONAL CLUB

Diane Luna, President, 393-6976

Like us on Facebook @royalridgerecreationalclub

Website: <http://rrrecclub.org>

Our annual membership meeting held on October 27 resulted in the re-election of **Debbie Kennedy** as Vice-President. The officers for the upcoming year remain unchanged with the exception of our Secretary position. Along with the Secretary position, we have three board member positions available/vacant. We strongly encourage anyone to come join our Board and assist to make our facilities a success. Please feel free to contact me directly or anyone on the Board with any questions/concerns.

Our Fall Community Garage Sale and Fundraiser was held on October 10. The turnout was better than anticipated. We raised \$340 in plate sales and \$120 in rental spots. Thanks to a generous donation from one of our members, all monies received were profit. We will host our **Spring Community Garage Sale** in **March 2016**. A definite date has not yet been determined because we want to piggy-back the event alongside the **Windcrest Community Garage Sale**. We will notify everyone via email and Facebook as soon as we confirm a date for the Windcrest event.

Hurricane Patricia did not put a damper on our Halloween Boo Bash. The event was held on October 24 and the turnout was greater than expected due to the rainy weather. We hosted our 3rd Annual Halloween Egg Hunt (500 eggs!) to everyone's delight alongside arts and crafts and Halloween Bingo. We ended the evening with the viewing of the movie, "Book of Life". Thank You to all our awesome residents for their candy and monetary donations. Your generosity helps make this event a continued success.

The Board is presently putting the **Annual Members' Christmas Dinner on hold until further notice**. We wish to reach out to our

membership to see if this event is still viable. This decision is due to last year's attendance of approximately 13 individuals. We understand that a lot of our members are visiting family or taking advantage of cruises over the holidays. We will be sending out an email asking our membership their opinion whether to continue this event or replace with another. We will keep everyone posted.

Mark your calendars and plan to start the year off with the **Polar Bear Plunge, New Year's Day, 1-3 PM**. This event is open to ALL residents. Let's eat, drink and be merry as we cheer on those brave enough to take the plunge.

Going forward, we plan to use our downtime to revive the **SAVE OUR POOL campaign**. Last year our attempt was kind of railroaded with our having to amend our Articles of Incorporation and By-laws once the Clubhouse was deeded to the community. We will also continue to make an attempt to bring new members from Cheyenne Valley by working with their HOA.

As always, we are open to any and all ideas / suggestions that can help bring us new members and more revenue.

~THANKS TO EVERYONE FOR YOUR SUPPORT~

ROYAL RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

Counselor Michelle Martinez 407-7024

Red Ribbon Week was October 23–31 where the students of Royal Ridge Elementary pledged to be a "Drug Free School". Students learned how to stay away from drugs and how to say NO. Classroom doors were decorated, red ribbons were displayed throughout the school, colorful plastic cups were displayed in the outside chain link fence, daily activities were planned, and "Leonard" the police dog were all a part of raising awareness to the students.

Royal Ridge Elementary School is looking for mentors for the 2015-2016 school year. All mentors need to be Department of Public Safety (DPS) cleared. Both the mentors and students benefit from their time together. If you have time to help a student, please give Michelle a call.

MONTHLY SOCIALS

Bonnie Hopkins, 650-0852

There will be no monthly socials in November and December because of the holidays. The **next social** will be **Friday, January 22, 2016**. 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.



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Neighborhood News

PATIO HOMES I

Catherine "Taffy" Haenze, Reporter, 424-0110

Board member, **Linda Sanderson**, wants us all to remember a few important HOA declarations: (1) Garage lights—keep yours shining brightly. It's the best protection for all of us. If you can't change it yourself, let **Ernie Jones** know. (2) Dog leavings—spelled "poop." Be a considerate neighbor and pick up what your dog(s) leave behind. (3) Weeds—Get rid of them. It's taken me, personally, all summer to get rid of the cockle burrs. (4) Don't build or add on without permission from the Board. (5) Finally, garbage cans. The declarations state that if you have them outside, they must be behind plantings or a fence. Thank you Linda, for clearing that up. I only have room for one to be hidden, so when I can get the garage sorted out, the recycle can will take up room inside. What can YOU do to address this problem?

Lastly, don't forget the **Annual HOA Meeting in January**. The exact date will be in your HOA dues letter. You need to be present. No telling what might change that you will have no input on if you're not there. Happy Holidays!

GARDEN HOMES I

Polly-Dee Burrowes, Reporter, 599-1352

Gary Jr. and **Carla Harmon** (grandparents), **Gary III** and **Cathy Harmon** (parents), and **Thomas** and **Michelle Steinman** (uncle/aunt) spent the evening of October 10 at the marriage of Chloe Harmon and Taylor Yablinsky. The festivities were held at the lovely and rustic Gruene Estate in New Braunfels, Texas. It was a charming location with longhorn steers (Hook'em Horns) in the background. Luckily, it did not rain and the evening went well.

Bruce and **Polly-Dee Burrowes** spent a long "rainy" week-end in Kingwood, Texas and got to watch their grandson, Jackson Burrowes, play for his Freshman football team, although the primary reason they were there was to see him be baptized at Woodridge Baptist Church in Kingwood. His parents, brothers and sisters, and other family and friends were all there so it was a great occasion.

Garden Homes I held their Annual Meeting on October 8 at the Clubhouse. The faithful folks who have served us for the past year, **Bobby Younts**, **John Bertram**, **Barry Allison** and **Debbie Gousie** all agreed to stay on. Thank you for your service.

Remember, if you have news you want reported, contact Polly-Dee Burrowes at 599-1352.

PATIO HOMES II

Kathie Obeck, Reporter, 967-5038

We are pleased to welcome **Cesar and Ann Garcia** who just moved from Crown Ridge to Grand Park, and to **Darrel Crumling** and his **daughters** on Archwood.

The **Obecks** had a wonderful road trip to South Dakota and Colorado. Mount Rushmore was great and something every American should see. The Black Hills and Badlands are awesome, which are in the area. On our return, we visited friends in Dillon, Colorado and loved the beautiful Rockies. The Aspens were in full color.

Doris Bristow went to visit her daughter Pam in Pennsylvania the last week of September (a little too early for the leaves to have turned) but had a good time. Doris helped her daughter clean out the basement as she wants to put her four bedroom house on the market in the Spring. Pam and her husband want to down-size and start thinking about retirement. It is always good to find treasures you haven't seen for a while and bring back memories of the grandchildren growing up. Upon Doris' return home while attending the church bazaar at Windcrest United Methodist Church, she tripped and fractured her left collar bone. The healing process will take 4-6 weeks. She is under the care of her husband **Frank**. Please keep her in your prayers.

Mike and Haydee Sandlin travelled to New Orleans in mid-September for a reunion with Mike's buddies. Mike served in the 8th United States Army United Nations Command Honor Guard from 1957-1958 in South Korea.

We had our Annual Meeting on October 22 at our wonderful clubhouse and had a great turnout of residents. Hats off to all of them for attending this important meeting as we covered topics including Code Compliance, sidewalks, mailboxes and amended our Covenants which we're proud to say passed with flying colors. Since our Board was down to three members we asked our residents to step forward and become Board Members. We were fortunate enough to have **Ruth Mazurek, Haydee Sandlin, Glen St. Claire, and Ellen Hughes** step up and join our Board. Thank you one and all! We look forward to another wonderful year with all of you. We were also fortunate enough to have Councilman Mike Gallagher from District 10 join us and bring us up to date on our area.

GARDEN HOMES II

Janet Latiolais, Reporter, 655-1873

Hi Neighbors! What a great way to end October with all that rain! I am pleased to announce that **Steve Camp** is the new Vice-President of Garden Homes II. Steve retired in early

October and is looking forward to doing more for our HOA and community.

Bill Reese, tells me that within the 3 days, his gauge measured 5.5 inches of rain. He also mentioned that this year is the twenty-fifth season he and **Nancy** have gotten season tickets to see their "loved" Spurs. The first year they bought season tickets was the second year that David Robinson was wearing the silver and black. He also mentioned that several of St. John Neumann's church members went up to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to see the Pope while he was in the country. There are many residents who attend this church as do the Reese's.

Steve and Loretta Camp showed their creativity by winning the most creative trunk contest at their church "Trunk or Treat Event." His theme: Farmer Camp's Vittles....From the Lord's Table to Yours. **Nick and Jane Rossi**, who also live in Royal Ridge (Garden Homes I), also participated in the fun.

Bill Mayo was walking his two four-legged children earlier today...**Susie** was sporting angel wings as part of her holder for the leash. He said he had just returned from Alabama where he attended his school reunion (he graduated 58 years ago). Gosh, we're all not that old yet, are we?

Ed and Mary Hicks just celebrated their sixty-third wedding anniversary. They were married here in San Antonio and for their honeymoon, went to Portland, Oregon. Their family had a quiet celebration in honor of their parents.

Barbara Loomis and her brother, Guy Solomon, recently spent a week in Puerto Rico reliving some of his escapades when he was in the Army stationed at El Morro fifty-five years ago. A lot has changed in San Juan since then her brother said!

My newest neighbor on my block is **Mary Fowler**. She has come to live with her son, **Richard** and his wife, **Linda**. Mary moved here from the Valley. Linda is beginning to count the weeks now as she nears retirement from her career with UPS.

Our neighborhood is in a constant state of flux with people coming and going. Plus, there's always someone not feeling well. Look around, if something doesn't seem right with a neighbor near you, use your roster to call and check on them or better yet, ring the doorbell. Being a widow or widower can be lonely; a friendly "hello" can brighten up someone's day.

Enjoy your upcoming holidays with family whether you remain in town or leave for the holidays. This year, with both granddaughters driving, I think it will change the way we celebrate as they begin to leave the nest to be with their friends.

Yes, life is always evolving... Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Holiday Season to each of you and your families!

DIRECTORY

Recorder Staff

Editor (News) Gary H. Harmon, Jr. 884-6926
 Editor (Ads) Cathy Steinman 392-5057
 Collator/Distributor .. Jeanette Gittinger 656-0656

Royal Ridge Recreational Club (RRRC) Board

President Diane Luna 393-6976
 Vice President Debbie Kennedy 219-2426
 Secretary **Volunteer Needed**
 Treasurer Deborah Edens 861-9512
 Board Member Mario Saldana 956-566-4312
 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 Dan Calderon 693-2744
 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 Tom Minkley
 Royal Ridge II Pam Mahan 657-3567
 GVH/Pulte Jimmy Vaughn 474-0165

Royal Ridge Citizens-on-Patrol (COP)

Coordinator Bob Robbins 655-4226

GARDEN HOMES II SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, December 13
 3 PM
 RRR Clubhouse

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CALENDAR

November 2015

*No Monthly Social in November

*No Tripoley in November

02 Mon 6:00 PM-10:00 PM, SAPD COP Training Class
 10 Tue 7:00 PM, Citizen's-on-Patrol Meeting
 17 Tue 6:30 PM, RR Recreational Club Meeting
 18 Wed 11:30 AM, Ladies' Lunch at Biff Buzby's,
 Carpool available from RRRC at 11:00 AM

December 2015

*No Monthly Social in December

*No Tripoley in December

*No Ladies' Lunch in December

05 Sat 9:00 AM-1:00 PM, SAPD COP Training Class
 08 Tue 7:00 PM, Citizen's-on-Patrol Meeting
 13 Sun 3:00 PM, GH II Semi-Annual Meeting
 15 Tue 6:30 PM, RR Recreational Club Meeting
 19 Sat *Royal Ridge Recorder* articles due

January 2016

*No Ladies' Lunch in January

01 Fri 1:00 PM-3:00 PM, Polar Bear Plunge
 08 Fri 7:00 PM, Tripoley
 12 Tue 7:00 PM, Citizen's-on-Patrol Meeting
 19 Tue 6:30 PM, RR Recreational Club Meeting
 26 Fri 5:30 PM, Monthly Social

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