Royal Park Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 2

February 2008

Results of the 2008 Board Elections

Special Interest Articles

- Elections 2008 Results
- Preventive Maintenance
- Billionaire City?
- Featured Restaurant



On Monday February 4, 2008 Elections were held at the clubhouse and immediately after the results were announced there was a meeting of Board of Directors and amongst them they chose the following:

Lee Hinkle - President

John Hynes - Vice President

Harvey Ross - Secretary

Monika Conroy - Treasurer

Nancy McNeil – Director

Linda McNicoll - Director

Bill Schwing – Director

Royal Park residents thank all the candidates who participated in the election and all the volunteers who helped and congratulate the new Board and wish them Good Luck!

The New Board promises to work hard to maintain Royal Park as a better place to live and at the same time request the residents for their help in achieving this goal by cooperation, active participation and abiding by the condo rules for everyone's peace and enjoyment!

Royal Park is a great community with excellent amenities so let's all keep it this way.



ROYAL PARK AN OASIS IN THE CITY



Inside this issue:

Election Results	1
President's Comments	- 1
Anatomy of a Royal Park Condo Part III	3
Fine Food for Hungry Thoughts Part IV	5
Threes Company	7
Which City has most Billionaires?	8
In Memoriam	11

President's Comments

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for participating in the 2008 Royal Park Board of Directors elections. It was a lot of work and I personally would like to thank all of our volunteers for checking in, counting, and validating the entire ballot for the election.

I look forward to working with our new Board of Directors which is John Hynes, Monika Conroy, Harvey Ross, Bill Schwing, Nancy McNeill, and Linda McNicoll. I know we can continue the work we started last year and tackle the new challenges set before us this year.

I see great things for us this year including: Improving the landscaping in front of our buildings, Ordering & Receiving New Washers & Dryers for each building, and Making improvements on our lift station.

Thank you again, for electing me for my second term to the Royal Park Board of Directors and I look forward to serving Royal Park as its President.

Sincerely,

Lee Hinkle

President - Royal Park Board of Directors

Royal Park Notice Board

Garbage Pick-up

Please note that the Garbage Pick-up days have changed to Monday & Thursday morning.

Construction

According to our Rules & Regulations, Construction is allowed only from 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM on Monday though Saturday. Please be considerate of your neighbors. Thank you.

Remember to Recycle



saves money keep

your maintenance low since the trash is collected by weight.

The Green recycling bins are conveniently placed throughout the complex.

Please make sure you separate the newspapers from the glass and metal.

Smoke Alarms

Urgent Reminder

To those owners & residents who as yet did not return the smoke alarm form confirming theirs' in working order.

This form was mailed with the election package. Please bring or mail it to the office or fax at 954-731-4341

Make sure you complete and sign providing building and apartment number.

Thank You.

Notice Boards

Please note the notice Board in each building is for the residents to sell or buy personal items or services or to make personal announcements. It is the community notice board and is for the benefit of everyone.

Only 3' x 5' index cards or smaller size paper should be used to write the message. Anything larger than this is discourteous to other advertisers and shall be removed from the board. No more large 5' x 8.5' or 11" x 8.5' ad papers please!

Dear Residents,

Thank you for your vote and confidence in me. I will try to do my utmost as your director and to be a positive influence. Again, thank you for your vote.

Monika Conroy

Royal Park Poker Club



Join our friendly Poker Club. Meets Wednesday Nights at the Clubhouse 6:30 pm. For more information call: Bob Caldeira 954-566-5925

Come Join the Fun



Royal Park Newsletter

February 2008 issue

Editor: **Naim Naqi** Articles, Graphics & Ads: **Naim Naqi**

Read & print in color on-line www.royalparkrealtor.com

For ads and articles: royalparkads@hotmail.com Messages: 954-574-6074

Royal Park Newsletter, Royal Park Condo Association and the Editor assume no responsibility for statements made by their advertisers, nor do they assume responsibility for statements/opinions expressed or implied in this Newsletter.

Anatomy of a Royal Park Condo: Part III Preventive Maintenance

On an average you spend \$2,000 a year on maintenance on a car worth \$20,000 roughly 10% of the price but when it comes to a property worth say \$150,000 most people will balk on spending \$1500 a year – a mere 1% of the purchase price.

A/C System: The A/C system has two parts – inside the condo is the air-handler housed in the false ceiling in the foyer and it is connected to the condensing unit on the roof. A/C is by far the most used equipment and should be treated like a car with periodic maintenance and check ups etc. After all Clean Air is Healthy Air – if you neglect the basic maintenance the system will sooner or later choke and you may have a serious case of allergies and mold in your home.

Whether you live in your apartment or rent it is in your interest to make certain the a/c system runs efficiently. Make sure you write in the lease that tenant change or clean a/c filters periodically and do remind them once every so often as I have seen filters which were not changed for 10 months and the airhandler was virtually choked up dying a slow death!

Average life of an A/c compressor is between 8 to 12 years and the average life of air-handler is 15 years although many of Royal Park's are still running good at age 33. The code for new a/c condenser has changed in the last five years.

For a 1 bedroom apartment you need a 1½ ton 13 Seer unit

For a 2 bedroom apartment you need a 2 ton 13 Seer unit.

By law 13 Seer is the lowest you can buy. Seer is the rating standard; it used to be 10 Seers few years ago.

Preventive maintenance would entail periodic check-up of the level of Freon gas in the condensing unit. Any shortage or leakage will slow the cooling of the apartment and will run up the electric bill. The compressor is the heart of the system and it pumps the air down to the air-handler and if the air-handler is not running efficiently, it will force the compressor to work harder in order to pump same amount of air.

The air-handler is vital yet most neglected equipment. Cleaning the inside of the air-handler is essential

and should be done at least every 4 to 5 years and if you have animals that shed hair then probably 2 to 3 years. Please beware of cheap ads in the weekly flyers offering "Cleaning the ducts" - in reality cleaning the ducts will disturb the fiber glass which is dangerous for breathing. Try to get licensed and established a/c companies although many big ones do not offer servicing of air-handlers as it may not be cost effective for their operation unless they charge a very high amount. One such service is offered by Dick & Helen Pendergast who live in Royal Park and recently they

cleaned my air-handler after 5 years at the cost of \$135.00 and their 10 step cleaning procedure was as follows:

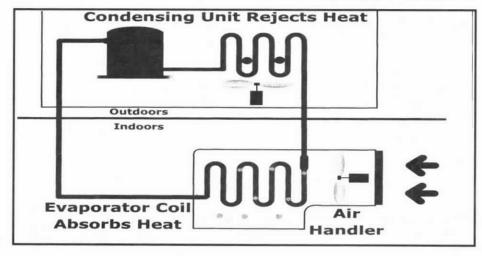
- Take down blower wheels and motor
- 2. Disassemble and clean wheels and casing
- 3. Oil motor and re-tape casing
- Clean coils with coil cleaner and blow out w/air compressor
- 5. Flush/Blow-out pan & drain line
- 6. Patch up any possible leaks in

pan and drain the line

- 7. Clean vents
- 8. Disinfect and check ducts.
- Check filter and grill clean or replace filter
- Check condensing unit on roof and top up Freon if needed.

Dick also recommends replacing the original a/c filter casing with a full size egg-crate type plastic panel with a permanent (horse-hair) filter at a cost of \$35.00. This allows extra air for intake and helps the handler 'breathing-in' more air. The permanent filter can be washed at the carwash every 4 to 8 weeks.

If you are in the process of renovating the property with tiles or wood flooring or new kitchen or spray painting then do not run the a/c at all as particles will be sucked into the air-handler through the intake. Have the air-handler cleaned after finishing all remodeling and not only you will be breathing fresher cleaner air the process will increase the longevity of the equipment.



.....continued on page 5

For Brakes & More





160 E. Prospect Road, Oakland Park 954-563-7254

CARS... FOREIGN & DOMESTIC... TRUCK, VANS AND MOTOR HOMES STOP IN FOR THE BEST IN BRAKES

FREE OIL, LUBE FILTER WITH COMPLETE BRAKE JOB!

OTHER SERVICES INCLUDE: New Radiators, Water pumps, Complete Front End Service CV Joint Service, Shocks & Struts, Belts, Hoses, Batteries & More!

Oil Lube & Filter	Tire Specials!	Computerized 4 Wheel Alignment	FILL YOUR TIRES WITH NITROGEN!
\$15.99	FREE	\$34.95	
includes	with purchase	Most Cars and	*Save \$\$\$ on Fuel*
Disposal fee	of 4 Tires	Vans (Dual	*Tires Last Longer*
Free safety	Mount,	rear alignments	*Increase Vehicle Safety*
Check	Balance	available at	*Superior Vehicle Handling*
(up to 5 quarts	valve stems	additional cost)	*Maintain Proper Tire Inflation*
of 10W30 for	and rotation	FREE	*Decrease Wheel corrosion*
most cars)	every 6000	Front-end	
Vans & Trucks	miles! Call	Inspection	NITROGEN
Extra	for prices	18-22" Wheels \$49.95	Is The Way To Go!!!

SPECIAL ROYAL PARK SALE

Berber Carpet Installed with Pad \$17.99 Sq. Yard MANY COLORS TO CHOOSE FROM

Carpet – Wood – Ceramic Tiles – Laminate – Area Rugs Serving S. Florida with integrity & Quality Service for 33 Years Voted Business of the Year by the Chambers of Commerce

CARPET PLUS + Call: 954- 360-0029

Family Owned & Operated



Low Prices Wide selection

We are Royal Park Residents

Se Habla Espanol Nous Parlons Francais Credit Cards Accepted

81 S. Federal Hwy Deerfield Beach, FL (SW Corner of Hillsboro & Federal)

Fine Food For Hungry Thoughts - Part IV

Thai Bayshore Restaurant: 4838 N Federal Hwy, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33308

Located 1 block S of Commercial Blvd on E side of Federal Highway next to Subways.

It's that time of the day when you can't think straight because you got to eat. Another tuna sandwich is out of question and just the thought of a fast food drive-in gives you heartburn so where can you go 10 minutes from Royal Park and get served within 10 minutes for under \$10 in a relaxed atmosphere – Try Thai Bayshore.

For authentic Thai food in Florida, Restaurant Thai Bayshore comes very close. This pleasant restaurant is popular with white-collar professionals during lunch hours and offers a wide selection with a special lunch menu from \$6.95 to \$9.50

All entrees come with rice and a choice of soup or salad with Thai (peanut) dressing. The vegetable noodle or spinach soup is excellent but the signature Thai soup 'Tom Yum Goong (spicy and sour whole shrimp soup with ginger, scallions and lemon grass) is not up to par.



Having visited Thailand five times and twice traveling extensively throughout the country I suppose I can claim bragging rights of knowing something about Thai cuisine and being a gourmet cook helps.

Many Thai recipes call for a little sugar but if the little becomes a lot then not only the food has a sweet after taste, all dishes taste similar. This may not be apparent to the occasional Thai tasting American palate but seasoned visitors and expatriates will know the difference. Many Florida restaurants suffer from this phenomenon or alternatively with excessive garlic or spice that overpowers the actual flavor.

Having tried other Thai restaurants, overall this one ranks better.

Most Thai dishes contain coconut milk and peanuts or peanut sauce and fresh basil is commonly used.

You can try chicken or beef curry for \$6.95 containing coconut milk and well-liked or Panang chicken or beef which additionally contains Panang curry paste and peanut sauce and is one of the most popular dishes. Shrimp dishes for same are for \$8.95 each.

Also shrimp w/cashew nuts, onions and celery in light brown sauce are very good and suitable for those who do not want spicy food.

For vegetarians, a choice of mixed vegetables with tofu, vegetable curry and Sautéed rice noodle w/mixed vegetables (best of the three) all at \$7.95 each.

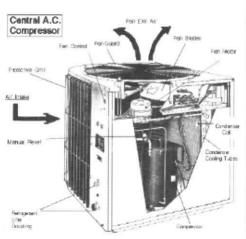
Noodle dishes are: Pad Thai \$8.95 – Rice noodles sautéed with chicken, shrimps, eggs, ground peanuts and bean sprouts. It is more popular than Basil Noodle or Pad Woonsen which has egg and clear noodles respectively. Thai ice tea (with milk) is not recommended but try the hot jasmine tea or the fresh lemonade.

Continued from page 3......

<u>Preventive Maintenance</u>

Water Leak: A most common yet least understood problem and it happens when the air-handler unit, specifically the coils and blower wheels, get full of dirt which causes the algae to build up in the drain pan. With time the combination of moisture and algae acts like a sponge and can cause the pan to fill up with water.

The pan or the drain line will cause a leak and can be patched up if not too rusted out. The cloaged line can be blown out from the unit. Most of the time water stains will show up in the false ceiling in the foyer but in some case water will leak in the hot water closet and mysteriously appear in the neighbor's ceiling below. According to CSACS almost 85% of the calls for A/C repair are emergency calls when the problem had already started - this is similar to your car running out of gas or transmission fluid and hopefully you were not speeding on I-95 at the time!



Condensing Unit on the roof

Make your life simple and stress free by changing/cleaning the filter every 6-8 weeks and checkup/servicing the a/c system every 6-8 months. If you have a service contract with a company then make sure they do periodic maintenance checks, if not, then offer to pay extra but if they do not have such policy then call them every 6 months anyway by implying that the system is not cooling right or you heard some noises etc., and demand a complete check-up. Otherwise your next call may be another SOS call!

Future Issues: Electric - Floors - Walls - Termites - Etc.

2301 W. Oakland Park Blvd. Oakland Park, FL 33311 (Oakland Lakes Shopping Centre)



(Catering Available)

AI	Egg Roll (1) 1.09
A2	Crab Rangoons (3) 1.29
A3	Chicken Teriyaki (1) 1,29
A4	Beef Teriyaki (1) 1,39
A5	Chicken Wings (3) Whole 2.89 or Platter 5.39
A6	Spare Ribs (3) 3.99 or Platter 6.49
A7	Boneless Pork 5.49 or Platter 7.99
Platter	served w/choice of one (1) of the following:
	ork, Chicken, Beef, Shrimp or House Fried Rice)

	SOUP Sm.	Lg.
S1	Egg Drop Soup1.25	2.50
S2	Wonton Soup 1.25	2.50
S3	Hot & Sour Soup1.50	2.90
S4	Mixed Soup 1.50	2.90
S5	Vegetable Soup2.50	3.90
S6	Chicken Noodle or Rice Soup 2.50	3.90

SIDE DISHES

SIDE DISILES
Steamed Rice59
Fried Rice99
Fried Rice with Meal (substitution)
Extra Gravy
Meal w/Veg, Pork or Chicken or Beef or
Shrimp or House Fried Rice 2.50 Extra

REGULAR DINNERS

Served with Steamed Rice	Sm.	Lg.
01 Chicken Chow Mein	4.95	7.45
02 Sweet & Sour Pork	4.95	7.45
03 Sweet & Sour Chicken	4.95	7.45
04 Moo Goo Gai Pan	4.95	7.45
05 Garlie Chicken	4.95	7.45
06 Almond Chicken	4.95	7.45
07 * Chicken Broccoli		7.45
08 & Chicken with Vegetable		7.45
09 Kung Bao Chicken	4.95	7.45
10 Szechuan Chicken	4.95	7.45
11 Pepper Steak		7.65
12 Beef Broccoli	5.15	7.65
13 Szechuan Beef	5.15	7.65
14 ❖ ► Hunan Beef	5.15	7.65
15 Honey Chicken	5.15	7.65
16 Snow Peas Beef		7.65
17 Mongolian Beef	5.15	7.65
18 * Beef & Chicken Szechuan	5.15	7.65
19 Mandarin Triple Crown	5.95	8.45
20 Vegetarian Delight	4.95	7.45

Hot and Spicy (can be altered to your taste)

954-486-3669 **DELIVERY**

OPEN

0	
MonThurs.	11 AM - 10 PM
Friday-Sat.	11 AM - 11 PM
Sunday	12 PM - 10 PM
(Delivery ends one	hour prior to closing)

ALL OUR FOOD IS COOKED TO ORDER

COMBINATION DINNERS

Served	with	Fried	Rice,	Egg	Roll,	Soup	
			A	dd E	xtra		1.75

DELUXE DINNERS

Served with Egg	Roll, Sweet & Sour Pork,
& Steamed Rice	Add Extra 1.75

	SEAFOOD		Sm.	Lg.
	Served with Steamed Rice			
31	Shrimp with Lobster Sauce		6.25	8.75
32	Shrimp Broccoli		6.25	8.75
33			6.25	8.75
34 V	Garlic Shrimp		6.25	8.75
35 4	Shrimp with Vegetable		6.25	8.75
36	♦ Nunan Shrimp		6.25	
	Garlic Scallops		6.25	8.75
38	Shrimp & Scallops with Vege	table	6.45	8.95
	FRIED RICE	Sm.	Lg.	Jumbo
41	Pork or Veg. Fried Rice	3.25		13.25
42	Chicken Fried Rice			13.25
43	Beef Fried Rice			13.65
4.4	CO. A. C. C. A. D. C. A. D. C.	The way was	1000	10000

Served with Steamed Rice Sm.	Lg.	Jumbo
Vegetable Lo-Mein4.35	6.85	14.35
Pork Lo-Mein 4.35	6.85	14.35
Chicken Lo-Mein 4.35	6.85	14.35
Beef Lo-Mein 4.65	7.15	14.65
Shrimp Lo-Mein4.95		14.95
House Lo-Mein 4.95	7.45	14.95
	Served with Steamed Rice Vegetable Lo-Mein 4.35 Pork Lo-Mein 4.35 Chicken Lo-Mein 4.35 Beef Lo-Mein 4.65 Shrimp Lo-Mein 4.95	Served with Steamed Rice Vegetable Lo-Mein 4.35 6.85 Pork Lo-Mein 4.35 6.85 Chicken Lo-Mein 4.35 6.85 Beef Lo-Mein 4.65 7.15

Shrimp Fried Rice 3.95 6.45 13.95

House Fried Rice 3.95 6.45 13.95

51	House Lo-Mein 4.95 7.45	14.9	5
	EGG FOO YONG (One si	ze)	
	Served with Steamed Rice Vegetable or Pork Foo Yong Beef or Chicken Foo Yong Shrimp or House Foo Yong	7.75	
	Sm.	Lg.	
*	General Chicken5.75	8.25	
	Orange Chicken 5.95	8.45	
	Sesame Chicken5.95	8.45	
1	**	7.65	

♦ Cooked With No Oil

Threes Company...

A slightly different version of this won an award for the best joke in a competition organized in Britain in 2007.

A new customer walks into a bar in Liverpool & orders three glasses of Beer and sits in the back of the room, drinking a sip out of each one in turn.

When he finishes them, he comes back to the bar and orders three more.

The bartender asks him, "You know, beer goes flat after I fill it in the glass; it would taste better if you bought one at a time. The young man replies, "Well, you see, I have two brothers. One is in Dublin, the other in Canada, and I'm here in Liverpool. When they left home, we promised that we'd drink this way to remember the days when we drank together."

The bartender admits that this is a nice custom, and leaves it there. The man becomes a regular in the bar, and always drinks the same way. He orders three Beers and drinks them in turn. One day, he comes in and orders only two Beers.

All the other regulars notice and fall silent. When he comes back to the bar for the second round, the bartender says," I don't want to intrude on your grief, but I wanted to offer my condolences on your great loss." The young man looks confused for a moment, then a light dawn in his eye and he laughs. "Oh, no," he, says, "Everyone's fine - both my brothers are alive" "Only thing is ---- I just quit drinking"!!!



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT YOUR CELL PHONE

All cell phone numbers are being released to telemarketing companies this month and you will start to receive sale calls. YOU WILL BE CHARGED FOR THESE CALLS. To prevent this, call the following number from your cell phone: 888-382-1222. It is the National DO NOT CALL list. It will only take a minute of your time. It blocks your number for 5 years. You must call from the cell phone number you want to have blocked.

You can also go on-line at www.donotcall.gov

Gibraltar Title & Escrow Company

Whether you are refinancing or purchasing - Gibraltar guarantees to make your closing a pleasant experience.

Every year we close dozens of Royal Park apartments and are very familiar with the title work and history of the complex and maintain a good working relationship with the condo office.



Established for 30 years in the same location

Gibraltar is here to serve you.....Call Marge J. Schleifer: 954-771-7601

Gibraltar Title & Escrow Company

2929 E. Commercial Blvd, Suite 100, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33308

Billionaire City? Which city in the world has most Billionaires!

Which city has the most Billionaires is it London, or New York or one of the oil rich Middle Eastern cities? While you are still wondering let's digress and explore the dramatic changes one Super Power has gone through in the last decade and half and in the process created turmoil in other nations – before we discover that Billionaire City!

That Super Power was United Socialist Soviet Republic. In December 1979 when the USSR forces fired the first bullet in Afghanistan – it ricocheted and became the first nail in the coffin of the Soviet Empire.

Millions of Afghans fled to Pakistan as refugees and for the next 8 years the Afghans with the help of American CIA and Pakistan ISA with an endless supply of arms launched counter attacks against the Soviet army from the Northern borders of Pakistan hence the Taliban forces were born.

Backed by the politicians and bureaucrats, American advisers saw an opportunity to test the latest armaments (like shoulder fired missiles) against a formidable adversary, and insisted in more cash and arms to the fighters resulting in an over supply. The Pushtuns who inhabit both sides of the border has a love affair with arms for centuries much like the Western Cowboys.

The surplus armaments start selling underground and eventually in the open market. Afghans start moving further south and spreading in different parts of Pakistan taking up jobs, businesses, and land. Mostly they

were welcomed but some small criminal elements started organized robberies resulting in ordinary citizens obtaining guns for protection, meanwhile, every month thousands of orphans and children driven by hunger headed for the mega city of Karachi for menial jobs or as beggars.

Many peaceful cities became tense and unsafe with different factions and political parties acquiring and hoarding armaments en masse, hence turning the whole region volatile.

Eventually the Taliban (literally meaning the students) expelled the Soviets out of Afghanistan. A few years later the retreat of the Soviet forces became a shameful lesson and the catalyst for other nations



under the Soviet banner to seek independence; resulting in the sovereignty of several countries. It is a little known secret that Soviet occupation of Afghanistan apart from adding another nation to their outpost was to invade and annex Baluchistan, an underdeveloped and least populated province of Pakistan alongside Iranian border to gain access to warm waters of the Arabian Sea. KGB was covertly funding and supplying arms to tribal warlords and nationalists in the area to create havoc and instability in the region already ravaged by refugees, war and lawlessness.

The plan was to build an oil pipeline from **Turkmenistan** through Afghanistan to Baluchistan's Southern port of Gwadar. Ironically, several American Oil Companies in July of 2001 tried to entice the Taliban government for the same dream pipeline and still drooling (not drilling!) but for the instability in Afghanistan.

The might of **USSR** before the breakup can only be visualized by its shear size – the country was spread over two continents; ex-

tending from the Arctic coast to the North, Baltic Sea to the South, from West Europe to East Asia and had Eleven Time Zones. She had Fifteen Republics and over Nineteen Identifiable Regions. There were over 90 ethnic civilizations recognized by the Soviet government, each with its own language and cultural definitions and included some 89 political administrative divisions.

Perestroika

The first fortunes made in the new

Russia resulted from wheeling and dealing. While the majority of Russians queued for bread, a group of young entrepreneurs experimented with business including Mikhail Khodorkovsky.

After 70 years of Communism, many Russians regarded even honest businessmen as thieves. In the early 1990s, the best way to make money was to work with money. Thousands of banks and insurance companies

.....continued on page 9

Continued from page 8

sprang up overnight. Khodorkovsky used cash from his computer importing business to found Menatep Bank. Offshore banking was barred to all but the select few, but Khodorkovsky cultivated the right contacts to get approvals for his schemes. Throughout the 1990s, many bankers met early deaths at the hands of hired assassins. Menatep's legal adviser was one of the first to be killed. Undeterred, Khodorkovsky and his partners pressed on the path to riches.

Crown jewels - In 1995 Russia's broke government started to auction off the crown jewels of the economy. Minerals and oil assets were sold off en masse as the government tried to fight the threat from resurgent Communists and finalize Russian capitalism. Russia's most valuable assets were sold at bargain prices to insiders such as Khodorkovsky. Other

assets were squeezed out by a process which many said was rigged. The banker Vladimir Potanin got the most valuable prize of all the Norilsk Nickel, one of the world's richest suppliers of raw materials.

Russia's business oligarchs - Greek for the few who rule - have enriched themselves over the past 15 years beyond most people's wildest dreams. Khodorkovsky was not just rich he was also very influential and was seen as the leading oligarch in the country, operating in a society where wealth brings power. His personal wealth in 2003 was \$15.2 billion. Presently he is in jail, serving 9 years on charges of fraud and tax evasion. Rumor has it he was getting too outspoken for Vladimir Putin.

Menatep Bank bought Russia's second largest oil company, Yukos, for \$300m. It also took on \$2bn in debts, which made the price more realis-

tic. By the end of 2003 it was worth \$27bn, but only after the management had vastly increased production the country. This is just one story of rags to riches, however, there are many others and by now hopefully you guessed it. It's MOSCOW which is the world capital of Billionaires!

There are now 60 (dollar) Billionaires in Russia, 16 more than a year ago, according to Forbes magazine's annual survey of the wealthiest 100 Russian citizens.

Roman Abramovich, well known in the UK as he is in Russia, was top of the list with a fortune estimated at \$19.2 billion. Second on the list was aluminum tycoon Oleg Deripaska with \$16.8 billion. The "Golden Hundred" had \$337 billion of assets as of March 19, 2007 – 36% more than 2006, according to the annual survey. The mega rich cities of London and New York have 50 Billionaires apiece.



The transformation from a communist to capitalist society was not without adaptation and growing pains and by no means complete. The wealth is in the hands of a small number of influential people and the disparity between ultra rich and very poor is vast. Crime and official bribery is rampant and Russian Mafia is now the most feared in Europe. Majority of the older generation long for the Communist good old days when they were not affected by inflation and had guaranteed food and shelter whereas in today's Russia, for many the daily life is a struggle for survival.

Monthly Salary in Russia Averages 13,518 rubles or \$550 in 2007, a 10% jump from 2006 according to Russia's daily online, Kommersant.

President Viladimir Viladimirovich Putin keeps a tight control on Russian style democracy – freedom of press index in Russia is 121 whereas Canada is 5 and USA is 17 (data source: Reporters without Borders 2007).

No matter what the future holds for Russia, the Historians will consider the super rich phenomena as the biggest economic miracle of the 21st Century.

The KGB – An Abbreviation for KOMITYET GOSUDAR STENNOY BE ZOPASNOST, literally "Committee for State Security" was the umbrella organization serving Soviet Union's premier Security Agency, Secret Police and Intelligence Agency from 1954 to 1991.

With some risk of getting exterminated I hereby anonymously suggest to change the name of KGB to "Kremlin's Ghost Busters" apropos to their reduced role in the world. Hoping our comrades and the top boss in CIA will agree and sign on the new name with a smirk!

Written with profound memories of my mother who died very young on December 17, 1979, the day Soviets invaded Afghanistan.



Royal Park Condo Owners

February 2008

Wondering How Much Your Condo Is Worth?

Has your home gone up in value? How much are other units

in Royal Park selling for?

If you're wondering what's happening to prices in Royal Park, or you're thinking about selling your condo, I'll be able to help. Call for a professional evaluation of your current real estate situation. I'll just give you the honest facts about your home and its current value. Just give me a call at 954-914-6053 to arrange an appointment.

Hugh P. Sharkey Realtor® ROYAL PARK SALES AND LEASING SPECIALIST As Your Agent, I will

- Complete a comparative market analysis that will compare your home's value to that of you neighbors.
- Immediate listing in the MLS (local / Internet)
- Present your home to as many qualified buyers as possible getting your home maximum exposure.
- Help you stage your home and generate curb appeal to ensure you get the best price.
- Assist with obtaining offers and help you in negotiating the best deal as smoothly as possible.

Royal Park for sale

- 1 Bedroom units from \$113,500 to \$139,900
- 2 Bedroom units from \$119,500 to \$184,500

Some need work while others are nicely upgraded

In Memoriam

Warren M Hyser (1919-2008)
Building 101-2F shall be missed
by his son Roger Hyser,
family, friends and

Car For Sale

'Chevrolet Beretta '91

2 door, AC, stereo

72,000 original miles.

Serviced on a regular basis

& very well maintained.

\$850.00 OBO

All offers considered.

Carol: 954-731-8503

neighbors. He was a resident since 1990.



In Memoriam

Monica Yoezle (1955-2008)
Building 117-1G shall be missed
by her parents, three sisters, friends and
neighbors. She was a
resident since 1995.

Royal Park Rentals

1/1.5 - \$850 ceramic tiles 1/1.5 -\$850 Fresh Paint newcarpet 2/2 - \$950 Sharp corner unit

2/2 - \$950 Ceramic tiles/ Washer-Dryer

2/2 - \$1,000Corner Furnished

Lee Stevens - Realtor 954-600-0600 South Florida Group, Realtors

Air-Condition

Problems

Dick Pendergast

954-485-5062

Stop Leaks-Fungus Mildew-Mold-Odor

Clean Air is Healthy Air Have your A/C Handler Cleaned Special Offer for Royal Park Owners

> 38 years in Service Royal Park Resident



Loving, caring pet professionals, recommended by your neighbors at Royal Park

Voted best groomer 2007 by readers of EASTSIDER 880 East Oakland Park Blvd, Oakland Park 954.564.2770