



Royal Ridge Recorder



Volume XXIV, Number 4

July-August 2016

<NOTE: The due date for news & ads for the next issue is Saturday, August 20, 2016>

ROYAL RIDGE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Lee Mays, President, 967-6501

Email: mays7772@gmail.com

Website: www.royalridgesa.org

Summer is here. Before other commitments intrude, I wanted to bring you up-to-date on neighborhood happenings.

Probably the biggest issue for Royal Ridge is the proposed building of a Dollar General Store at the southwest corner of Landmark and Randolph Blvd. Residents of Amberton Apartments will be most directly affected, but many of our neighbors have concerns. I have requested comments from our various Home Owners Associations (HOAs), but have only received input from Patio Homes II and Royal Ridge Recreation Club. They are both opposed to the project.

The reason that this is an issue for us is that the developer has to get a zoning change approved. We have some time. Because the zoning change has not yet been formally proposed. As you decide, please keep in mind that the land will eventually be developed. A change to C3R zoning is the best solution because the R designation will prevent a neighborhood bar should Dollar General decide to move in the future. So, are you in favor of the change from industrial zoning to commercial? Don't call me, but please let Mike Gallagher's office know your position. Councilman Mike Gallagher can be reached at district10@sanantonio.gov and 210-207-7276.

Another issue of concern is the recent thefts of potted plants from homes in Royal Ridge. Of course, if you see something, say something. Security cameras may help the situation, but so far, we don't have evidence or leads that we can give to the police.

This leads me to the news of settlement of the contract dispute between the Police Officer's Association and the City of San Antonio. I am happy to see this resolved (pending approval by both the city council and by the police officers). I do have a concern that the agreement allows police and fire pay to exceed 66% of the budget at the end of five years. However, I believe that our City Manager, Sheryl Sculley, has done a great job attempting to balance the competing interests of Bexar County

property owners who pay the taxes and the uniformed officers who protect us and our property.

On June 25, the Bowen Center for Neighborhood Advocacy held a workshop about growing strong neighborhoods with active membership and dedicated leadership. It emphasized the impact we have on home values by either participation or failure to participate in our neighborhoods. I encourage our neighbors who are in their 30s, 40s and 50s to become involved. Recent studies show that the most HOAs are manned by individuals in their 60s and older. Those of us who are older would be more than happy to have additional help. And, our younger neighbors can have on-the-job training before our existing officers and Board members involuntarily vacate our positions, courtesy of Father Time. Give me a call to volunteer.

EDITOR COMMENTS

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

Email: gharmon@idworld.net

Dave Blemings, a resident of Royal Ridge, sent me a very interesting three-page article he wrote titled "Uncontrolled Cats in Royal Ridge." It talks about the city's Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR) Program. Dave has become the block captain for the TNR Program in Royal Ridge; at least the area around his street. The city has given him non-kill traps and the authority to trap any loose cat in the neighborhood. He has been rather successful, and hopes to expand it to other areas of Royal Ridge. To do this he needs our help.

To learn more about the TNR Program, please visit the following websites at www.sanantonio.gov/AnimalCare/WhatWeDoServices/OutdoorCatsTNR.aspx and <http://sanantonioferalcats.org>

If you have a cat problem and would like to help get it under control in the Royal Ridge subdivision, please contact Dave Blemings at 823-9673 or q8edave@yahoo.com. If you would like a copy of Dave's article, feel free to email or call me and I will see that you get one.

Finally, Kathy Obeck submitted the following information: "Folks – if you like where you live and want to keep our community a nice place to live, and maintain the value of our homes, then make it a point to join our wonderful Royal Ridge Recreational

Club (RRRC). They desperately need the residents to join the Club, even if you do not use it. I know I did. In order to save our pool, please get off the sofa and come to the clubhouse and join!

The RRRC President **Diane Luna** and Vice President **Debbie Kennedy** have put their heart and soul in to trying to raise money to keep our Club afloat. Please join now!"

MONTHLY SOCIALS

Bonnie Hopkins, 650-0852

The **next Socials** will be **Friday, August 26** and **Friday, September 23** at **5:30 PM**. All adult members of the RRRC are welcome. Visitors are welcome to come and see if they would be 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!

ROYAL RIDGE CITIZENS ON PATROL

Bob Robbins, Coordinator, 655-4226

Those of you who read the *Royal Ridge Recorder* when it comes out will likely recognize this article as a recast of two prior ones. As I have said before, Royal Ridge Citizens on Patrol (RR COP) members continue their commitment to our collective security through daily patrols albeit we are fewer in number. We all benefit from these neighbors' vigilance and efforts and we owe them a big thank you. We also appreciate our neighbors who took the time and effort to be trained by the San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) to better prepare themselves to call the SAPD on seeing criminal or suspicious activity. Again, we truly appreciate each of you and your individual and collective efforts.

We need additional members though to continue providing the level of patrol coverage we have in the past. We are still at just over 30 active members and historically we have had 40 plus. As a result, several members are called on to patrol twice each month and of late, some three times. We have also had a couple of open dates over the past several months as I refuse to schedule anyone more than three times (previously two).

Can we coax a few more of you to join us? There are over a thousand homes in the Royal Ridge neighborhoods and RR COP members come from less than 3% of them. Surely we see the need and hopefully a few of you will find the time to train and patrol with us. RR COP needs you!

I don't expect all of our neighbors have the time or desire to participate but I need to let everyone know this organization is no longer able to patrol at least two hours a day each day. If we don't have the coverage we have had in the past, then I'd expect

we will no longer enjoy the relatively low crime rate we presently experience. While we have a few residence and vehicle burglaries and thefts each month, daily crime reports indicate we are in a donut hole so to speak. There is a lot more going on around us. I attribute that donut hole to RR COP member patrols, concerned and involved neighbors' vigilance and reporting, and SAPD responses.



We urgently need more RR COP members though to help keep the criminals plying their trade elsewhere. Unless there is an added class in August, the last opportunity for **SAPD COP training** has passed until fall. The current fall schedule shows two Saturday morning classes, **September 10** and **November 5**, and two Monday evening classes, **October 3** and **December 5**. Saturday classes are held from 9 AM -1 PM and Monday classes from 6 PM -10 PM. All classes are scheduled to be held at the SAPD North Substation and only one-four hour session is required. Please give serious thought to taking the training and joining RR COP to help keep our crime rate at a minimum. Plan now to become involved!

Let me know your thoughts, concerns and ideas for how we can better serve the community. Give me a call at 655-4226 (your call will go to voice mail if a caller ID is not present) or drop me an email at rrcop@att.net.

Thanks for your interest and support

MONTHLY LADIES LUNCHEON

Catherine "Taffy" Haenze, 424-0110

Four of us ladies joined with 10 other ladies from Royal Ridge to go out together to the Monthly Ladies Luncheon. We ate ourselves full, talked and met our neighbors. Every lady in Royal Ridge is invited to come to the monthly luncheons.

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.



ROYAL RIDGE RECREATIONAL CLUB

Diane Luna, President, 393-6976

Like us on Facebook @royalridgerecreationalclub

Website: <http://rrrecclub.org>

Email: diane.luna@yahoo.com

The heat is on! The RRRC Club and Pool Open House was held on Saturday – Monday, May 28-30. Turnout was GREAT. And the best part of it all was No Rain!!! The last couple of years our opening weekends had been marred by heavy rain and hence, our attendance was hindered immensely.

On Saturday, May 28, we offered door prizes along with a Fundraiser Plate Sale. Our Fundraiser Plate Sale yielded \$380. Visitors took advantage of our Concessions over the 3-day weekend and helped add \$350 to the pot. They also played their luck and bought raffle tickets in hopes of winning a 1-Year ALL-access membership/5 guest passes and \$10 concession money. We give congratulations to the **Aguilar-Rodriguez Family**. They are the winners of our 2016 Save Our Pool raffle.

I'm sure we all have seen our signs promoting our membership drive. "Be Cool...Join The Pool" is our chosen motto. These hot, humid days definitely call for a place to escape the heat and where else better to take refuge than at The Pool! It's NOT too late...stop by and buy a membership.

Gold Membership: \$200

Clubhouse/Tennis Court Access

Platinum Membership: \$225

ALL Access

Membership is June 2016 through May 2017 and includes up to eight (8) family members residing in your household. Membership amenities include year round access to tennis courts, numerous social events, and rental access to clubhouse for your family events. Guest passes are available for members only at \$3.00 each and limited to use of five (5) daily per household.

Club membership is around 85 members at the time of my article submission (June 25). This is down from last year (100) around the same time period. In order to break even for our annual costs, we need at least 125 memberships. The figures are truly disappointing and will determine the future of our operations. Keeping on a positive note, we hope that we will reach our needed amount of memberships. A BIG Thank You to ALL who included added donations to their renewals ranging from \$5 to \$500. Your generosity is truly appreciated and acknowledged!

Our Pool Season officially started on June 4. Clubhouse rentals and pool parties were booked months in advance for the month of June. Bookings for the rest of the summer are being filled. Feel free to contact me at 393-6976 or Deb Kennedy at 219-2426 with any questions and concerns regarding membership, rentals and pool parties.

I am very pleased to welcome back a very dedicated and efficient young lady, **Victoria**. She served as our concessions attendant last year and will now be our Lead Pool Attendant. Your safety and overall pool experience is her priority.

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

POOL HOURS

Tuesday–Sunday
2 PM-8 PM

CONCESSION STAND HOURS

Saturday-Sunday, 3 PM–7 PM

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\$65 an Hour

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Stephen Burkett, RR Resident
sburkett89@hotmail.com

210.601.3057
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Our first summer event was our Summer Bash/ Movie Night on Friday, June 24. This event included a small fundraiser alongside our Movie Night featuring "Zootopia". Between 5–9 PM, we offered Sausage Wraps \$3 and Root Beer or Big Red Floats \$1 at the Concession Stand. This event consisted of family fun with goodie bags and glow sticks handed out to the kiddos. Thank You to **Sharon Arnold** for the sausage donation and to **Steve Camp** for providing the audio for our movie. It was a good time had by all.

We will be hosting more **Movie Nights** going forward. We wanted to ensure all our technical kinks were taken care of before committing. Dates are yet to be determined and will be posted on our Facebook page along with email notification to all members.

On June 17, we hosted our 1st Teen Night of the season from 8–10 PM. Future **Teen Night** is **August 13**. These are Lock-Down events with No In and Out. Admission is \$5.

I would like to thank two of our new members, **Jeanette Montelongo** and **Paul** for stepping up to the plate in assisting our ever loyal volunteers, **Bob Robbins** and **Ernie Jones** with the lawn maintenance. We hope other members will follow suit. With that said, I wish to give my continued respect and gratitude along with:

A BIG THANK YOU TO
BOB ROBBINS AND ERNIE JONES!

I can never say enough on how these **two** individuals continuously go above and beyond their call of duty year-round with any/all repairs and/or maintenance at the Clubhouse. We truly CANNOT function without you. We appreciate ALL you do!!!

We will end the season with the **3rd Annual Aloha To Summer Luau** on **August 19, 7–9 PM**. We hope to host another fundraiser and bring some fun with live entertainment.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Teen Night

Saturday, August 13
8–10 PM

Movie Nights

Dates TBD
Check RRRC Facebook
and your email

3rd Annual Aloha To Summer Luau

Friday, August 19
7–9 PM

Neighborhood News

GARDEN HOMES I

*Jerome Allen, Reporter, 999-5485
Email: jrome12@yahoo.com*

Jerome Allen is the new Reporter for Garden Homes I. Many thanks to **Polly-Dee Burrowes** for her efforts as Reporter for so many years! If you have Garden Homes I information for the *Royal Ridge Recorder*, please let Jerome know. He and his wife plan to be very active in the community and are looking forward to meeting everyone.

GARDEN HOMES II

Janet Latiolais, Reporter, 655-1873

Hi neighbors! Our little section of Royal Ridge has been busy in many ways since we last visited. Our semi-annual meeting was held in June and was well-attended by the residents. Further discussion on some subjects will continue in November. And, a suggestion to those of you who have never stopped by to check out Smokin' Joe's Bar-Be-Que; their meals are great and right around the corner on Weidner Rd. You should also be getting the new roster for 2016-2017 in this newsletter.

Loretta Camp has been working hard and earned another award at the state convention in Dallas. She is the recipient of the Texas Association of Health Underwriters Media. Her other half, **Steve**, has stepped in to be both GHII Vice-President and secretary, a.k.a., double duty. Thanks Steve!

Please step up and help out by volunteering to be secretary for our HOA. These two folks are fun to be around.

Bob and **Nancy Cochran** had company from Iowa to include their granddaughter, Maria, and three of her girlfriends. She is preparing to move

down here to live with family to attend college in the Fall. **Richard** and **Linda Pritchett** had company with his sister, Janet, coming from New York and Carol, his other sister from Florida. Linda also had a nephew, Danny, who stayed for a few weeks after finishing college.

There has been some discussion about the throw newspaper that litter our streets and sidewalks each week. If you don't like or want this thrown at your door, please consider calling the general manager, Jim Miller at 250-2585 or jmiller@express-news.net to express your concerns. The main problem is that most throws never make it past the street curb or sidewalk and presents an eyesore to all who walk or drive in GHII.

A group of local neighbors have formed a new endeavor with a mission of assisting neighbors that are in need of help. The target group is those in our community who are not able to complete some tasks around their home due to mobility or health issues. Volunteers and clients are welcome beginning July 16. For additional information, please contact **Dan Reese** at 381-5775 or neigh.4neigh.@gmail.com.

PATIO HOMES I

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

If you have someone new near you, I'll be glad to go with you to meet them. The more we know each other, the more fun it is. I'm sure you, too, will enjoy talking to your neighbors when you are out for a walk. Of course, many of us stop our cars and talk too. Thank you, patient drivers, and those of you who even join the confab.

Speaking of drivers, thanks to all of you who drive at 20 mph. It gives us time to get out of the way. One more request - do you think you could not cut the corners? We can't see around them anymore than you can. I'm too old to jump far or fast and the pup is clueless. I pull on the leash in terror and he pulls the other way. "Smart" is not his middle name.

And finally...sound of trumpets! We have a Valedictorian in our midst. Congratulations to **Victoria Hylton** who graduated from Trinity Christian School. She and her family lived in PH1 several years ago. Her grandmother is **Maria Martinez** on Royal Club. You can meet and greet and congratulate her at the swimming pool. She's our new lifeguard.



PATIO HOMES II

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

Summer is here bringing that Texas heat. Remember to stay hydrated and keep our pets hydrated. One sure way to cool off is by joining the Pool membership at the club house.

On a very happy note, Congratulations go to **Brian Gipson** and **Michaela Meeks** as they were married on June 4! Also congratulations to **Mary** and **Dan Cretaro** celebrated their 65th Wedding Anniversary on June 16. Wow, that is impressive!

Wishing **David Salazar** on Archwood a speedy recovery from neck surgery. Adding to our get wells are, **Ellen Hughes** on Royal Ridge, **Betty** and **Dick Schutte** on Grandwood, **Cecilia Guzman** on Archwood and **Bob Delashaw** on Archwood.

Welcome **Robert** and **Cheryl Lepard**, on Grandwood and **Helen Strum** on Grand Circle. Let's make them feel welcome and say Hi.

Doug and **Kathie Obeck's** granddaughter graduated from Smithson Valley High School and will be attending the University of Incarnate Word. Only two more grandchildren to go.

Kathie and Doug took a wonderful cruise on the American Steamboat Paddle Wheeler from Portland, Oregon to Clarkstown, Washington down the Columbia and Snake Rivers.

We just returned from two weeks touring Alaska and had a close encounter with a Grizzly bear (that is one for the books). That was one of our many adventures.

Many of you have removed your trash and recycle cans from the alleys and placed them in your yard/garage. Thank you for removing these bins. If only we could get the few remaining that still have their bins out in sight to house them in garage or yard as our Convents say.

Painting seems to be going quite well on all our homes and the neighborhood really looks great with its fresh paint, trimmed bushes, etc.

If you have anything to put in the recorder, please email me at wandamespinosa@gmail.com. I answer all emails daily.



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 Brenda Littleton 410-0609
Board Member Frances Jones 653-8206
Board Member Christine Maldonado 471-8834
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 Bobby Younts 655-6670
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

August 2016

08 Mon 7:00 PM, Citizen's-on-Patrol Meeting
12 Fri 7:00 PM, Tripoley
13 Sat 8-10 PM, RRRC Teen Night
15 Mon 6:30 PM, RR Recreational Club Board Meeting
19 Fri 7:00-9:00 PM, RRRC Aloha to Summer Luau
20 Sat *Royal Ridge Recorder* Articles Due
26 Fri 5:30 PM, Monthly Social
Date TBA 1:00 PM, Monthly Ladies Luncheon

September 2016

09 Fri 7:00 PM, Tripoley
10 Sat 9:00 AM-1:00 PM, SAPD COP Training Class
12 Mon 7:00 PM, Citizen's-on-Patrol Meeting
19 Mon 6:30 PM, RR Recreational Club Board Meeting
23 Fri 5:30 PM, Monthly Social
Date TBA 1:00 PM, Monthly Ladies Luncheon

PET SITTER

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VOLUNTEER - AD/FORMATTING EDITOR

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Call Cathy at **392-5057**.

VOLUNTEER - PHII 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!

FOR SALE

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SAPD COP TRAINING

Saturday, September 10, 9 AM - 1 PM
Monday, October 3, 6 PM - 10 PM
Saturday, November 5, 9 AM - 1 PM
Monday, December 5, 9 AM - 1 PM