



## Summer 2022 Newsletter

### President's Message

Dear Ridgewood Residents,

The Ridgewood Board met August 10, 2022 to discuss several issues concerning our neighborhood association, and I will summarize a few here. First and foremost, there are some important positions that need to be filled. Beginning in September we will need to elect a new Vice President, Treasurer and Firewise Chair. Please consider joining our board of congenial neighbors who endeavor to keep our neighborhood safe and well maintained.

The board also discussed the ongoing issue of vegetation management, which will be further addressed at our upcoming Summer Neighborhood Meeting to be held September 25th. Flyer is included at the end of this newsletter. This will be a great opportunity to meet your neighbors and listen to our panel of four speakers who have important information to convey.

Our four speakers for the summer meeting are Supervisor Ryan Campbell; Sheriff Bill Pooley; Dore Beitz, Coordinator of the Office of Emergency Services; and Emily Kilgore, Cal Fire Spokesperson. Residents will be given an opportunity to voice their concerns and ask questions of the speakers.

We are grateful to our outgoing board members, including Sandy Fisher for the knowledge and guidance she provided to our community while serving as Vice President on the Ridgewood Board, Don Nester for maintaining our Website for over 18 years, and Jerry Lewis for serving as our Treasurer and managing our finances.

I would like to close with one of many definitions of a community, which applies to our neighborhood: "A group of people living together, or in the same locality, who share an interest or a sense of identity". I hope to see you all at the Summer Meeting.

Thank you,  
Charles Luke, President Ridgewood Neighborhood Assn.

## Firewise News (looking for a volunteer)

The Firewise Chair must be filled before our certificate expires in November in order for the Ridgewood Neighborhood to maintain benefits of a Firewise Community which can include a discount on Homeowners Insurance policies. Detailed Firewise Chair duties are listed below. If you have additional questions or would like more information, contact Charles Luke at [celuke@gmail.com](mailto:celuke@gmail.com) or (209) 533-3683.

In the meantime, The RNA Board of Directors would like to bring to your attention a proposed ordinance that would impose new requirements on Tuolumne County landowners to remove hazardous vegetation on their properties so as to reduce the potential for fire and to promote the safety and welfare of our community. If you want more information regarding this Ordinance please visit the following link:

<https://www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov/308/Office-of-Emergency-Services>

As a reminder, the RNA Board of Directors encourages every property owner whether it is a vacant lot or with a structure you personally live in, rent or lease to take vegetation management of such property seriously for the safety and welfare of yourself and your neighbors.

The current Ridgewood 108 Firewise certification is located on the website.

Review the following Firewise Chairperson duties below and consider volunteering.

- Establish Ridgewood 108 action plan to mitigate wildfires with Firewise USA
- Update action plan on a yearly basis to maintain Firewise certification for Ridgewood 108 residents
- Coordinate with Tuolumne County OES
- Coordinate with other County Firewise groups
- Promote mitigation plan with all Ridgewood 108 residents
- Search for grants that are related to wildfire mitigation for Ridgewood 108
- Organize a committee to implement action plan
- Duration of Firewise Chairperson is typically a 2 year commitment. Goals and objectives should align with RNA, but not mandated to follow their CC&R protocols. Ridgewood 108 Firewise is organized as a separate entity and will abide by rules and regulations established by Firewise USA to mitigate wildfires.

## Neighborhood Watch Information

Hello Neighbors,

In the last few weeks here in Ridgewood, there have been multiple sightings of foxes, skunks, and even a large bear. They are likely foraging for food, so please remember to keep



your trash bins somewhere as inaccessible as possible and wait as long as you can to bring your bins to the street for trash and recycling collection. While encounters with bears are exceedingly rare, it is important to know basic bear safety if you do come across one strolling through our beautiful streets (or in our case, your own backyard!)

Here are some helpful tips from the National Park Service:

- Identify yourself by talking calmly so the bear knows you are a human and not a prey animal. Remain still; stand your ground but slowly wave your arms. Help the bear recognize you as a human. It may come closer or stand on its hind legs to get a better look or smell. A standing bear is usually curious, not threatening.
- Stay calm and remember that most bears do not want to attack you; they usually just want to be left alone. Bears may bluff their way out of an encounter by charging and then turning away at the last second. Bears may also react defensively by woofing, yawning, salivating, growling, snapping their jaws, and laying their ears back. Continue to talk to the bear in low tones; this will help you stay calmer, and it won't be threatening to the bear. A scream or sudden movement may trigger an attack. Never imitate bear sounds or make a high-pitched squeal.
- Make yourselves look as large as possible (for example, move to higher ground).
- Do NOT allow the bear access to your food. Getting your food will only encourage the bear and make the problem worse for others.
- If the bear is stationary, move away slowly and sideways; this allows you to keep an eye on the bear and avoid tripping. Moving sideways is also non-threatening to bears.
- Do NOT run, but if the bear follows, stop and hold your ground. Bears can run as fast as a racehorse both uphill and down. Like dogs, they will chase fleeing animals.
- Do NOT climb a tree. Both grizzlies and black bears can climb trees.
- Leave the area or take a detour. If this is impossible, wait until the bear moves away. Always leave the bear an escape route.
- Be especially cautious if you see a female with cubs; never place yourself between a mother and her cub, and never attempt to approach them. The chances of an attack escalate greatly if she perceives you as a danger to her cubs.

As always, please contact me with any safety concerns. Enjoy the last few weeks of summer and I hope the cooler weather appears sooner rather than later.

For all emergencies, always dial 911.

For non-emergencies, contact the Tuolumne County Sheriff's Office Dispatch at 209- 533-5815.

Jeff Lee, Neighborhood Watch Captain

# Ridgewood Propane News

Dear Ridgewood Neighbor,

We hope this letter finds you well and warm with plenty of cost effective propane supply.

One of the benefits of living in Ridgewood is that we have a Propane Cooperative Program that annually negotiates on behalf of our 164 homes to identify the best supplier(s).

Our selected vendor has committed to this price effective January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2024.

To calculate the price per gallon, go to the following link:

<https://www.dgs.ca.gov/PD/Resources/Page-Content/Procurement-Division-Resources-List-Folder/Liquefied-Petroleum-Gas-Fuel-Postings>

Select the week your delivery will be made, find the Market Base Rate for TARGA-SF and add to your Supplier's Vender Fee; this is your estimated price per gallon. Note the TARGA-SF price may change a few cents on a daily basis so anticipate some fluctuations. California requires suppliers to charge a HazMat Fee but it can be embedded in the Delivery Fee. Add the Delivery Fee and HazMat Fee (not multiplied by gallons), for the full delivery price. Should you wish to confirm your delivered price contact the Supplier.

If you are not using our negotiated supplier, please consider changing over.  
Do not share information about this Propane Cooperative Program outside the Ridgewood Neighborhood Association area as this creates difficulties for our selected supplier(s) and could negatively affect our ability to negotiate in the future.

The rate is highly discounted due to benefits this program creates for both homeowners and suppliers: Homeowners receive best pricing, reduced frequency of changing supplier due to price, service quality and supply stability, a delivery driver knowledgeable of your property, rapid service if problems arise, fewer propane trucks traversing the area, and encourages supplier investments in fuel capacity.

Our Selected Supplier(s) benefit from greater volume of business, long-term customer loyalty and retention, stabilized revenue from homeowners in an area most likely to pay their bills on time, reduced operational cost related to shutdown/startup of service, and increased delivery efficiency (timing/consolidating trips).

Propane Price is not the only factor to consider when selecting your supplier. For example, JS West has and continues to make significant investments in Rail Terminal and local storage to ensure supply for existing customers. Customer service and responsiveness also should be considered.

As a reminder, this is an exclusive arrangement that benefits RNA and the supplier(s). Please do not share outside the community as this may affect our ability to maintain this value.

This year we are adding Homeowner input as your personal investment in this process. Please take a few minutes, fill out the Homeowners Survey below and send this page to Tom Crosby, 15415 Ridgewood Dr, Sonora CA 95370.

#### Propane Cooperative Program, Homeowners Survey

Homeowner(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone#: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Lot#\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Propane Supplier: \_\_\_\_\_, years served (aprox): \_\_\_\_\_

Issues Experienced: \_\_\_\_\_

(out of gas, equipment problems, service problems, billing problems, etc)

Service Excellence: \_\_\_\_\_

(courtesy, efficiency, professionalism, problem-solving, mowed the lawn while filling up tank)

Comments to us: \_\_\_\_\_

(How important is this Propane Coop Program to you, how can we make it better?)

Please provide your email if you would like to receive RNA information faster than infrequent "snail mail":  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please mail your completed survey to Tom Crosby, 15415 Ridgewood Dr., Sonora CA 95370, or scan or take a snapshot with your smart phone and email it to: [tom.crosby@comcast.net](mailto:tom.crosby@comcast.net), or do nothing and we'll be calling or visiting with increasing annoyance until we get your survey!

Best Regards, Ralph Legg & Tom Crosby;  
Your RNA Propane Coop Program Negotiators

## Architectural Review Information

A quick reminder to current and potential property owners, that within the Ridgewood CC&R's;

Section 3.03 Architectural Control: \*No building, fence, wall, obstructions, screen nor structure of any kind shall be constructed, erected or maintained upon the Project (Ridgewood), nor shall any alteration or improvement of any kind be made thereto until the same has been approved in writing by the Architectural Control Committee\*.

For projects requiring a building permit from Tuolumne County, the County will not issue a permit without a letter of review provided by the Ridgewood Architectural Control Committee. If you are considering a project, I encourage you to contact one of the Committee members early on, to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

For a complete list of Architectural requirements and limitations visit the Ridgewood website.

Please remember that the Committee is not here to micromanage what you do on your property. Our role is to oversee the requirements within the CC&R's to maintain and enhance the values of everyone's property in this wonderful place we live, Ridgewood.

I invite you to contact me at 209-541-4172 if you have any questions on how or what to submit to the Committee.

Chris Amend, Architectural Review Committee Chair

## RNA Website

Visit the RNA website to get all the latest information regarding your Ridgewood neighborhood at [www.ridgewoodsonora.org](http://www.ridgewoodsonora.org). Privacy is the RNA's first priority. All personal information such as names, street and email addresses, and phone numbers are password protected. This information will not appear outside the website unless prior approval has been given to post in the Newsletter for reference. If you do not remember the password, please contact Don Nester, Webmaster at 209-588-0782 or your assigned Block Captain.

PLEASE DO NOT DISTRIBUTE OR RE-POST ANY INFORMATION FROM THE WEBSITE.  
ALL INFORMATION POSTED ON THE WEBSITE IS FOR PERSONAL USE ONLY!  
DO NOT DOWNLOAD AND/OR PRINT THIS INFORMATION FOR DISTRIBUTION TO OTHERS  
WITHOUT PERMISSION FROM THE RNA PRESIDENT.  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION AND UNDERSTANDING.

## 2022 RNA Membership Dues -- January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022

Please fill out the membership form at the end of this Newsletter and include your completed form with your \$10.00 annual 2022 membership dues. Completing this form will assist the Block Captain Coordinator in verifying contact information currently listed on the Ridgewood resident roster.

Your \$10.00 assists in the defraying of costs, i.e., Post Office Box rental, postage and printing of this Newsletter, as well as other related RNA expenses.

Your PAID membership also allows you to take advantage of the Propane Cooperative Program. Ralph and Tom will work closely with JS West to ensure only those residence current in dues will benefit from the negotiated Propane Cooperative Program pricing.

RNA Treasurer Jerry Lewis would like to ask Ridgewood residents who pay their dues via a check to please be patient and do not place stop payments on checks prior to calling him. Checks are not necessarily cashed immediately upon receipt, there may be a delay to avoid multiple trips to the bank. He prefers to coordinate trips to town.

In addition, Residents who pay via cash and do not include their membership form need to include their Name and Address so he can identify who to credit payment of their dues!

These tasks may seem unnecessary but without this information it creates a bookkeeping nightmare! Your cooperation in providing your information is critical to accurate bookkeeping.

### Ridglettes Announcement

The Ridglettes had their first get together since before COVID at Sandy Piercley's home on July 15<sup>th</sup>. It was nice to see so many new faces.

We do not have another date scheduled, if anyone would like to plan the next Ridgewood Ladies' gathering please contact Sandy either by phone at 209-533-2353 or email at [lapiercley@yahoo.com](mailto:lapiercley@yahoo.com) . Remember it can be at your home for a card/game day or at a restaurant.

Sandy Piercley, Chair

# \*\*\*REMINDERS\*\*\*

## Propane Survey

Don't forget to fill-out your Propane Cooperative Program Homeowners Survey you can find a copy in this newsletter or on the website [www.ridgewoodsonora.org](http://www.ridgewoodsonora.org) to print a blank survey)

Send the completed survey to Tom Crosby, 15415 Ridgewood Dr, Sonora CA 95370 or email @ [tom.crosby@comcast.net](mailto:tom.crosby@comcast.net)

## 2022 Dues

If you haven't already paid your 2022 RNA Dues and would like to continue to be informed regarding neighborhood activities and take advantage of cooperative programs, please fill-out the RNA Membership form (provided in this Newsletter or go to the web address [www.ridgewoodsonora.org](http://www.ridgewoodsonora.org) to print a blank form). Send the completed form and your check to Ridgewood Neighborhood Association, PO Box 1128, Soulsbyville CA 95372

## Newsletter Distribution

To save on printing and postage, the RNA Board has decided that the newsletters and any other important messages will be emailed to all homeowners that have an email listed in our RNA contacts list. Please make sure we have your current contact information.

If you wish to receive a printed copy, please send an email to Karen Hebert @ [karenr.hebert@gmail.com](mailto:karenr.hebert@gmail.com) and we will either have your Block Captain hand deliver you a copy or we will mail it to you via snail mail.

## RNA Contacts for Reference

**PLEASE DO NOT DISTRIBUTE OUTSIDE THE RIDGEWOOD COMMUNITY**

<u>RNA Board of Directors</u>	<u>Architectural Committee</u>	<u>Block Captains</u>
Charles Luke, President 209-533-3683	Chris Amend, Chair 209-541-4172	Ridgewood II and III
Sandy Fisher, Vice President, 209-532-3306	Sandy Fisher 209-532-3306 Karen Hebert 408-838-0902	1. Scott Gray 209-533-4880
Jerry Lewis, Treasurer 209-588-9431	<u>Neighborhood Watch</u> Jeff Lee, Captain <a href="mailto:megan.lee650@gmail.com">megan.lee650@gmail.com</a>	2. Chris Amend 209-541-4172
Chrystal Aceves, Secretary 925-337-3013		3. Dennis/Karen Hebert 408-838-0902
Ralph Legg, Member-at-Large 209-533-4228	<u>Firewise Chair</u> OPEN	4. Sandy Fisher 209-532-3306
<u>Webmaster</u> Don Nester 209-588-0782  Effective September 2022 Tony Robinson 831-332-8165, email: <a href="mailto:nicolaushr@gmail.com">nicolaushr@gmail.com</a>	<u>Block Captains Coordinator</u> Karen Hebert 408-838-0902  <u>2<sup>nd</sup> Co-Chairperson</u> OPEN	5. Jerry/Anna Lewis 209-588-9431
Karen Hebert, Co-webmaster 408-838-0902		6. Kathie Luke 209-533-3683
<u>Ridglettes</u> Sandra Piercey 209-533-2353		7. Sandra Piercey 209-533-2353
		8. Lea Robinson 831-352-3132
		9. Annie Brosnan 209-694-8508
		10. Barbara Harvey 209-770-2960
		Ridgewood I Tom Crosby 408-605-2770

The following positions are still needing volunteers:

- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Firewise Chair
- Block Captains (Ridgewood II & III):  
2nd Block Captian Co-Chairperson
- Ridgewood I is identified as Block 0 (Ridgewood Web Page @ [ridgewood.netfirms.com](http://ridgewood.netfirms.com); "Maps" Tab; "Block Captain Map for Ridgewood II & III").

2022 RNA Membership Dues  
January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022

Please include this form with your check or cash payment for 2022 dues

Ridgewood I, II, or III Address:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address (if different than Ridgewood Residence listed above):

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\$10 CASH/CHECK ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

LOT # \_\_\_\_\_

Please check this box if ANY information on this form is new or has changed.

Make your check payable to "Ridgewood Neighborhood Association" and mail to:

Ridgewood Neighborhood Association  
P.O. Box 1128  
Soulbyville, CA 95372

ATTN: Jerry Lewis, Treasurer

**Ridgewood Neighborhood Summer Get-Together  
and General Meeting will be held  
OUTSIDE on Fleetwood Rd**

**Come Join Your Neighbors on  
September 25, 2022**

**From 3:00-6:00 pm OUTSIDE On Fleetwood Road  
(parking available on Parkridge Ave)**

You are encouraged to bring your own chairs and a dish to share with your neighbors. The RNA will provide sodas, water, plates and napkins.

This will be a great opportunity to meet our Representatives and ask "Ridgewood specific" questions!

Invited Special Guests include:

- ◊ District 2 Supervisor - Ryan Campbell
- ◊ Tuolumne County Sheriff - Bill Pooley
- ◊ Office of Emergency Services (OES) - Dore Bietz
- ◊ Cal Fire & Ridgewood Resident - Emily Kilgore

Master of Ceremonies for the panel discussion to be determined.

Questions/Topics presented in advance to our guests include:

- New Tuolumne County Ordinance, Hazardous Vegetation Management
- Ridgewood Evacuation Procedure
- Ridgewood road maintenance and clean up, specifically Ridgewood I
- Additional Ridgewood area tree trimming and removal
- Fire Insurance concerns

If you have a question or concern not represented in the above list, please email Charles Luke @ [celuke@gmail.com](mailto:celuke@gmail.com) or text Charles at (209) 533-3683.

The following Ridgewood Neighborhood Association positions are open and need to be filled if the RNA is to continue to exist. Please consider volunteering for one of the positions, and in all situations prior members will be available to train and assist.

- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Firewise Chair
- Block Captains (Ridgewood II & III): Assistant Chairperson



Ridgewood Neighborhood Association  
P.O. Box 1128  
Soulsbyville, CA 95372