



Oak Leaf
 A Publication of the Royal Oaks Civic Association
 June 2008



Royal Oaks Civic Association



**4th of July
 Celebration 2008**

Schedule of Events

Friday, July 4

- 9:30 am** Assemble for Parade at the corner of Chatterton and Maux
- 10:00 am** Parade Begins
- 10:30 am** Block Party in the 1600 block of Peer Drive - in the cul-de-sac.

The Parade

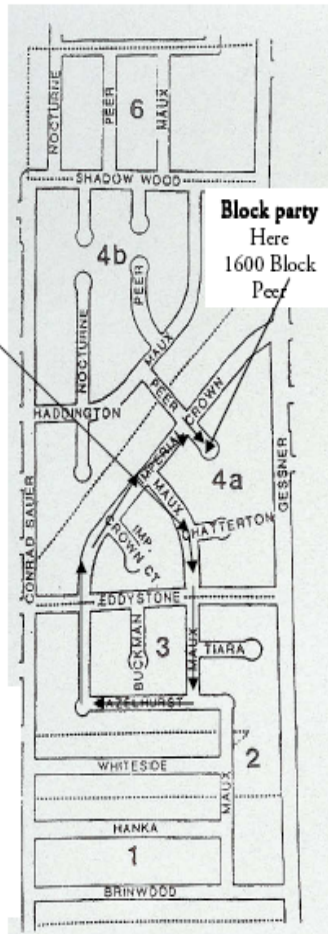
It's time to fire up those creative juices. Join our 2008 4th of July Parade, The Houston fire truck will lead the way. Decorate bikes, wagons, cars, or anything else that will move. Balloons will be provided. Or sit along the parade route and cheer us on.

The Block Party

At the end of the parade route, come join us for Patriotic Music, Water Slide, Piñata, Games, Hot Dogs, and Refreshments. Kids wear your suit for a water splash. Parents bring your lawn chair for comfort at the Block party.

Assemble Parade Here
 At the Corner Of
 Maux and Chatterton

- Parade Route**
- Go South on Maux
 - Right on Hazelhurst
 - Right on Imperial Crown
 - Right on Peer



Calendar of Events

- July 4 Parade and Party
- July 15 General Membership Mtg
- Aug 16 Shred Day
- Sept 1 Labor Day
- Sept 16 General Membership Mtg
- Oct 7 National Night Out
- Oct 18th & 19th— Garden Club Plant Sale



**Recycle/Heavy
 Trash Schedule**

- June 6 Recycle
- June 20 Recycle
- July 5 Garbage/Heavy Trash/ Recycle
- July 18 Recycle
- Aug 1 Recycle/Heavy Trash
- Aug 15 Recycle
- Aug 29 Recycle
- Sept 5 Heavy Trash
- Sept 12 Recycle
- Sept 26 Recycle
- Oct 3 Heavy Trash
- Oct 10 Recycle
- Oct 26 Recycle
- Nov 7 Heavy Trash/Recycle
- Nov 21 Recycle
- Dec 5 Recycle/Heavy Trash
- Dec 19 Recycle

---Royal Oaks
 Membership Dues
 \$35.00

Dues may be paid
 at the July meeting
 or mailed to:
 Royal Oaks Civic Association
 Mary Hall, Treasurer
 10158 Haddington
 Houston, Texas 77043



Volunteers Needed!!!!
 Setup, Cleanup, Help During the Parade
Items needed:
 Garbage cans, ice chests, tables, etc..
 Contact: Kitty Costa 713-467-7578



NOTICE OF A MOTION TO AMEND THE ROYAL OAKS BYLAWS

The following motion to amend to the Royal Oaks Bylaws was made at the last General Membership meeting on April 22, 2008. A vote will be taken on the motion at the next Royal Oaks General Membership meeting to be held on Tuesday, July 15, 2008.

Article II. Dues and Assessments

Section 3. The dues cannot increase or decrease without a simple majority vote of the members in good standing at a general meeting *when a quorum is present.*

The portion of the motion underlined was submitted by ROCA resident Diana Cooper, 10150 Hanka and the phrase in italics is being proposed by ROCA resident Catherine Burst, 1747 Maux.

ROCA GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

General Membership Meeting to be held on

TUESDAY, JULY 15, 2008

7:00 PM

Fair Haven Methodist Church

1330 Gessner

AGENDA:

Spring Branch Real Estate Update, Pat Nimtz

ROCA Committee Reports

Election of ROCA Board Position, President & Area 4b

Vote—Motion to amend ROCA bylaws

ROCA PHONE DIRECTORY & EMAIL NETWORK UPDATE



Updating of the existing ROCA phone directory and email network is in progress. If you have not already, you will soon be hearing from your area rep and or a ROCA directory project volunteer. You will be contacted by either phone or a knock on the door. If you have not already joined the ROCA email network, we encourage you to do so. The email network, going forward, will play a vital role in the dissemination of COP security information, neighborhood news, activities and general information. **Note: Email addresses will only be used for the Email Network and will not be published in the phone directory.**

If you would like to advertise in the directory or have questions contact Cindy Liveris at 713-502-7801

Join Our Smart Advertisers

A regular advertising schedule in the Oak Leaf will increase your business among our progressive 354 home owners.

Call Kitty for details

713-467-7578



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KIRIT PATEL / JAY PATEL
(713) 464-0349
FAX (713) 461-5202

ROYAL OAKS A COMMUNITY OF VOLUNTEERS

We Need. . . **A ROCA PRESIDENT AND AREA REP**



The new 2008-2009 Royal Oaks Civic Association Board is still in need of two very important positions, a President and an Area 4b Rep. Past President, Catherine Burst and former area 4b rep, Eileen Keller are unable to continue their in these two posts. We thank and congratulate them for their hard work and the many contributions they have made to our neighborhood. Royal Oaks' greatest asset, through the years, has been and continues to be its residents. It is the activism of residents that has enabled us to stay a strong, cohesive and vital subdivision. Representing your neighbors on the ROCA Board of Directors is a time-honored tradition and a privilege; one we ask everyone to consider at the general meeting on July 15th.

We Need. . . **STORY WRITERS**

In addition to the President's position and area 4b rep, we are also in need of a team of three or four volunteers to work on the Communications Committee, i.e. the Oak Leaf newsletter and the ROCA Website. One of the goals of the ROCA Board is to make the ROCA Website a truly interactive communications tool for all residents to obtain and post important and timely information. Alongside the Website effort is the production and output of the Oak Leaf newsletter. If you have a knack and interest in gathering and writing stories, then we are looking for you! If you and a group of friends or neighbors feel you can make up this team, please step up! Royal Oaks needs you! Know that you will not be alone in the task, as a member of the ROCA Board will assist and lead the team. To sign up, please give a member of the ROCA Board a call or email oakleaf@royaloakscivic.com.

We Need. . . **PHONE DIRECTORY PROJECT VOLUNTEERS**

If you have an hour a week to make phone calls or call on neighbors, the phone directory project needs you. If you can help, please call Cindy Liveris, project coordinator at 713-502-7801.

We Need. . . **VOLUNTEERS**

Representing our neighbors on the ROCA Board of Directors, driving for Citizen's Patrol, or attending Garden Club meetings, all of which support our neighborhood.

We Need. . . **TO KEEP OUR NEIGHBORHOOD STRONG**

Some of us have friends or family in the neighborhood, but all of us have neighbors and are neighbors to each other. Whether we know each other well enough to lend tools, greet each other when out walking, or just know that there is a familiar car in the driveway, we depend on each other to help keep Royal Oaks safe, attractive, and a good place to live. Volunteerism is what has maintained Royal Oaks through the years and what will sustain it for years to come. We ask everyone to take an active role in volunteering and caring for our community. There is much to do and we need your assistance and your ideas. In the meantime, remember that we are all one community and neighbors to each other, so consider a friendly wave or smile to all your ROCA neighbors as you drive through the neighborhood and keep a watchful eye. Royal Oaks has always been a special place to live...let's all play our role in keeping it that way.

ROCA CITIZEN PATROL



You may have noticed community residents driving area neighborhoods with Houston Police Department supplied "Citizen Patrol" magnets on the sides of their cars. These people are your neighbors who volunteer in efforts to help make our areas safer.

The patrol volunteers do not stop cars or people, but do have a significant impact on lowering crime. This official presence makes it known that we, as a community, are observing and watching for incidents and suspicious behavior to report directly to the police.

We need you!

Our ROCA CP program needs volunteers to drive for one hour or more per month. You can patrol any time you wish. To obtain additional details and sign-up, contact the Citizens Patrol Coordinator Joe Melton at 713- 468-8849 or a ROCA board member.



MOSQUITO CONTROL



Summer in Houston heralds the return of pesky mosquitoes. ROCA offers some assistance in addressing the mosquito problem by contracting for weekly spraying during the summer months. Spraying occurs between 10 pm and 2 am to reduce the possibility of exposure to chemicals. The maximum reach

of the spraying is limited to front lots only, therefore, it is important that homeowners take additional mosquito control measures on and around their property. Everyone should eliminate areas of standing water.

Do you have a good article for the Oak Leaf?

Do you have an interest and/or information you would like to see published in future Oak Leafs?

If so, please call 713-467-7578 or email

Oakleaf@royaloakscivic.com

HURRICANE SEASON IS HERE

We can't control hurricanes, but we can be better prepared if they occur. Being inland from the coast, we are not in a hurricane evacuation zone. However, everyone should be ready to 'shelter in place' if an alert is announced.

Part of keeping you and your home safe is securing your house against wind damage by boarding up windows with plywood and hurricane clips. When Katrina was headed our way, there were long lines to buy plywood at our local Home Depot and Lowe's.

If you don't want to buy plywood in advance, at least measure your windows in advance, make a list of the size wood you will need, figure out how you will cut it to size, and buy the hurricane clips you'll need. Keep your supply list with your preparedness kit.

If you or someone you know requires special medical care or equipment, has limited mobility, or needs help taking care of their daily needs, they should register with the City's Office of Emergency Management by calling 211 anywhere in the state, or logging onto the city website at www.houstontx.gov. This will enable emergency providers to get them the help they need.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT MOVES TO OCTOBER 7, 2008



National Night Out, NNO, is a neighborhood crime and drug prevention event that formerly occurred annually on the first Tuesday in August. Due to the extreme heat in the South, Southern States will now celebrate this event on the first Tuesday in October.

In Royal Oaks last year, this event brought together over 150 ROCA residents for fun, food and fellowship. This year's event is slated to be an equal success! Mark your calendars for **Tuesday, October 7, 2008** at 6:00pm and stay tuned for more details!

In addition to increasing awareness of crime and drug prevention programs, NNO strengthens neighborhood spirit and community-police partnerships, while sending a message to criminals that "neighborhoods are organized and fighting back against crime".

Remember ROCA has a Website to keep you informed, report lost pets, find the Deed Restrictions

www.royaloakscivic.com

SHRED DAY - PROTECT YOURSELF FROM IDENTITY FRAUD -

Shred Your Stuff
For Free
1 Hour Only
9am—10am
August 16th



Over the past 12 months, 8.1 million Americans were victimized by identity fraud, a crime amounting to \$45 billion in losses. To prevent ROCA residents from becoming victims of this crime, ROCA is sponsoring a one-time, on-site ,Shred Day on Saturday, August 16, 2008, 1600 Block of the Peer cul-de-sac. In a world where identity theft is a legitimate concern, you now have an opportunity to dispose of your personal information in a safe way.

On-Site Shred will provide the service and the event is graciously underwritten by our friend and neighbor, Pat Nimtz of Prudential Gary Greene Realtors, so it will not cost you a thing.

Identity thieves can trick you with deceiving phone calls, e-mails or visits to your home. They will ask for personal information, such as account numbers and Social Security numbers, and then use that information to open accounts or charge items in your name. Identity thieves can also steal mail from your mail box and dig through your garbage for documents containing your personal information. To protect yourself, regularly shred all documents containing your name and address and participate in SHRED DAY! All shredding will take place right before your eyes.

Who can participate?

- ROCA Residents - Drivers license will be required

What should I bring to Shred Day?

- Old Checks/Carbon Copies
- Bank Statements
- Pay stubs
- Receipts
- Credit card offers
- Medical information
- Medical bills
- Bills
- Retirement statements
- Old Tax information

How much can I bring and in what container?

- Four copy paper size boxes or garbage bags per household.
- All boxes and bags will be disposed of too.
- Staples do not need to be removed.
- All Shredding will happen right before your eyes.

What not to bring?

- Phone Books
- Newspapers
- Plastics
- Aluminum cans
- Plastic bins

When and Where?

Date: August 16, 2008
Time: 9:00 am-10:00 am
Location: 1600 Block of Peer

How will it work?

Cars should start lining up at the entrance to the 1600 block Peer at 8:45 am .

Let us know if you'll be participating by sending an email to

oakleaf@RoyalOakscivic.com or

calling 713-467-2788 and leaving a message with your name and address

Please Respond by July 1, 2008

Pat Nimtz, CRS, ABR
Multi-Million Dollar Producer
topgun@garygreene.com



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CURBSIDE RECYCLING - ROCA DOUBLES PARTICIPATION

Remember the City of Houston Recycling Contest? The City of



Houston announced the winners of the Curbside Recycling Contest, and although Royal Oaks aggressively pursued the \$5000 prize, it went to four other neighborhoods.

Still, Royal Oaks did exceedingly well and we should be proud of ourselves for our effort. Royal Oak's began with only a 20% curbside recycling rate, meaning that only 70 out of the 351 homes regularly recycled. That was the figure in June 2006 when the contest was announced. By the end of the contest in December, we had almost doubled the number of participating homes to 133! Our ending participation rate was 38%!

Royal Oak's starting participation rate put us in the top 32% of all neighborhoods, but our finishing participation rate put us in the top 16%! Even better was our improvement rate. By almost doubling our participation rate, Royal Oaks fell into the top 13% of most improved! And we topped our nearest neighbor! Spring Woods started with a higher participation rate (25%) but only increased their participation rate by a little over one-third to 34%.

For more information about the contest results and other neighborhood recycling rates, visit the City of Houston's recycling website at <http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/gogreenhouston/index.html> or contact me at the phone or email below for copies of the articles.

LET'S KEEP UP THE MOMENTUM

The Royal Oaks Board of Directors has decided to continue the effort and work towards even more improvement. You will continue to see the signs around the neighborhood reminding you of recycling days, and this recycling article in the Oak Leaf will continue to be a regular feature. With the contest over, this article will focus on specific recycling topics.

If you have any ideas for improving recycling in our neighborhood or if you have any ideas for articles on recycling, please contact me, your Neighborhood Recycling Champion, at the phone or email listed below.

Contact Information:

Neighborhood Recycling Champion

Leta Smith

Area 2 Rep

10154 Whiteside Lane

713-461-0774

letasmith@usa.net

City of Houston

Solid Waste Management

Phone 311

<http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/gogreenhouston/>

RECYCLE BOPA.....

The City of Houston offers the BOPA program—"B"atteries, "O"il, "P"aint, and "A"ntifreeze. You can recycle car batteries, used oil (up to 5 gallons) and oil filters, latex paint (no oil based paint) up to ten 1 gallon cans or one 5 gallon cans and antifreeze up to 5 gallons. The city uses latex paint in its graffiti abatement program. The closest drop off site to Royal Oaks is the Westpark Consumer Recycling center at 5900 Westpark (also include tires, BOPA and scrap electronic recycling). Go to

<http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/recycling.html#dropoff>

for more information

NOTE: There is a glass recycling station at Brittmore and Westview just past Walmart

Need a Property Modification form

Goto

www.royaloakscivic.com

ROCA GARDEN CLUB

The Garden Club meets the first Wednesday of the month except June, July and August. Membership is open to anyone living in Royal Oaks.

Programs include periodic field trips, discussions on flower arranging, native plants, conservation, recycling and many other exciting subjects. Every October the club hosts a fundraising plant sale.

All members of Royal Oaks Garden Club are members of Houston Federation of Garden Clubs, and dues are \$15.00 annually.



The Houston Federation of Garden Clubs meetings are held the second Friday of each month. Meetings are generally held at a member's home, and members enjoy wonderful programs and a fundraising Christmas luncheon.

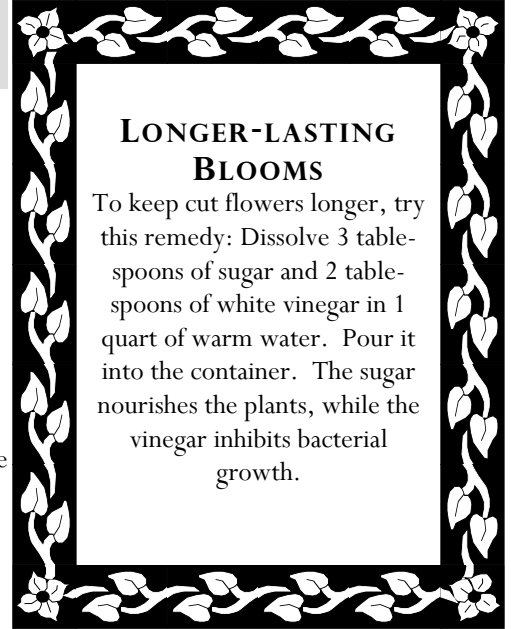
The club's next plant sale will be October 17th and 18th, 2008

To join the Garden Club or need more information contact

Mary Hall—713-467-4611

LONGER-LASTING BLOOMS

To keep cut flowers longer, try this remedy: Dissolve 3 tablespoons of sugar and 2 tablespoons of white vinegar in 1 quart of warm water. Pour it into the container. The sugar nourishes the plants, while the vinegar inhibits bacterial growth.



ICE YOUR CELL PHONE



There are over 215 million cell phone users in the United States today. Industry experts expect over 300 million users by 2010. The U.S. Centers for

Disease Control and Prevention reported in 2006 that 1,600,000 emergency room patients could not provide contact information because they were incapacitated. So many individuals, including teenagers, leave the home each day without any identification or emergency contact information, yet carry a cell phone

A global campaign, started in the UK in 2005, has spread to the United States calling for individuals to program an In Case of Emergency contact (or ICE for short) into their mobile phones.

Cell users are being urged to put the acronym ICE -- "in case of emergency" -- before the names of the people they want to designate as next of kin in their cell address book, creating entries such as "ICE -- Dad" or "ICE -- Alison."

It's a great idea, store it in your phone then pass on the message to your family and friends....

Have a Great Day!

TAKE A MOMENT ...

A smile costs nothing, but gives much. It enriches those who receive it without making poorer those who give it.



It takes but a moment, but the memory of it can last forever.

No one is so rich or mighty that he can get along without it, and none is so poor but that he can't be made richer by it.

A smile creates happiness in the home, fosters good will in business, and is the countersign of friendship.

It brings rest to the weary, cheer to the discouraged, sunshine to the sad, and it is nature's best antidote for trouble.

Yet it cannot be bought, begged, borrowed, or stolen, for it is of no value until it is given away.

Some people are too tired to give you a smile. Give them one of yours, as none needs a smile so much as he has more to give

-Author unknown

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713-463-7287 Fax
1653 Gessner Road

Your Neighborhood Service Station
ADEL & ANDRE

Are You Painting or Remodeling this Summer?

Are you changing the color of your home this summer or doing any kind of structural remodeling inside or out? If so, remember to submit a property modification Form to the Royal Oaks ACC Committee for approval. The Royal Oaks deed restrictions require that modifications to a residence be submitted and approved in writing by the ACC. Property Modification Forms, General Yard, Driveway and other guidelines, and the full deed restrictions text can be found on the ROCA website at



www.royaloakscivic.com

If you are in need of assistance, please contact a member of the ACC via email to acc@royaloakscivic.com or call your area rep.

CHRISTMAS JUDGING CONTEST 2007

Most Beautiful

1st Place Ralph & Rita Melillo 10122 Hazelhurst
2nd Place Warren & Betty Hammond 10114 Eddystone

Most Creative

1st Place - Kim & Michelle Raymond 1623 Imperial Crown
2nd Place - Marge Martin 1715 Nocturne

Best Door

1st Place Mary Hall 10158 Haddington Dr.
2nd Place Lodie Payne 10123 Brinwood

Religious

1st Place San Juana Gamez 1626 Imperial Crown
2nd Place Alan Getschmann 1723 Nocturne

ROCA ESPLANADES



ROCA is helping to keep the neighborhood looking fresh and inviting by maintaining the esplanades on Eddystone, Imperial Crown and Shadow Wood. As volunteerism dwindles in the neighborhood, a commercial landscaping firm as been contracted to maintain the three esplanades on a bi-monthly basis...a task formerly performed by ROCA residents. ROCA initiated the installation of the esplanades in 2002 when the streets were rebuilt and upon doing so entered into a contractual agreement with the City to keep them landscaped and maintained. As a binding legal obligation, it is reasonable to expect that ROCA will continue to contract for this work in the future.

BAKED GOODIES NEEDED



4th of July is just around the corner, and we are looking to have great success this year. (See 1st page) - We are looking for volunteers to bake goodies and help with the event itself. If you are interested in participating ,please call Kitty at

713-467-7578

ROCA BOARD MEMBERS

President	Open		Area 1	Paul Panto	713-467-9933
Vice PresidentP	Cindy Liveris	713-502-7801	Area 2	Leta Smith	713-461-0774
Treasurer	Mary Hall	713-467-4611	Area 3	Ricky Shultz	713-465-9670
Secretary	Chris Krohn	713-461-7056	Area 4A	Kitty Colgin	713-467-2788
Past Pres.	Catherine Burst	713-539-0970	Area 4B	Open	
Citizen Patrol	Joe Melton	713-468-8849	Area 6	Mike Garrot	713-467-1463