



Newsletter

January-June 2023

President's Message

Dear Ridgewood Residents,

I hope you are all enjoying the summer and the outdoor activities it offers. Our extraordinary winter did bring relief from the drought, but it also resulted in an intense growth of vegetation, which increases the potential for wildfires. This risk makes it all the more important for residents to maintain a defensible space around their homes.

Many thanks to Randy Aceves for heading our Firewise committee and working to maintain our status as a Firewise community. Please refer to his recommendations on pages 3 & 4 of this newsletter. Benefits of remaining a Firewise Community can include a discount on Homeowners Insurance policies.

Our annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday, October 22, so be sure to save that date. Our board members are busily putting together a panel of speakers to provide interesting and helpful information to our community. Further details will be provided as we get closer to the meeting date.

Thanks to Dennis Hebert for all his work in establishing Ridgewood as a Firewise community and to Michael Moore for his stewardship.

Thanks also to Jerry Lewis, our outgoing treasurer, for his contributions. I am also grateful to all our board and committee members for their ongoing efforts on behalf of the Ridgewood community.

I would like to welcome our new Vice President, Dave Ballard, and our new treasurer, Kristin Ballard, and thank them for volunteering. Prior to our annual meeting, I plan to contact each household to make sure we have your correct contact information and to get any feedback that you think would be helpful to the community.

I hope to see you at the annual meeting!

Best Regards,
Charles Luke
President Ridgewood Neighborhood Assn.

New Vice-President Introduction

It's my privilege to join the board as Vice President and I look forward to getting even more involved than I have since we moved into Ridgewood two years ago after selling our San Jose home, although we have had roots here for 25+ years via a family home in Twain Harte. I hope to meet you all at some point, this is a tremendous community with great people!

David Ballard
RNA Vice-President

New Treasurer Introduction

My plans as Treasurer will be to keep a clean set of books and work with the other Board members to reduce any dual record keeping.

I work in the field of bookkeeping/accounting, and am honored to serve our neighborhood as Treasurer. We moved into Ridgewood about two years ago. The neighbors that we've met so far are kind and fun to be around. We couldn't have asked for a better community of people who truly care.

Kristin Ballard
RNA Treasurer

Firewise News and Updates

Hello fellow neighbors and friends of Ridgewood. I decided to volunteer as the Firewise chair to continue the efforts of Dennis Hebert, Michael Moore and the other members of the Ridgewood 108 Firewise committee. Their accomplishment of our community becoming a recognized Firewise USA neighborhood has numerous tangible and intangible benefits which would not have been available to us without a Firewise representative. My first order of business was to renew our Ridgewood 108 Firewise certificate.

Important benefits include creating a framework for reducing the risk of wildfire and learning about wildfire risks and the simple things each of us as individuals can do to reduce them.

My goal is to continue the process to learn about wildfire risks in our community and to find resources to accomplish fire-safe actions. I hope to create community-building events and build citizen pride for our community. I will not be successful on my own, this takes participation by each and every one of us to do our part on our individual lots!

With that said...I want to thank the property owners who have already taken the initiative to remove dead or broken trees and branches from their property. As Charles mentioned the much needed rain has also brought an intense growth of vegetation on our properties which also needs our individual attention before it gets out of hand.

This includes massive amounts of star thistle visible as I walk and drive our community. A quick note, star thistle is an aggressive invader that can outcompete most other vegetation to form monocultures. One individual plant can disperse up to 150,000 seeds in a single season, and the wind dispersed seeds can travel long distance. Be aware that star thistle on your property is **guaranteed** to invade adjacent properties as well. Be kind to your neighbors and properly remove the star thistle! For more information regarding star thistle go to this link:

<https://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7402.html>

Be a good neighbor and recognize the importance for every individual property owner to do their part to maintain their property and remove hazardous vegetation so as to reduce the potential for fire and to promote the safety and welfare of our community.

Whether your property is a vacant lot or with a structure that you personally live in, rent or lease; I encourage you to take vegetation management of such property seriously for the safety and welfare of yourself and your surrounding neighbors.

State Law PRC 4291 has passed in Tuolumne County and is enforced by CALFIRE. It requires property owners to manage vegetation within One hundred feet of their own building(s), dwelling(s) and structure(s) to prevent fire from spreading to wildland vegetation or from the vegetation to the buildings, dwellings, or structures.

Here are a few highlights from PRC 4291 that I believe are important and situations that presently exist and apply to our community in Ridgewood:

8.14.030 Definitions:

H. "Fire Hazard" means any condition, arrangement, or act which increases the hazard or menace of fire to a greater degree than customarily recognized as normal by persons in the public service of preventing, suppressing or extinguishing fire.

N. "Reduced Fuel Zone"

Cut or mow grass down to a maximum height of 4 inches.

8.14.040

Legal Authority for the County Ordinance. The County has the legal authority to adopt the provisions contained in this Ordinance as specified below:

A. The California Health and Safety Code, Division 12, Parts 5-6 Sections 14875-14931, which provides that an accumulation of weeds, grasses, hazardous vegetation and other combustible material may be declared a public nuisance, and provides guidelines for enforcement and abatement by the County.

8.14.060 Duty to Remove and Abate Hazardous Vegetation.

A. It should be the duty of every owner and/or responsible person of any parcel to remove hazardous vegetation from driveways, roadways and road easements.

2. Ten (10) feet Reduced Fuel Zone from roadway edge.

If you want more information regarding OES updates, services, and emergency preparedness videos go to this link:

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

For a refresher regarding Defensible Space Zone requirements check out this link: <https://www.fire.ca.gov/dspace>

I am proud to announce the Ridgewood 108 Firewise certification has been renewed for 2023. To obtain a copy for insurance purposes please contact me either by phone 925-337-3736 or email bighooya@comcast.net.

As a reminder you must be current and have paid your annual dues for 2023 to be eligible for a copy of the 2023 Ridgewood 108 Firewise Certificate.

Living in a Firewise community and benefiting from the RNA Board members' accomplishments and negotiated discounted resources for Ridgewood residents are some of the perks for paying your annual dues!

Regards,
Randy Aceves
Firewise Community Coordinator

Neighborhood Watch Information

Hello Neighbors,

This past year has brought many changes to Ridgewood, including saying goodbye to neighbors that have been a part of our community for many years, and the exciting presence of new faces! I would like to remind all residents of the posted 25 mph speed limit through our surface streets. We have families with strollers and young children, as well as friends who come from all over Tuolumne County to enjoy our walkable neighborhood. It is imperative that we continue to make pedestrians feel safe and welcome by adhering to the speed limit.



In addition to the speed limit, I would like to remind all neighbors of the hazards that can occur when animals are not properly leashed when on walks or when not safely contained within your property. There has been a significant increase in traffic on our surface streets due to the surrounding roadwork, and I have witnessed multiple near-misses between loose dogs and speeding cars. I know that a loss of an animal would be devastating to any of us as responsible pet owners. I have also been informed of instances of loose dogs that have approached pedestrians on our surface streets and encourage all to research the California Dog Bite Law as well as Tuolumne County Ordinance 6.04.400, which prohibits owners from allowing any animal to "run at large." "At large" animals can be impounded by Animal Control and there is a significant cost to retrieve them from impound.

If you are concerned about a specific street or issue, please contact me so we can discuss it further.

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,

One of the benefits with paid 2023 membership dues and 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).

J.S. West has committed to this price effective January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2023, at which time competitive offerings will be requested for the coming year 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

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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 Ridgewood residents and the supplier(s). Please do not share outside the community as this may affect our ability to maintain this value.

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 - www.ridgewoodsonora.org

The current RNA website is being updated, and we will keep you posted on the upcoming changes!



The information on the website is OUTDATED!!!

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.

2023 RNA Membership Dues are **PAST DUE!**
January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023 **are now due!**

Please fill out the 2023 membership form at the end of this Newsletter and include your completed form with your \$10.00 annual 2023 membership dues. Completing this form will assist the Block Captain Coordinators, Block Captains, and webmaster in verifying contact information currently listed on the Ridgewood resident roster.

Your annual \$10.00 membership dues assist in the defraying of costs, i.e., Post Office Box rental, postage and printing of this Newsletter, as well as other related RNA expenses. No surprise that all of these expenses continue to increase.

Your PAID membership also allows you to take advantage of the Propane Cooperative Program and other resources being put in place, i.e., pest control discounts, yard clean-up maintenance days, etc.

Reminder to Ridgewood residents who pay their dues via a check to please be patient and do not place stop payments on checks prior to calling her. Checks are not necessarily cashed immediately upon receipt, there may be a delay to avoid multiple trips to the bank.

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

These tasks may seem unnecessary and trivial and without this information it creates a bookkeeping nightmare! Your cooperation in providing your information is critical and appreciated for accurate bookkeeping.

Ridgettes Announcement

We do not have date scheduled for the next Ridgettes get-together, if anyone would like to plan the next Ridgewood Ladies' gathering please contact Sandy either by phone at 209-533-2353 or email at lapiercey@yahoo.com.

Remember it can be at your home for a game day or at a restaurant.

Sandy Piercey, Chair

REMINDERS

2023 Dues are Overdue

If you haven't already paid your 2023 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. Send the completed form and your check for \$10.00 to Ridgewood Neighborhood Association, PO Box 1128, Soulsbyville, CA 95372, ATTN: Treasurer

Newsletter Distribution Change

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 noted on our RNA roster list. Please make sure we have your current contact information. Please send any updates to your contact information to Karenr.hebert@gmail.com.

If you are current on your 2023 dues and wish to receive a printed copy of the Newsletter, please send an email to Karen Hebert @ karenr.hebert@gmail.com and she will either have your Block Captain hand deliver you a copy or she will mail it to you via snail mail.

**ALL RNA Newsletters will be distributed via email.
Please make sure the Board has a current email
address for you by including the 2023 RNA
Membership Form with your 2023 Dues!**

RNA Contacts for Reference

PLEASE DO NOT DISTRIBUTE OUTSIDE THE RIDGEWOOD COMMUNITY

<u>RNA Board of Directors</u>	<u>Committees</u>	<u>Block Captains</u>
<u>President</u> Charles Luke 209-533-3683 <u>Vice President</u> Dave Ballard 408-799-1213 <u>Treasurer</u> Kristin Ballard 209-732-4113 <u>Secretary</u> Chrystal Aceves 925-337-3013 <u>Member-at-Large</u> Ralph Legg 209-533-4228 <u>Webmaster</u> OPEN Karen Hebert, Co-webmaster 408-838-0902	<u>Architectural</u> Chris Amend, Chair 209-541-4172 Sandy Fisher 209-532-3306 Karen Hebert 408-838-0902 <u>Neighborhood Watch</u> Jeff Lee, Captain megan.lee650@gmail.com <u>Firewise Community Coordinator</u> Randy Aceves, 925-337-3736 bighooya@comcast.net <u>Block Captains Coordinator</u> Karen Hebert 408-838-0902 Co-Block Captains coordinator: Jamie Pooley 209-613-6706 <u>Ridgettes</u> Sandra Piercey 209-533-2353	Ridgewood II and III 1. Scott Gray 209-533-4880 2. Chris Amend 209-541-4172 3. Dennis/Karen Hebert 408-838-0902 4. Sandy Fisher 209-532-3306 5. Jerry/Anna Lewis 209-588-9431 6. Kathie Luke 209-533-3683 7. Sandra Piercey 209-533-2353 8. Open 9. Annie Brosnan 209-694-8508 10. Barbara Harvey 209-770-2960 Ridgewood I Tom Crosby 408-605-2770

The following position needs a volunteer:

- Block 8 - Block Captain (Ridgewood II & III)

2023 RNA Membership Dues Form
January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023

Please include this form with your check or cash payment for 2023 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
Soulsbyville, CA 95372

ATTN: Kristin Ballard, Treasurer

SAVE THE DATE!

**Ridgewood Neighborhood Get-Together
and General Meeting will be held
OUTSIDE (weather permitting) on Fleetwood Rd
Indoor option, in case needed, will be considered**

**Come Join Your Neighbors on
October 22, 2023 (Sunday)**

**From 1:00-3:00 pm OUTSIDE On Fleetwood Road
(parking available on Parkridge Ave)**

Potential Areas of Interest and Special Guests being considered are:
(Final details and confirmation of Special Guests to follow at a
later date)

- ◇ District 2 Supervisor - Ryan Campbell
- ◇ Tuolumne County Sheriff Department K-9 unit
- ◇ Office of Emergency Services (OES) Rep
- ◇ Cal Fire Rep
- ◇ Tuolumne County Blue Zone Project Rep
- ◇ Building Bridges Project and California Bat Exclusion to Inclusion Rep
- ◇ Adventist Health Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) Rep
- ◇ Master Gardner Rep
- ◇ Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District Rep
- ◇ Area 12 Rep

If you have an area of interest not represented in the above list, please email Charles Luke @ celuke@gmail.com or text Charles at (209) 533-3683.

The following Ridgewood Neighborhood Association position is open and needs a volunteer. Please consider volunteering and in all situations prior members will be available to train and assist.

- Block Captain 8