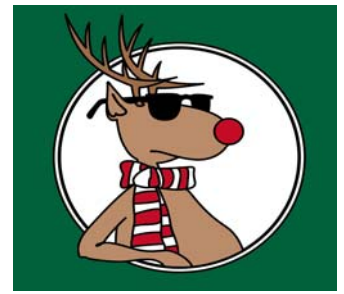


Royal Ridge Recorder



Volume XXIV, Number 6

November-December 2016

<NOTE: The due date for news & ads for the next issue is Wednesday, December 28, 2016>

ROYAL RIDGE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Lee Mays, President, 967-6501

Email: mays7772@gmail.com

Website: www.royalridgesa.org

My wife and I have been gone for two weeks, and I want to report that it is good to be home. It appears that the hot weather is over for the year. The first thing we noticed is that the Royal Ridge entrance island at Randolph Blvd. has been cleaned of weeds. Island maintenance was a topic of discussion at National Night Out. It is great that our vice president, **Dan Calderon**, and volunteer, **Eldridge Davis**, have been working to resolve this problem. If you go walking, it would be nice if you pulled two weeds each time to help contain them.

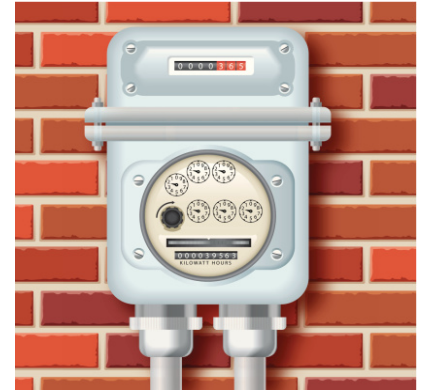
Thanks to all our wonderful neighbors for a great turnout on National Night Out. About 100 neighbors attended, together with a dozen or so visitors and VIPs. Thanks especially to **Mike Gallagher** for his commitment to excellence as our city councilman. If you missed it, mark your calendar for the first Tuesday of October 2017 and plan to attend. This year, we gave away about \$500 in eight different door prizes to attendees. Thanks to **Walmart**, **Lowe's**, **Walgreen's**, **El Folklor Bakery**, **Culligan**, and our neighbors at **Crownridge Townhomes** for the donations.

One thing that I mentioned at National Night Out was about a start-up company, **www.nimb.com**. The reason for pointing this out is that we have many single and solo residents in Royal Ridge. Nimb plans to sell a ring (like a med-alert signaling device). Apparently, it will be customizable so that the wearer can specify his or her safety circle. In an emergency, you get to notify the person or persons that you want.

In an emergency, everyone is welcome to call me and I will help where I can. But, I am not always present in San Antonio. If an alert ring is of interest to you, give me your name and phone number. When the rings are available for sale, we can have a collective purchase in the name of Royal Ridge Neighborhood Association (RRNA). Prices decrease from about \$149 per ring to about \$89 depending on the quantity purchased. It may require a smart

phone, but I do not believe that there will be monthly fees.

City Public Service (CPS) plans to replace our current residential electrical meters with smart meters. CPS Meters will be read electronically. The good news is that you can decline the meter exchange. However, if you do,



the charge for a human to read your meter will be \$20.00 per month. If you do not want the smart meter, fill out and send an "opt-out" form to CPS. If you wait until after the smart meter is installed, the fee for an exchange will be \$175.00. For more information, go to www.cpsenergy.com and click on "electric grid upgrade." The link to the "opt-out" form is there. You can also click on the "Solar Fest" link. The **2016 Solar Fest** will be at **Roosevelt Park, 331 Roosevelt Ave.**, from **11 AM-5 PM** on **Saturday, November 5**.

Some residents have concerns about their areas and Home Owners Associations (HOAs). I am happy to help or provide suggestions. My direct email is mays7772@gmail.com. Let me know when you plan to meet and we can get together.

Happy Thanksgiving, Christmas, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah and New Year's to all.

EDITOR COMMENTS

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

Email: gharmon@idworld.net

In the Garden Homes I (GHI) annual meeting held on October 26 we discussed the issue of feral cats in Royal Ridge. It's an ongoing problem with difficult to resolve issues. Please refer to the September-October 2016 *Recorder* for a discussion on uncontrolled cats in Royal Ridge.

Speaking of animals, if you see an injured, abandoned or abused animal in the community, call San Antonio's Animal Care Services (ACS) at 311. They will send Animal Control Officers (ACO's) to

pick a stray off the street or investigate an owned pet's situation.



The goal of ACS is to help pet owners become compliant with animal care ordinances through education and enforcement activities before they seek a warrant to remove an animal from a home. You can find more detailed instructions on

how to report animal abuse and what to expect during the process by reading Cathy Rosenthal's San Antonio Express-News pet column at <http://tinyurl.com/jdkyogu>.

Finally, if you take the Express-News Sunday edition, they are adding a SPURS magazine to everyone's account and it will cost you a buck a week or \$52 a year extra on your bill. You have to OPT OUT of the offering and you should receive a notice card in the mail. If you complain about the high cost they will offer it to you for half price.

ROYAL RIDGE CITIZENS ON PATROL

Bob Robbins, Coordinator, 655-4226

Email: rrcop@att.net

The annual RRNA meeting and RRNA/Royal Ridge Citizens on Patrol (RRCOP) National Night Out observance Tuesday, October 4 was well attended and received. Thanks to all who attended and mixed with neighbors to get better acquainted and discuss mutual interests. Thanks too to the many helping hands that set up, hosted the event and cleaned up. And, thanks to the several sponsors who contributed gift certificates, card or merchandise for the eight door prizes.

Wow, time already to refresh our memories and renew our practices to avoid becoming victims of property crimes, such as residence and vehicle burglaries and thefts as the holidays approach. We heard of one

theft of Halloween decorations in mid-October to start the season and there are likely more to come with Thanksgiving and Christmas fast approaching.

Any number of reasons may contribute to the spates of property crimes we see from time to time



in our neighborhoods, e.g. new construction and reroofing contractors discovering our neighborhoods, opportunistic actors during the holidays, lax security on our part, etc.. Property is typically taken from unlocked vehicles, garages with open doors, outgoing mail (checks and personally identifying information), and seasonal and holiday decorations, lawn equipment, bikes, potted plants etc. from yards among the more common. Securing most of these attractants will help minimize our exposure. Staying alert for decoration thieves and reporting all suspicious activities should help in addressing that problem. We all need to do our part so as not to attract criminals to our neighborhoods and in reporting suspicious activities as we witness them.

You are invited to join us, RRCOP, at any **second Monday monthly meeting** at the **Royal Ridge Recreational Club (RRRC) clubhouse** beginning at **7 PM** where we discuss the past month's COP patrol reports and the prior month San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) calls-for-service recap along with any other safety and security matters coming to our attention.

And, if you really want to help, take the SAPD COP training to be better prepared to notice and report suspicious activity in our neighborhoods or anywhere in San Antonio for that matter. There are no more classes this year but make an early New Year's resolution to take the training in January when those class times are announced. You don't have to join and patrol with RR COP if you attend but we would sure love to have some more of our neighbors on the team.

Thanks and welcome to new members **Hector** and **Greta Dominguez** (RRI) and **Ann Sturm** (RR GVH) who took the training in October.

Thanks for listening and for all of your support. Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Think safety and security and stay well.

MONTHLY LADIES LUNCHEON

Catherine "Taffy" Haenze, 424-0110

Email: lchaenze@gmail.com

Every lady in Royal Ridge is invited to come to the monthly luncheons. The **next luncheon** is **Thursday, November 17** at **1 PM** at **Anne Marie's Carriage House Bistro** in the San Antonio Botanical Gardens. The address is 555 Funston Place, 78209 and the phone number is (210) 207-3250.

The dates for the 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. There will not be a luncheon in December.

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Stephen Burkett, RR Resident
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ROYAL RIDGE RECREATIONAL CLUB

Diane Luna, President, 393-6976

Website: rrrecclub.org

Facebook.com/royalridgerecreationalclub

Our annual membership meeting on October 17 resulted in the nomination and addition of a new board member, **Loretta Camp**. Loretta will be a huge asset to our Board as we forge through our plans to revitalize membership. The officers for the upcoming year remain unchanged with the exception of our Secretary position. **Pam Carlton**, where a new board member has accepted the position. We have one board member position still available. We strongly encourage anyone to come join our Board and assist make our facilities a success. Please feel free to contact me directly or anyone on the Board with any questions/concerns.



We will continue the tradition, 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.

Our Fall Community Garage Sale and Fundraiser was held on October 15. Turnout was

outstanding. Our parking lot was indeed quite the place to be. We made \$160 in rental spots. Our Spaghetti Plate Sale also was a success by us selling out early and raising \$275. Thank you for generous donations from a couple of our members, all monies received were profit.

We will host our **Spring Community Garage Sale** in **March or April**. A definite date has not yet

been determined due to the fact that we normally piggy-back the event alongside the Windcrest Community Garage Sale. We will notify everyone via e-mail and Facebook as soon as we confirm a date for Windcrest event.

Speaking of events open to the Royal Ridge community, this year we hosted a family event in lieu of our annual members' Holiday dinner. We offered the showing of the movie, Polar Express along with arts/crafts, hot cocoa and popcorn.

Going forward we plan to use our downtime to revive the SAVE OUR POOL (SOP) 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/all suggestions and ideas that can help bring us new members and more revenue.

THANK YOU EVERYONE FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

A MESSAGE FROM JOHN D. ALVAREZ OUR NEW VP - RRRRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Hello Royal Ridge Friends and Neighbors, as the new Vice President of the RRRRC Board of Directors, I took it upon myself to submit a proposal for how to address the challenges facing the RRRRC. I presented my proposal for discussion at our most recent RRRRC meeting this past Monday, October 17. As you may know, the RRRRC has been declining in membership and revenue over the past few years and the pool and clubhouse are in great need of some vital and costly maintenance. The following are a few key points of my proposal for the upcoming year:

(1) An investment in marketing materials (approximately \$500) to inform our community of changes and opportunities in RRRRC membership.

(2) A door-to-door donation and membership drive to provide information, encourage membership, and request donations.



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(3) A change in the pricing structure in order to encourage more membership.

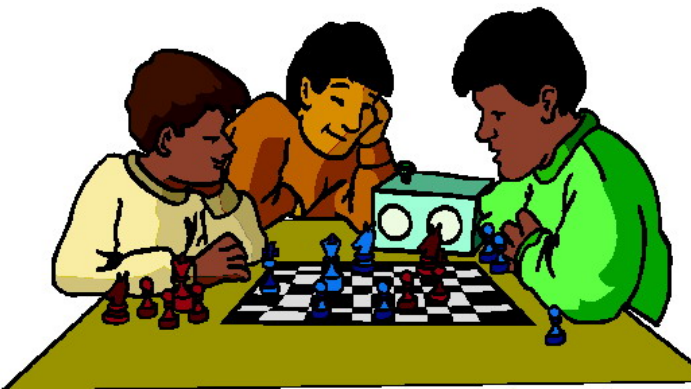
The Board of Directors of the RRRRC will be meeting to discuss specific details and make final decisions as to how to proceed and we will keep you updated. We look forward to keeping our pool and clubhouse as an asset to our neighborhood and I am optimistic that we can establish a sustainable way forward. Thank you for your support.

ROYAL RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Counselor Michelle Martinez, 407-7024

Email: mmartri20@neisd.net

If you are interested in learning how to play chess with our school chess club, please call **Michelle Martinez**, school counselor, at 407-7024.



All volunteers are required to go through a free background screening prior to volunteering.

Royal Ridge Elementary would like to honor and thank any active, retired, or reserve members of the military in our community this Veteran's Day. Thank you for your service to our country.

Upcoming **student holiday breaks** are **November 21-25, 2016** and **December 22, 2016-January 4, 2017**

MONTHLY SOCIALS

Bonnie Hopkins, 650-0852

Email: bhopkins9@satx.rr.com

There will not be any socials in November and December due to the holidays.

Neighborhood News

GARDEN HOMES I

Jerome Allen, Reporter, 999-5485

Email: jrome12@yahoo.com

The GHI annual meeting was held October 26. New officers were voted into office. **Ralph Rodriguez** is the new president and **Suzanne**

Ryan is the new vice president. **Jerome Allen** is the new treasurer and **Debbie Gousie** remains as secretary.

Many thanks to **Bobby Younts**, **John Bertham** and **Barry Allison** for their years of service.

John Bertram offered the following: Some items needing attention in GHI are trash cans not being properly stored, security lights not working, weeds in the alley, landscaping needing attention, and low tree branches hanging over the sidewalks. We have a few residents that make our neighborhood look bad.

Barry Allison is working with the city regarding deeding the alleys back to the city so they will be responsible for alley maintenance. It will be a time consuming project.

Gary Harmon and **Cathy Steinman** just returned from a fun trip in Nashville, Tennessee. They watched their Tennessee Titans (former Houston Oilers) beat the Green Bay Packers! They also visited family and the Country Music Hall of Fame.

GARDEN HOMES II

Janet Latiolais, Reporter, 655-1873

Email: jmlatch@satx.rr.com

This year's Indian summer has been exceptional. It is hard to stay indoors these days. Some of our neighbors have been traveling. **Lee** and **Sandi Mays** just returned from a cruise to Italy, Portugal, Spain, and France. **Al** and **Carmen Dreumont** took a trip to the western Caribbean. **Lee** and **Debbie Larson** just returned from Playa Del Carme, Mexico where they did some scuba diving. Now those neighbors really know how to live their retirement years!

Jerry and **Joann Coleman** just had their daughter, son-in-law and his mother come down from Chicago to visit. They did the sight-seeing items San Antonio is famous for with his mom.

Wally Wagemaker is home now. **Barbara** is happy; it's hard to hold a conversation alone, she tells me. After mentioning I needed an electrician to do some work at my house, she recommended her son-in-law, **Joe Cortez**. He is a good worker, cleans up after the job is complete and lives around the corner from you as he lives here in GHII.

Hey you drivers who travel Royal Bluff, check out the new landscaping the front yards in the odd number side of the street immediately after turning left off of Royal Ridge. **Richard** and **Linda Pritchett** began the change with their yard; **Colby** and **Heather Slater** also had a remake and finally me. The two young men who did the work have just begun their landscaping business and do good work. They are still in the beginning stages of their business; but if they stay true to the policy they set

initially, they will be good landscapers. For additional information, check your roster and call one of us to get a recommendation and their phone number. They can also be hired to do Christmas lights if you need help.

Ingrid Long told me at the recent ladies' luncheon that a friend of hers goes annually to Arizona in December to work for the month with the Native American Indians in a poor section of the state. She takes clothing and shoes that folks donate to give to them. The one thing they always need are gently used coats in all sizes for both men/women. If you wish to help or ask more questions, contact Ingrid.



Finally, a sad note of **Bill Reese's** passing in early September. **Bill** and **Nancy** were one of the first residents to move into our block on Royal Bluff. He had an outstanding career serving in the Air Force and retired from Randolph AFB. Once he finally retired from work, he became involved in many volunteer programs as well as being prominent in helping to keep Garden Homes II at its best. He was so proud of his neighborhood and was a good neighbor to all of us. As a neighbor just down the street, it was super to see their children constantly here to help mom throughout the final stages of Bill's illness. God bless you, Bill.

PATIO HOMES I

*Catherine "Taffy" Haenze, Reporter, 424-0110
Email: lchaenze@gmail.com*

Ken and Ann Breau had a wonderful 60th Anniversary trip. They left from here to go to New York City where they took in all the sites and a play. Then it was on to a cruise ship for a trip up to Quebec, Canada. If there was a site they didn't see, it wasn't for trying. Then they flew home after such a delightful time that these few words cannot convey the fun they had. Their actual anniversary is November 25. Not to be left out, their "children" are going to



give them a reception at the RRRC Clubhouse to finish the celebrations.

The following note is from Barbara LaDue who has served several years on the Patio Homes I HOA Board:

Dear Neighbors, as the year closes, this is to remind you that the **Annual HOA Meeting** is coming up on **January 18 at 7 PM**. The meeting will be held at the RRRC Clubhouse. We need each homeowner and renter to remember this is their neighborhood and attend. We also have three positions coming up for election and need volunteers to help keep our neighborhood going. Terrence Maloney and Linda Sanderson are stepping down due to health issues impacting them. Barbara LaDue, after six years, needs to step down while she's studying. We appreciate what they have done for us. If you have questions about what is needed, feel free to contact Terry at tmmaloney2000@yahoo.com or any other board member for information. We look forward to seeing you in January!!

Let me further stress that it is for your benefit to be there. In short, WE NEED NEW BOARD MEMBERS TO FILL THE GAP. Young, old or in-between, it's time for new people to step up and help this neighborhood to be what most of us want it to be. Renter or owner, come to the meeting and prepare to help.

Happy Thanksgiving! May all your clothes be too tight at the end of the day. Merry Christmas! May your day be filled with happiness and joy. AND may the New Year bring us all closer together and happy to be so.

PATIO HOMES II

*Wanda Espinosa, Reporter, 382-0613
Email: wandamespinosa@gmail.com*

Thank you to all for keeping those trash cans out of sight. It really does help with the outside appearance. Now that we have cooler weather it's a good time to pull up those weeds. I looked at our yard and realized how quickly they get out of control. We would like to ask that you keep your pets from doing their business in your neighbor's yard and pick up after them please.

Not a lot of news to get out to you. Get to know your neighbors so that we can be aware of who belongs where and if you see something suspicious, call it in. With the holidays right around the corner we want to make sure our neighborhood is kept safe from unwanted guests. If you see the news you know that mail tampering is going on throughout the city. If we keep an eye on each other we can help in deterring this.

Call or email me with news you would like to get out. Until next time...Happy Holidays!

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 John Alvarez 326-8614

Secretary Pam Carlton 630-8192
Treasurer Deborah Edens 861-9512
Board Member Brenda Littleton 410-0609
Board Member Frances Jones 653-8206
Board Member Loretta Camp 860-9598
Board Member **Volunteer Needed**

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

Garden Homes I Ralph Rodriguez 657-2140
Garden Homes II Lee Mays 967-6501
GVH/Pulte Jimmy Vaughn 474-0165
Inwood Place Korie Archibeque 585-1733
Patio Homes I Terry Maloney 653-6779
Patio Homes II Sue Hassell 601-6936
Royal Ridge I Tom Minkley 650-3467
Royal Ridge II Pam Mahan 657-3567

Royal Ridge Citizens-on-Patrol (COP)

Coordinator Bob Robbins 655-4226

CALENDAR

November 2016

No Monthly Social in November

11 Fri 7:00 PM, Tripoley
13 Sun 4-6:00 PM, GH II Annual Meeting
14 Mon 7:00 PM, Citizens-on-Patrol Meeting
17 Thu 1:00 PM, Monthly Ladies Luncheon
21 Mon 6:30 PM, RRRC Board Meeting

December 2016

No Monthly Social in December

09 Fri 7:00 PM, Tripoley
12 Mon 7:00 PM, Citizens-on-Patrol Meeting
19 Mon 6:30 PM, RRRC Board Meeting
28 Wed *Royal Ridge Recorder* Articles Due

January 2017

01 Sun 1-3:00 PM, Polar Bear Plunge!
09 Mon 7:00 PM, Citizens-on-Patrol Meeting
13 Fri 7:00 PM, Tripoley
16 Mon 6:30 PM, RRRC Board Meeting
18 Wed 7:00 PM, PH I Annual Meeting
27 Fri 5:30 PM, Monthly Social

=====

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Call Cathy at **392-5057**.

VOLUNTEER - NEWSLETTER DELIVERY

We need a volunteer from Patio Homes II to deliver the *Royal Ridge Recorder* in the PHII area. Only six times a year. Jeanette Gittinger at **656-0656**.

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!