



Oak Leaf

A Publication of the Royal Oaks Civic Association
March 2009

Newsletter Written & Produced by:
Kitty Costa & Cynthia A. Liveris

ROCA HOT TOPICS

ELECTIONS

CRIME

DEED

RESTRICTIONS

Calendar of Events

- March 31 General Membership Mtg.
- April 1 Garden Club Meets
- April 3 SORA Campout and Games night
- April 4 SORA Easter Egg Hunt
- July 4 4th of July Celebration



Recycle/Heavy Trash Schedule

- Mar. 27 Recycle
- Apr. 3 Heavy Trash: **Junk Only**
- Apr. 10 Recycle
- Apr. 24 Recycle
- May 1 Heavy Trash –**Tree Waste**
- May 8 Recycle
- May 22 Recycle
- June 1 Heavy Trash - **Junk Only**
- June 12 Recycle
- June 26 Recycle
- July 3 Heavy Trash– **Tree Waste**

ROCA Dues

\$35.00

**Due By March 31, 2009
Delinquent May 1, 2009**

In order to continue to keep dues low, all home owners need to keep their annual payments up to date. Dues pay for Mosquito Spraying, Esplanade Up-keep, Printing of the Newsletter, the ROCA Website, Events and other Association needs.

Please send your check to:

Royal Oaks Civic Association
Mary Hall, Treasurer
10158 Haddington
Houston TX 77043

It is greatly appreciated!

ANNUAL ROCA ELECTIONS

Come

Royal Oaks

Membership Meeting

and

General Election

Officers and Board Members



Tuesday, March 31, 2009 at 7:00 pm

Fair Haven United Methodist Church

1330 Gessner

Yes, it's time to elect a new set of officers and area reps to lead ROCA, Royal Oaks Civic Association. Both our president, Alan Getsmann, and Vice President, Cynthia A. Liveris, are stepping down at the March meeting. Leadership in both of these positions is vital to the management and oversight of the subdivision. Consider serving on the ROCA Board in these or other elected board positions and/or committees.

ELECTED POSITIONS

President – Sets an annual agenda & budget; conducts monthly board and quarterly membership meetings; keeps abreast of local city and community happenings; is an ambassador with in the neighborhood.

Vice President – Attends monthly board and quarterly membership meetings; ; assists area reps and committees as required.

Treasurer – Keeps accounting records ; writes checks; oversees bank accounts and regular reporting at all monthly board and quarterly membership meetings.

Secretary – Attends and takes minutes at all monthly board and quarterly membership meetings; writes ROCA letters and correspondence as required. Maintains ROCA records.

Area Representative One for each section of Royal Oaks. Distributes the association's newsletter, The Oak Leaf; posts recycling reminder signs every two weeks; reports significant activities within your area such as residents moving, homes for sale and sold; meets with neighbors and encourages neighborly relations.

APPOINTED POSITIONS

ACC Committee – Appointed by the board and whose job it is to ensure that homes within ROCA comply with the subdivision's deed restrictions. Duties include the review and approval of property modification forms; attendance at monthly committee meetings; drive through of the neighborhood and the promotion of good house upkeep. A monthly commitment of 3-4 hours.

Audit Committee – Panel of 3-4 residents. Reviews the previous year's financial records for the Civic Association. A one-time commitment of 3-4 hours.

SPECIAL INTERESTS GROUPS

Welcome Wagon Committee – Introduces new ROCA members to the neighborhood and presents them with a housewarming package.

Recycling Campaign Champion– Contributes recycling articles to the ROCA website and newsletter. Notifies area reps when to put out signs.



Website Administrator – Maintains and updates the Rocas' website. Send out ROCA emails as needed.

Oak Leaf Committee –Helps write, edit and/or produce our quarterly Newsletter.

ROCA Historical Committee/Photographer– Documents official ROCA events. Contributes photos and/or videos to the ROCA scrapbook so we can all remember what has made Royal Oaks a special place to live.

Real Estate Watchdog – Keeps up with real estate happenings in the neighborhood. Contributes articles quarterly to the ROCA Oak Leaf.

HOLIDAY AND EVENT CHAIRS



Fourth of July –Organizes the annual ROCA Fourth of July parade and party.



National Night Out Event - Organizes and coordinates of a neighborhood wide block party.



Holiday Event - Organizes and promotes a winter neighborhood activity such as the Hayride event.

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

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



Prudential

GARY GREENE, REALTORS®
12850 Memorial Drive, Suite 1155
Houston, TX 77024
Bus 713 461-6800 Fax 713 461-1069
Cell 281 460-7550



An independently owned and operated member of Prudential Real Estate Affiliates, Inc.

CRIME IN ROYAL OAKS...WHAT CAN WE DO?

Royal Oaks has experienced an increase in crime since November of 2008. One-hundred and sixty-one crimes have been committed in the areas immediately surrounding our neighborhood; nine have occurred within Royal Oaks. The crimes ranged from burglaries of homes and cars to thefts of cars and personal items, both inside and outside the homes. The burglaries have occurred primarily in the day-time hours on both weekdays and weekends. Items stolen include TVs, computers, electronics, jewelry, money and tools.

One of the most effective deterrents to crime is the high probability of being caught or arrested. The Houston Police Department does their job well but can only serve us if they know a crime is in progress or has occurred. When we are witness to a crime or suspicious activity, we literally become first responders by being a "First Observer". And, as First Observers, we should always call 911.



The security of our homes depends primarily on many things we **must** do ourselves.

Some of our responsibilities include:

- Communicate with, and look out for, your neighbors.
- Report crimes in progress by calling 911. Report suspicious activities to HPD's non emergency number: **713-884-3131. Please program this number into your cell phone.**
- Make a habit of using the Royal Oaks Citizens Patrol Assist Line: **713-464-3700. Please program this number into your cell phone.** (See Citizens Patrol Assist Line article on page 5.)
- Sign-up to receive emails on the latest news about crime in our area, civic issues and other matters of importance to our neighborhood via the ROCA website at www.royaloakscivic.com.
- Support our Civic Association Board in the implementation of the new "Neighbors In Action" initiative by purchasing and wearing a ROCA "No-Crime" T-shirt. See article on page 8.



within their neighborhood.

It has been reported that the best defense against crime in a neighborhood is an active Citizen Patrol program. Some of Houston's most crime-ridden areas are reporting remarkably low crime rates by establishing active and robust Citizen Patrol programs

Our Royal Oaks Citizen Patrol needs more volunteers to increase consistency in coverage of our neighborhood. Citizen Patrol is sponsored by the Houston Police Department. HPD provides certification, background checks, training and oversight of their standard operating procedures. For additional information about becoming a CP volunteer, obtaining an HPD application form and the dates of future certification classes, contact Royal Oaks' CP coordinator, Joe Melton at 713-468-8849. Let's all volunteer to assist our CP organization and stand up against crime in Royal Oaks!!

**Royal Oaks Civic Association Meeting
March 31, 2009**

CITIZEN PATROL ASSIST PHONE LINE

The Royal Oaks Citizen Patrol Assist Line (CP Assist Line), formally known as the COP Royal Line, has been in continuous service since the first month of our Citizen Patrol operation, begun in April 1994. Its primary purpose has been, and will continue to be, a **message center for residents to post messages for CP volunteers** primarily related to neighborhood security, such as:

- Calls made to police reporting crimes involving home and/or personal property.
- Reporting suspicious activity observed in or near our neighborhood.
- Reporting reckless and careless conduct.
- Advising CP of extended absence from your home so we will know to watch your house. Include:
 - Dates of departure and return.
 - Description of vehicles and persons approved to be on your property during your absence.
 - Name(s) and phone number(s) of person(s) to contact in event of an emergency
- Reporting of lost and found pets.
- CP volunteers leaving messages to other volunteers regarding our neighborhood safety.
- Reporting urgent needs for food, water, and ice during a weather or environmental emergency, available from an official Emergency Supply Center. In the event of no telephone service, advise a Royal Oaks Citizen Patroller, who will relay the message by radio.

Access to the CP Assist Line messages is **strictly limited** to certified members of the Royal Oaks Citizen Patrol. Each member is required to check messages prior to beginning a patrol..

CITIZEN PATROL ASSIST LINE 713-464-3700

(Program into your cell phone)

Available 24/7

**New Management
GESSNER ROAD CONOCO
Car Care Center**

COMPLETE MUFFLER & EXHAUST SHOP



713-465-1245
713-463-7287 FAX
1653 Gessner Road

**Your Neighborhood Service Station
ADEL & SAM**



Lacy-Boone Interiors
*"Creating Beautiful Interiors
Since 1972"*

Lacy-Boone, LLC
Interior Design & Décor
and

Lacy-Boone Constructors & Remodelers, L.P.
Remodeling, Restoration, Construction

We are your Royal Oaks neighbors.

Please call us for your remodeling or design project.

713-647-0647 office

713-647-8111 fax

www.lacyboone.com web-site

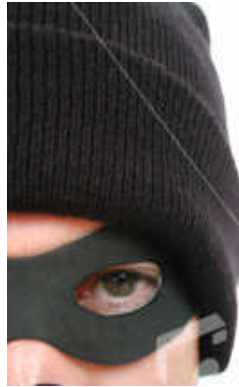
lacyboone@comcast.net e-mail

BURGLAR-PROOF YOUR HOME WITH THESE SAFE HOME TIPS

An economic recession affects everyone, even **burglars**. When money is scarce, **more people turn to crime** and those already involved tend to get more desperate.

According to a new survey by the Police Executive Research Forum, nearly half of all police departments have reported an increase in certain crimes they say can be attributed to the economic crisis- including **home burglaries**.

With more houses sitting empty, **due to foreclo-**



sures, once-safe neighborhoods are becoming more tempting to looters. There are ways to keep your home safe from even the most dogged burglars without breaking the bank. Before Burglars Decide on Your House: Make It Unappealing to Them. Make it as difficult and frustrating as possible for them to break in. You want to create multiple layers of defense that a burglar must navigate in order to gain access to your home. You want to discourage them from coming up your driveway.

Avoid calling cards such as discarded boxes, at the curb, of expensive items recently purchased, such as a flat-screen TV, computer or stereo system! These advertise all the great "loot" that's inside your house. Tip: Keep boxes in your garage until garbage day and break down the boxes so pictures and wording are not visible.

Don't let mail or newspapers pile up when you are away. Ask neighbors to pick up and hold your mail and newspapers for you. Call the CP assist line so that they can keep a watch on your home.

Let there be light. Make sure all outside entrances -- (front, back and side) -- have good lighting so burglars can't easily hide. Use motion sensor lights. Look for units with adjustable sensitivity to avoid getting a false alarm from things like tree branches rustling. Use energy efficient compact fluorescents to stay safe and help reduce energy bills.

Light up the inside of your home whenever you're away. An inexpensive light timer will turn on interior lights at varying times of the evening on different days for about 6 dollars. This gives the appearance that you are home. It can help to deter an intruder.

Use your locks. Even the best lock can't protect you if you don't use it.

Do some yard work. Trim hedges and bushes so burglars can't hide in or behind them. Hedges should be at window height: approximately three feet. Plants with thorns on them, especially under windows, can also help.

Know your neighbors. Neighbors who look out for each other are among the best, and least expensive, defenses against crime.

Secure your spare key. Leave your spare key with a trusted neighbor. Never hide it on the property. Burglars have more experience looking for keys than you do hiding them.

Guard your garage. If you park your car outside of your garage, never leave the garage door opener in the car. Keep the car locked at all times and don't leave garage doors open even to run short errands.

Have appropriate peepholes. A peephole in your front door isn't enough. It's important to have one peephole up high for adults and another lower for kids. People, especially children, are less likely to open the door if they can see who is on the other side.

Secure your windows. Even if each window isn't alarmed, there are some other common sense things you can do that really work. When home invaders break into windows, it is usually because they are unlocked, especially bathroom windows. Also, hang chimes in the window area. You want the intruder to knock things down, make noise and alert you. Plant plants with thorns outside the windows of your home.

BURGLAR-PROOF YOUR HOME CONT'

Invest in an alarm. An alarm system lets you and your alarm company know if someone tries to invade your space. The main feature in an alarm is to make sure it makes a loud noise that will wake everybody up. The burglar will often have no option but to run. A security system sign can also help deter burglaries.

A homeowner near Royal Oaks experienced a burglary at around 2:15 pm on February 5th. His alarm system responded to the breaking of a bedroom window, at which time the alarm company notified the police and the homeowner via his cell phone. The alarm company then triggered the local audible alarm. The owner was only a short distance away and arrived home in less than 3 minutes. A bedroom window had been broken, nothing taken and the back door was open from the inside. Why was nothing taken? Probably because the four alarm speakers, each driven by a 50 watt amplifier, made it impossible for anyone to remain in the house while the alarm did its job.

Create a secure place to hide. Turn a closet into a safe room that you can get into in the event of burglary. You can do this by putting a deadbolt lock on the inside of a closet door. Put a light source inside the closet, two flashlights, and a cell phone where they can be found in the dark. Write a list of emergency numbers and tape it to the back of the door so you've got them in case of panic. And you should always call 911. Note: Safe room doors must be kick proof. They should be solid core with an inside, thumb turn activated dead bolt plunger that mates with a reinforced strike box. The exposed door hinge pins must also be secured.

Protect your valuables. If an intruder makes it inside your home, you have to prepare for the worst case scenario. Burglars want to get in and out as fast as they can, so make it hard for them to find anything worth taking. Burglars ransack, dump drawers and pull everything off shelves looking for "secret hiding places".

Don't put your valuables in obvious places. Get a hollowed-out book or a fake electrical wall outlet or a deep hollow picture frame with a hinged front for a picture display and a hidden inside storage compartment. Hide your family heirlooms and other valuable items in there as well.

Invest in a good safe.

Video record each room to document what was in the room prior to a burglary for a police report.

Note: you may think you know what you have. Test yourself by closing your eyes and trying to remember everything that's in the room you are currently in. Most people will find this very hard to do.

List all the serial numbers of expensive items on one sheet of paper. If you're really concerned, you can etch your name and address on valuables like your TV and stereo. This makes it harder to sell on the black market and is somewhat of a deterrent to thieves. Select an ID number you can verify that is unique to you.

Put your name on the "Vacant House List". The Houston Police Department maintains a "Vacant House List". Before you travel for an extended period of time, notify the police of your planned absence and they will drive by and check on your house while you're gone. If criminals know the police are watching your house, most will not take a chance on breaking in. Contact HPD Northwest Patrol Division, 6000 Teague, 713-744-0900.

Likewise, within Royal Oaks, let the CP patrol know that you'll be away from your home for an extended period of time and they, too, will keep an eye on your home and will note any suspicious-looking activity that might occur while you're away. Call the Royal Oaks CP Assist Line at 713-464-3700 and leave a message. Your name and address will be replaced by a code unique to your home for additional security in the event restricted access to the message is compromised. See article on page 5 for what information to leave on the CP Assist Line message center.



ROCA NEIGHBORS IN ACTION NO-CRIME T-SHIRTS

Crime statistics show that CP visibility in a neighborhood is the most effective deterrent to crime. The recent onset of burglaries and thefts within Royal Oaks gives more credence to the new “Neighbors in Action” (NIA) initiative. Buying and wearing a “No-Crime” T-shirt shows solidarity with our neighbors against crime. Get yours for \$12.00 at the March 31 members meeting. All proceeds will benefit the NIA initiative.

The NIA initiative is ROCA’s way of complimenting the work of the Citizen Patrol organization. The initiative is not a part of, nor is it an effort of, the CP organization. It is strictly a ROCA sponsored initiative.

Help Prevent Crime in Royal Oaks

Pledge to wear your T-Shirt . . .

- . . . when you walk or exercise in the neighborhood.
- . . . when you ride your bicycle through the neighborhood.
- . . . when you push your babies in strollers through the neighborhood.
- . . . when you walk your dog (s) through the neighborhood.



Stand up against crime in Royal Oaks!

Mon-Fri. 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sat. 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

SPEEDY

713.278.7800

<p>Oil Change & Filter Cambio de filtro y aceite \$19.99 + Tax <small>Up to 5 quarts / Hasta 5 cuartos</small></p>	<p>State Inspection OBD Inspección del Estado \$2 OFF</p>	<p>10% OFF Windshield replacement 10% descuento en reparación de parabrisas</p>	<p>Tire Rotation Rotación de llantas \$10.00 <small>*Most Cars</small></p>
<p>Fuel Injection Service Inyección de combustible \$65 <small>*Most Cars</small></p>	<p>FREE Brake Inspection Inspección de frenos <small>*Most Cars</small></p>	<p>CV Axles CV Axles \$125 + Tax <small>Each *Most Cars</small></p>	<p>FREE Alignment Check Chequeo de alineamiento</p>
<p>FREE Engine Diagnostic with repairs Diagnóstico del motor con reparación</p>	<p>10% off Labor for Major tune-up Trabajo mayor de tune-up</p>	<p>Transmission Service Servicio de transmisión \$99.99 <small>*Most Cars</small></p>	<p>Radiator Service Servicio de radiador \$49.99 <small>*Most Cars</small></p>

2026 N. Gessner Rd. Houston, TX. 77080

Store Manager: ANDRE

STREAM ENERGY'S POWER UP! PROGRAM BRINGS ADDITIONAL REVENUE INTO ROYAL OAKS

Royal Oaks is now receiving a monthly five-dollar donation from Stream Energy via ROCA residents who have named Royal Oaks as the beneficiary of their contract through the company's Power Up! Program. Stream Energy offers a five-dollar monthly donation to a charity of choice for any new customers who signs-up and Royal Oaks residents are taking advantage of this offer.

If you are considering switching electrical providers to save money and decide on Stream Energy as your provider, sign-up and name Royal Oaks as your charitable beneficiary. Monies collected via this program will be used to offset costs for such ROCA projects as the "Neighbors in Action" T-shirt initiative and/or seasonal flowers at our entrance esplanades. It's



a win, win for everyone! To take advantage of this special offer and or to learn more about the **Power Up! Program**, ROCA is hosting the following website, www.royaloaks.streampowerup.biz, for its residents.

ROCA does not endorse or suggest that any homeowner switch to Stream Energy. We do encourage all homeowners to research all electric companies for current rates and plans before signing with a new provider. Know that there are cancellations fees when opting out of a current plan before its expiration. The **Power Up! Program**

fundraising opportunity was brought to ROCA's attention by Stream Energy consultant and ROCA resident, Paul Panto. Call him at 713-467-9933 to learn more about Stream Energy and this excellent fund-raising opportunity.

SUMMER IS ON SALE!

Shadow Oaks Recreation Association is a great place for the whole family to spend the summer!

- **SWIM** in our 25 meter pool
- **PLAY** basketball/volleyball
- **RELAX** on over 2 acres of shaded grounds
- **RACE** with our Shadow Oaks Dolphins

Swim Team (practice starts May 1!)

2009 New family memberships from \$299!

We are located right here in the neighborhood at 10502 Westview, between Gessner and Beltway 8. For more information, contact Lisa Harman at (713) 465-0241, SORA pool at (713)932-0241 or visit our web site at www.shadowoakspool.org



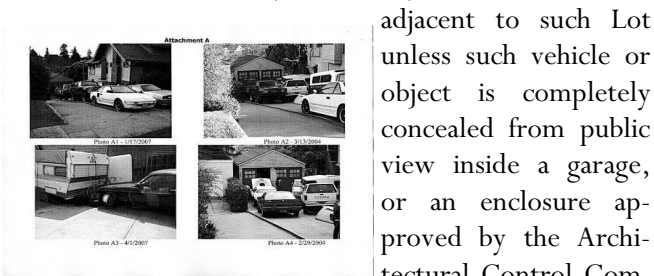
DEED RESTRICTIONS HAVE A PURPOSE

DID YOU KNOW . . .

that deed restrictions have been an integral part of Royal Oaks since its development in the late 1950s? Deed Restrictions provide the basis for maintaining Royal Oaks as a one of the most premier residential, single-family communities in Spring Branch. In the Civic Association's on-going effort to ensure that Royal Oaks remains well-kept and desirable, it would like to remind residents of some of these important regulations. If your household is in violation of any of the following deed restrictions, we ask that you take the necessary steps to correct them. If you need assistance in doing so, please contact a member of the Civic Association Board and assistance will be provided. Remember, it takes the collective effort and compliance of all residents to maintain the overall beauty of Royal Oaks. Do your part to stay in compliance and all of Royal Oaks will benefit!!

DID YOU KNOW . . .

that no motor vehicle or non-motorized vehicle, boat, trailer, marine craft, recreational vehicle, camper, truck rig, machinery or equipment of any kind may be parked or stored on any part of any Lot or in the street



adjacent to such Lot unless such vehicle or object is completely concealed from public view inside a garage, or an enclosure approved by the Architectural Control Committee, or an area adequately screened by planting or fencing so as not to be seen at ground level from any other Lot or the street.

(This does not pertain to any passenger automobile, passenger van, motorcycle, or pickup truck that is in operating condition and capable of movement under its own power, has current license plates and inspection sticker, and is in use on a daily basis as a motor vehicle on the streets and highways of the State of Texas.)

No motor vehicle incapable of movement under its own power shall be parked for more than ten (10) consecutive days where visible from the street. All operational vehicles shall be parked in Owners' garages and/or driveways, unless there is not sufficient space in the garage and driveway for Owners' vehicles. **DR Section: 4.22 Parking of Cars and Other Vehicles:**

No motor vehicle incapable of movement under its own power shall be parked for more than ten (10) consecutive days where visible from the street. All operational vehicles shall be parked in Owners' garages and/or driveways, unless there is not sufficient space in the garage and driveway for Owners' vehicles. **DR Section: 4.22 Parking of Cars and Other Vehicles:**

Tip for the Day

Keep some open blocks in your schedule so that you can make time for pleasant surprises. Think Back - some of the best times you've had were unplanned.

DID YOU KNOW . . .

that no animals, livestock, fowl, or poultry of any kind shall be raised, bred, or kept on any Lot. Dogs, cats and other household pets may be kept, provided that they are not kept, bred, or maintained for commercial purposes **or in number greater than three.** The foregoing does not prohibit the keeping of litters of puppies and kittens up to four months of age, as long as the breeding of litters is not on a regular commercial basis. The city leash law will be strictly enforced. **DR Section: 4.23 Animals and Pets:**

DID YOU KNOW . . .

that no noxious or offensive trade or activity shall be carried on upon any Lot or Common Area, nor shall anything be done thereon which may be or become an annoyance or nuisance to the neighborhood. **(a) Nuisance:** No loud or offensive noise, including but not limited to that from **barking dogs** or other animals, **sound systems,** musical instruments, motorcycles or other vehicles, shall be allowed. **(b) Noise/Other Activity:** Noise associated with necessary and routine building and Lot repairs, maintenance and upkeep is allowed during normal working hours.

DID YOU KNOW . . .

No alcohol, beverages containing alcohol or any controlled or illegal substance shall ever be sold, or offered for sale, on any Lot or Common Area in Royal Oaks Subdivision, and said premises shall not be used for any vicious, illegal or immoral purposes, or for any purposes in violation of any applicable law, regulation, or any building, health or fire code. **(c) Sale of Alcohol/Controlled or Illegal Substances/Other Illegal Activity:** **DR Section: 4.26 Annoyances, Nuisances and Illegal Activity:**



DEED RESTRICTIONS HAVE A PURPOSE (CONT.)

DID YOU KNOW . . .



that trash and other household waste should be kept in containers provided and/or approved for use in the automated pick-up system. All equipment for the storage or disposal of such material shall be kept in a clean and sanitary condition, and **all waste containers shall be stored out of sight from the street** or any public property. Waste may not be placed on the street or driveway prior to 6:00 p.m. of the night prior to the scheduled pickup. Heavy trash shall not be put out earlier than the weekend preceding the scheduled pickup. Heavy trash shall not be put out earlier than the weekend preceding the scheduled monthly pickup. **DR Section: 4.19 Trash Dumping and Storage of Waste:**

DID YOU KNOW . . .

that no Lot shall be used except for residential purposes, and only one (1) residence shall be constructed on each Lot. The term "residential purposes" as used herein shall be held and construed to exclude, without limitation, hospitals, duplex houses, apartment houses, halfway houses, hotels, commercial and professional uses of any kind.

Reminder: Royal Oaks is a single-family residential community. No more than one family (the immediate members of one family) is permitted to permanently reside in a home. **DR Section: 4.1 Residential Use/Business Restrictions:**

DID YOU KNOW . . .



that the Architectural Control Committee (the ACC") must approve the design, color and location of any building, structure, addition or improvement proposed or existing in writing. The Architectural Control Committee may require the submission of construction plans, plot plans, blueprints and specifications, with such other documents as it deems appropriate, including but not limited to site layout, building location, building materials, colors and elevation. The ACC shall have the discretion to approve

or disapprove plans and specifications for buildings, structures, additions or improvements on the basis of location, color, quality of building materials and harmony of external design with existing structures. In the event the ACC fails to approve or disapprove the design, color and location of any such building, structure, addition or improvement within thirty (30) days after the plans and other requested documents have been submitted to it, such approval will not be required and this provision as to approval will be deemed to have been satisfied. The decision of the Architectural Control Committee shall be final and conclusive.

Existing Colors Excepted from ACC Approval:

The exterior surface of a house, garage, or other structure or improvement may be painted or repainted the same color and shade as the color and shade of the existing structure without prior approval from the ACC. This exception does not affect the requirement for submittal of plans and specifications for new structures, or for additions or modifications to existing structures. **ACC approval shall be required prior to painting a different color or shade from the existing color.** **DR Section: 3.3**

Architectural Control Committee Approval:

The Civic Association has appointed resident representatives to an Architectural Control Committee (ACC), who are empowered with making sure that the deed restrictions are strictly enforced as outlined in the ACC Guidelines. All actions of the ACC are subject to review by the Executive committee and may be appealed by all Property Owners to the ACC or the Executive Committee.

The full text of the Royal Oaks Deed Restrictions can be found on the association's website at

www.royaloakscivic.com



TOM'S HARDWARE

Supplies, Tools, and Services In: Home Improvement,
Plumbing, Electrical, Garden / Outdoor, Insecticides
Custom Mix Paint, Window Glass, Screens, Etc.

1503 N. Gessner
Houston, TX 77080

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

CURBSIDE RECYCLING - WHAT'S NOT RECYCLABLE

As I walk through the neighborhood on the evening before, or morning of, recycling day, I'm gratified to see so many people participating! However, there seems to be some confusion about what is recyclable and what is not.

Here are a few simple guidelines:



Paper: newspapers and white paper only. No bright-colored papers and no cardstock.

Plastic: nix the six! Only plastics with recycling codes 1-5 or 7 are acceptable. Be sure to check the number found inside the "chasing arrows" symbol usually found on the bottom of the plastic container. In addition to the number guideline, the City of Houston also asks that you **do not recycle** toys, packing materials, flower pots, Styrofoam, plastic bags or plastic furniture. If you are not sure if an item can be recycled, please place the item with your regular trash or call your recycling champion!

Cardboard: corrugated cardboard only. Cereal boxes, milk cartons, boxes holding soft drinks or six-pack carriers are **not** recyclable. In addition, the City of Houston asks that you not recycle pizza boxes, even though they are usually made of corrugated cardboard.

Metal: tin cans and aluminum only.

For all plastic and metal containers that contained food, please rinse the items well before putting them out for recycling, particularly if you put your recycling out the night before. Animals smell the food and get into the bins. I've seen more than one recycling container tipped over with the contents strewn over the whole yard!

For more information, or if you have any questions, please contact me or the City of Houston.

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/>

RECIPE – CILANTRO, FETA AND TOMATO SALAD

This recipe is Easy and Quick

INGREDIENTS: 2 cups Cherry Tomatoes (juicy tomatoes a must) - Cut in Half

1/4 cup Red Onion - Sliced Thin

1/4 cup chopped Cilantro

1/2 cup of Feta Cheese

Salt and Pepper to taste



PREPARATION: Put all the ingredients in a bowl and lightly stir. Cool a few minutes in the refrigerator and serve .
serves 4 to 6. *by: Kitty Costa*

I remember when . .

The editors of the Oak Leaf would like to start a new column for the newsletter entitled *I remember when . .*

The column is a personal reflection, from a current Royal Oaks homeowner or resident, of an event or story from the past related to Royal Oaks. Our neighborhood has seen many changes since its development in the late 1950's and newer residents don't know much about its past. The column is intended to bring the history of Royal Oaks alive again. Maybe you grew up in Royal Oaks and have a funny or interesting tale of your childhood experience in the neighborhood. Maybe you're an original homeowner who has experienced the many transformations of the neighborhood that you can share with newer residents. Maybe you just have an interesting fact about the neighborhood that would be of interest to others. Or, maybe you just have some old photographs that you can share with us. Whatever your story, recollection or photo, we would like to hear from you. Please share your memories of Royal Oaks and help preserve its rich history.

To submit an article, send an email to please contact
Cindy Liveris or Kitty Costa.



5 SIMPLE WAYS TO SAVE WATER



1. **Never let water go down the drain unnecessarily .** Instead of waiting for it to get hot, capture it in a container and use it to water plants.
2. **Turn the water off when you brush your teeth,** wash you face, shave or lather during a shower.
3. **Check your home for leaks.** Repair faucets that drip or toilet handles that let water run constantly. Install low-volume toilets.
4. **Take Shorter showers** - a 10-minute shower uses 30 gallons of water.
5. **Water lawns in the early morning hours** when temperatures are low to reduce evaporation.

EXERCISE WALKING TIP:



A painless and easy way to build up to 60 minutes of walking every day is to add two minutes to walks each week.

Add another two minutes each week after that until you've reached the goal of 60 minutes.

SHADOW OAKS RECREATION ASSOCIATION (SORA)

Shadow Oaks Recreation Association, (SORA) 10502 Westview Drive, will be hosting several fun, **free** family events this spring.



Friday, April 3, 6 p.m.: Campout and Games night. Volleyball, horseshoes, kickball and board games. Starting at dusk, we'll have two giant movie screens for movies, "Rock Band" and Wii games. Concessions* will be available. Bring a tent (and a parent!) and camp out overnight on the grounds. Easter Egg hunt the next morning, starting at 9 a.m.!



Saturday, April 4, 9 a.m. - Easter Egg Hunt Bring the kids for an egg hunt on the 2+ acres of SORA grounds. We'll have a separate area for the smallest egg hunters! Face painting, surprises and fun for all.



May Open Swim/Open House (date to be announced) Come swim with us and enjoy the grounds. There will be games and prizes for the kids. Bring a cooler or cookout on the grill! Check the web site for final date/time at www.shadowoakspool.org

*All funds raised through concession sales benefit the Shadow Oaks Dolphins Swim Team.



Shadow Oaks Recreation Association is a non-profit recreation association in continuous operation since 1966. Many of us swam at SORA as kids, and now bring our own children to enjoy the facilities. An all volunteer organization, SORA is not paid for with any neighborhood association dues. Memberships are open to all area residents, with memberships to fit many budgets. We have both seasonal and year round memberships available. SORA has over 2.5 acres of shaded grounds that include a 25 meter pool, basketball court, playground structure, volleyball court and horseshoes. There is also a covered pavilion for parties or for just enjoying the shade! Wi-Fi will also be available this season.

The Shadow Oaks Dolphins Swim Team is available to kids age 4-18. *After school practice starts May 1!* We are members of the Memorial Spring Branch Swim League and compete with other area pools in home and away swim meets. Kids of all experience levels are encouraged to join. Our primary goal is to foster a sense of accomplishment in each swimmer, as well as to develop their athletic abilities.

Come visit us soon! If you have any questions about membership, please call Lisa Harman at (713)465-0241 or leave a message at the pool (713)932-0241. You can also visit our web site at www.shadowoakspool.org

ROCA ANNUAL HOLIDAY HAYRIDE UPDATE

The second annual ROCA Holiday Hayride proved to be an even bigger success the second time around. Back by popular demand, the December Holiday Hayride event, held on December 20th, brought out over 80 neighbors. The event sported something for everyone! For those who preferred a quiet evening with neighbors and friends, there was a warm fire, cider and holiday treats. For little ones waiting for their turn on the hayride, there was story time by the chiminea as original Royal Oaks homeowner, Marge Martin, captivated the little imaginations with fanciful tales of the season. For the more adventurous and vocal ones, there was the hayride itself. With songbooks and glow sticks in hand, young and old caroled through the neighborhood bringing holiday cheer to everyone! It was a magical evening and a perfect prelude to the holiday season. A special thanks goes out to Rob Petter, Ted, Marc and Cindy Liveris and Diana Cooper for coordinating and working the



event.

ROYAL OAKS "PICTORAL" VIDEO

Now Showing On ROCA Website

www.royaloakscivic.com

Want to see what Royal Oaks looked like when all the Oaks and Pines were budding little trees? Or what it looked like in the snow in the 70's and 80's? Well, now you can. A "pictorial" retrospective view of Royal Oaks is now available for viewing on-line on the ROCA website. The video was first debuted at the 2006 December Holiday Social. It is a compilation of historical photographs, from the personal collections for numerous Royal Oaks residents, set to music. Copies of the video may be purchased for \$10 each. All proceeds will go to ROCA.



2008 Christmas Decorating Contest Winners

Most Beautiful

1st Place: Tommy & Eleana Krafka 1747 Nocturne
2nd Place: Gill & Judy Dudek 1630 Imperial Crown

Most Creative

1st Place: Randy & Nebena Skender 10166 Haddington Dr.
2nd Place: Mary Hall 10158 Haddington Dr.

Best Door

1st Place: Marty & Robin Comeaux 1631 Nocturne
2nd Place: Annette Breen 1519 Imperial Crown

Religious

1st Place: Warren & Betty Hammond 10114 Eddystone
2nd Place: Paul & Pamela Panto 10130 Brinwood

ROCA \$35.00 Annual Dues due by March 31, 2009



LOST & FOUND

If your child lost the items pictured above at the
holiday hayride event in December

Please call the following number to claim:

713-647-8494 or 713-502-7801

Join Our Smart Advertisers
A regular advertising schedule
in the Oak Leaf will increase
your business among our pro-
gressive 354 home owners.

Call for details.

713-467-7578

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

Crime Stoppers	713-222-tips
Police Department (Emergency)	911
Police Dispatch (non-Emergency)	713-884-3131
Police Store Front - 8400 Long Point (storefront location does not dispatch officers)	832-394-0100
Royal Oaks-Citizen Patrol Assist line	713-464-3700

OTHER CONTACTS

City Switch Board	713-247-1000
Bureau Of Animal Control (BAC)	713-238-9600
Citizens Service Request Center (6:00 am—12:00 am every day)	311
Water, sewer, pothole, repair, ditch, storm sewer problems, traffic signals/signs/street light repair, recycling, junked autos, vacant building, rats/insects, weeds/trash, and substandard housing	
Mayor Bill White's office	713-247-2200
Rat-On-A-Rat (to report illegal dumping)	713-525-2728
SPCA	713-869-7722
Water Bill Questions	713-224-2500

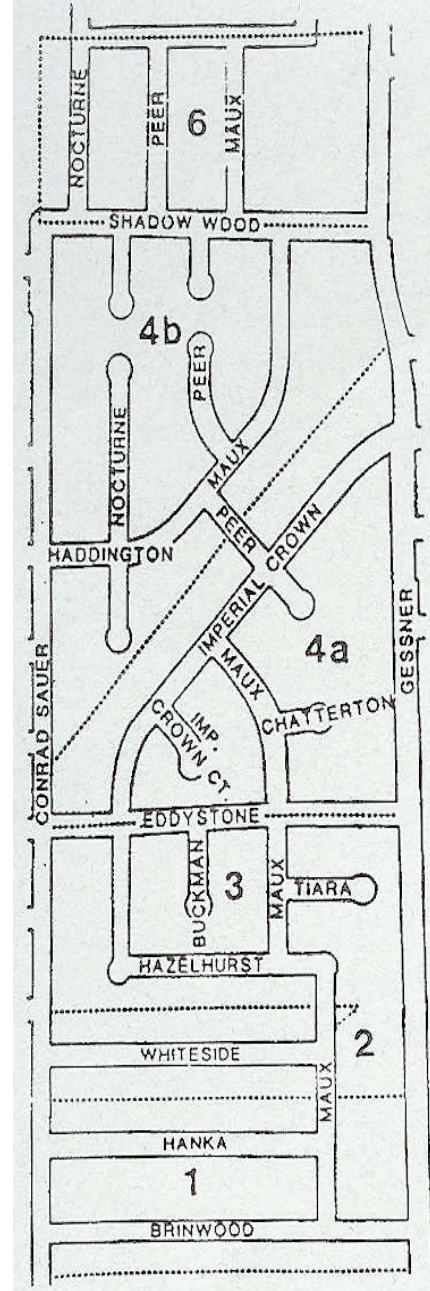
USEFUL WEBSITES

City of Houston	www.houstontx.gov
Harris County	www.co.harris.tx.us
Royal Oaks Civic Association	www.royaloakscivic.com
Weekly Crime Stats	www.springbranchcoalition.com/sb_cstat.htm

USEFUL EMAIL ADDRESSES

Royal Oaks Civic Association ACC committee	acc@royaloakscivic.com
Royal Oaks Civic Association Oak Leaf	oakleaf@royaloakscivic.com

ROCA AREA MAP



ROCA BOARD MEMBERS

President	Alan Getschmann	713-973-7714	Area 1	Paul Panto	713-467-9933
Vice President	Cindy Liveris	713-502-7801	Area 2	Leta Smith	713-461-0774
Treasurer	Mary Hall	713-467-4611	Area 3	Ricky Schulze	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