



The Official Newsletter of, and for, Ridgewood Neighborhood Association Property Owners

2024 Issue 1

President's Message

Dear Ridgewood Residents,

I enjoyed the conversations I had with many of you by phone last year and hope I was able to answer some of your questions.

I would like to thank everyone who attended and participated in our annual Ridgewood Neighborhood Association meeting and Fall get together, which was held at the Sonora Moose Lodge on October 22, 2023. The wide range of speakers provided valuable information to our residents. Dishes brought by each attendee were enjoyed by all, and the raffle was a fun ending to the event.

A special thanks to David and Jessalynn Greenblatt for donating beverages from Sonora Grocery Outlet. Gift certificates were donated by Adventure Café, Safeway, Knight's tree service, and Rodgers pest control service. I hope the raffle winners enjoyed these generous gift certificates.

I also want to thank all board members who volunteered their time with last year's meeting, and for their continuing work on behalf of our organization.

We are all grateful to Karen Hebert, Don Nester and Katharine Nester for updating our website. Information about our updated website can be found on page 6. Check the updated website often for dates and locations regarding future RNA events, community information, and lots more.

Thanks to the RNA members for approving an increase in our annual dues from \$10.00 per year to \$20.00 per year. This increase helps offset expenses such as post office box rental, postage and printing the Newsletter and flyers, maintenance of our website, and our ability to provide supplies for our community meetings. I think we all can agree that we are fortunate to live in such a unique and supportive community.

SAVE THE DATE: This year the RNA would like to bring back our Spring Social. On Sunday, May 5th from 2:00-4:00pm, we will have a Cinco de Mayo potluck outdoors at the home of Todd and Cyndi Simonson located at 15951 Crestridge Ave. Bring a dish to share and your favorite beverage and mingle with friends and neighbors in an informal setting. Ryan Campbell, our District 2 Supervisor will be in attendance, and I am hoping for a good turnout.

Best Regards,

Charles Luke, President Ridgewood Neighborhood Association

Firewise News and Updates

Happy New Year Fellow Neighbors and Friends,

Ridgewood 108 Firewise certificate for 2024 has been approved. An annual renewal application is required to remain in "good standing" in order to continue as a nationally recognized firewise community. This is where I need every resident to assess and take action to increase the ignition resistance of their home and minimize fire intensity on their property. For more information about what it means for Ridgewood to be recognized as a Firewise Community, click on this link to learn more <https://tuolumnefiresafe.org/firewise/>.



In 2023, I attended Fire Safe Council meetings and participated in multiple workshops organized by the Fire Safe Council for the development of the draft Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) for Tuolumne County. Don't know what this is, go here for more information <https://cwpp.tuolumnefiresafe.org>.

My 2024 goals include coordinating and hosting wildfire related outreach and neighborhood focused projects and events. These events will connect Ridgewood residents with arborist and landscaping experts to educate and provide discounted services for vegetation maintenance on individual properties.

Consult with CalFire and other fire professionals to identify areas of risk and coordinate fire risk overviews on individual properties for those who are interested in taking individual responsibility for preparing their homes from the risk of wildfire.

Network with other residential firewise leaders by attending the annual get together hosted by Karen Caldwell, Tuolumne County Firewise Coordinator. Attend the Wildfire Preparedness Townhall and Home & Garden Show.

Provide, through the RNA website, educational resources and tools for you to reference and learn what you individually can do, on your own, within your home's defensible space zones to reduce ember casts and flame links. Zones 1 & 2 currently make up the 100 feet of defensible space required by law. Assembly Bill 2074, passed in 2020, requires a third zone for defensible space. This law requires the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to develop the regulation for new ember-resistant zone (Zone 0) within 0 to 5 feet of the home. Go here for Zone descriptions: <https://www.readyforwildfire.org/prepare-for-wildfire/get-ready/defensible-space/>.

I volunteer my time to fill out the annual renewal application to maintain the Ridgewood 108 Firewise certificate, search for available grants and apply when they become available, attend events and workshops to understand fire risks, and network with CalFire and other resources to help our community to learn how to adapt to living with wildfire.

Time, resources, and personal investments are what will sustain our ability to retain our national recognized Ridgewood 108 Firewise certificate and create a fire resilient community TOGETHER! I cannot do this alone!

Consider being a part of the solution. One way is to pay your 2024 annual membership dues of \$20 to assist with RNA expenses such as the website where you will be able to access Firewise announcements, news and resources.

SAVE THE DATE: Firewise Event, Saturday, April 13, 2024, 1:00-3:00 at the Moose Lodge. I'm coordinating a host of experts to help answer your questions and provide information with respect to fire mitigation and how to create a fire resilient community. More details to follow.

Regards,
Randy Aceves, Ridgewood 108 Firewise Lead

Neighborhood Watch Information

Neighbors,

While the Holiday season has passed, tax season is quickly approaching and that means an increase in sensitive documents arriving in the mail. As we all know, USPS becomes incredibly busy at this time of year and does their best to keep up with the increased demand but will often deliver very late into the evening, after the "regular" delivery time has passed. Below are tools to prevent theft of sensitive mail:



1. Sign up for USPS Informed Delivery so you are always aware of what packages and mail are arriving daily. If you are expecting a delivery or important document and will be gone for an extended period of time that day, ask a neighbor to retrieve it for you.
2. Install a locking package box where your current mailbox is located.
3. If you are going out of town, ship packages or forward mail to an alternate address where they can be regularly collected or request a hold on your mail online.

I would also 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

2024 RNA Membership Dues - January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024

****Ridgewood Neighborhood Association dues have increased to \$20.00 annually effective January 1, 2024****

The RNA annual \$20.00 membership dues assist in the defraying of costs, i.e., website domain, PO Box rental, postage and printing of the Newsletter and flyers.

Without dues the RNA cannot remain active; the trickle-down affect ultimately will be the RNA will not be able to maintain a website domain, support the Firewise certificate, neighborhood events, RNA events, or negotiate ANY discounts for the Ridgewood community as a whole.

Your \$20.00 support of our community is the key to our continued success!

Fill out the updated 2024 membership form at the end of this Newsletter, include your completed form with your \$20.00 annual membership dues. The completed form will assist the Block Captain Coordinators and/or webmaster in comparing contact information currently listed and the information on the form.

If you pay your dues via a check, please be patient and do not place a stop payment on a check prior to calling Kristin. Every effort is made to deposit checks as soon as possible but at times life can delay this process.

If you pay via cash and do not include a membership form, you need to provide your Name and Address. This will allow for identification and properly applied credit for payment of dues!

The simple task of furnishing a membership form with your due payment may seem irrelevant and inconsequential but without this information it creates a bookkeeping nightmare! Your cooperation with providing this information is critical and appreciated for accurate bookkeeping.

The RNA board and committee members have been working hard to acquire discounts on services to assist our Ridgewood community. So far, the RNA has secured the following:

2024 Paid Member Benefits include:

- Annual renegotiated propane cooperative program discounts
- Upon request, a copy of the annually approved Firewise Certificate
- TJ Rodgers Pest Control Service discount, call for quote 209-352-9228
- Knight's Solution Vegetation Management services discount, call for quote 209-454-7458
- Participation in Ridgewood Community Organized Clean-Up Day(s) paid for with grant money and/or volunteers
- Participation in Ridgewood Community Chipper Rental(s) paid for with grant money

Propane News

Dear Ridgewood Neighbor,

One of the benefits with paid 2024 membership dues and living in Ridgewood is that we have a Propane Cooperative Program that is annually negotiated on behalf of our 164 homes to identify the best supplier(s). J.S. West has committed to this price effective January 1, 2024, 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> and 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 Ridgewood residents and the supplier(s).

Please **do not share this information outside the community** as this may affect our ability to maintain this value.

Best Regards, Ralph Legg
RNA Propane Co-op Program Negotiator

NEW RNA Website

Our new website is live! Visit us online at ridgewoodsonora.org.

We are pleased to announce the launch of our brand new website! After many months of hard work and dedication, we are delighted to officially announce the launch.

Our goal with this new website is to provide our homeowners with an easier way to learn about the Ridgewood Neighborhood Association and our local community.

We will be constantly updating our content with helpful information about our Ridgewood 108 Firewise Committee, articles, blogs, and current local news and RNA's newsletters.

We hope you find the new website with a fresh look, easy to access information and we also wish to establish this portal as a source of information for those who visit our site.

We would like to thank Katharine Nester who donated her time and energy to make this site what it is and to teach Don Nester and Karen Hebert how to maintain the website.

For any questions, suggestions, feedback, or comments, please contact us today.

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 PRIOR PERMISSION FROM THE RNA PRESIDENT.

Thank You!

Your Co-Webmasters:

Karen Hebert & Don Nester

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

Ridgettes Announcement

We do not have any dates scheduled for a 2024 get-together. If anyone would like to host or team up with another Ridgette and plan the next Ridgewood Ladies' gathering, please contact Sandy either by phone at 209-840-4243 or email at lapiercey@yahoo.com .

Remember, it can be either at your home for a game day and potluck or at a restaurant.

There are several new Ridgettes (and may not even know they're a Ridgette) in our community, let's get together and get to know each other.

Sandy Piercey, Chair

*****ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS*****

2024 Dues have increased

Pay your 2024 RNA Dues to continue to be informed regarding neighborhood activities and to keep your privilege and take advantage of cooperative programs and community-wide events. Print and fill out the RNA updated 2024 Membership form provided at the end of this Newsletter or go to the website and become a member and your check for **\$20.00** to:

Ridgewood Neighborhood Association
PO Box 1128, Soulsbyville, CA 95372
ATTN: Treasurer

Newsletter Distribution Change

To save on printing and postage costs, the RNA Board has voted to have all newsletters emailed to homeowners that have an email address listed on the RNA roster. Check your information and send any changes/updates regarding contact information to Karenr.hebert@gmail.com.

ONLY residents current on 2024 dues can request a printed copy of the Newsletter.
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 Board members, Committee Chairs,
and Block Captains are
VOLUNTEERS!**

They are choosing to make a difference in our community and to play a key role in providing our Ridgewood community with resources and information to make positive changes and keep you informed.

They freely offer their time, labor and expertise to annually renew the Ridgewood 108 Firewise Certificate and negotiate the propane cooperative program, and manage and update the information on the new website. They collect dues and maintain the records and roster. They identify and network for discounted services such as pest control, tree trimming and property maintenance clean-up days. They publish newsletters and event flyers, and coordinate events with speakers providing a venue for our residents to ask the experts "Ridgewood" specific questions.

We are stronger in numbers!

Consider becoming a member and participate in our community events.

Give us your thoughts!

Have a question or idea, want information on a specific topic, let us know. Send your thoughts and suggestions to the RNA President, Charles Luke @ CELuke@gmail.com.

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>Architectural Committee</u> Chris Amend, Chair 209-541-4172, camend@mlode.com	Ridgewood II and III 1. Scott Gray 209-533-4880
<u>Vice President</u> Dave Ballard 408-799-1213	Sandy Fisher 209-532-3306 Karen Hebert 408-838-0902	2. Chris Amend 209-541-4172
<u>Treasurer</u> Kristin Ballard 209-732-4113	<u>Neighborhood Watch</u> Jeff Lee, Captain megan.lee650@gmail.com	3. Dennis/Karen Hebert 408-838-0902
<u>Secretary</u> Chrystal Aceves 925-337-3013	<u>Ridgewood 108 Firewise</u> <u>Lead</u> Randy Aceves, 925-337-3736 bighooya@comcast.net	4. Sandy Fisher 209-532-3306
<u>Member-at-Large</u> Ralph Legg 209 559-6845	<u>Block Captains Coordinator</u> Karen Hebert 408-838-0902	5. Jerry/Anna Lewis 209-588-9431
<u>Co-Webmasters</u> Don Nester, 209 559-6471 Karen Hebert, 408-838-0902	Co-Block Captains Coordinator: Jamie Pooley 209-613-6706	6. Kathie Luke 209-533-3683
	<u>Ridglettes</u> Sandra Piercy, 209-840-4243	7. Sandra Piercy 209-840-4243
		8. Open
		9. Annie Brosnan 209-694-8508
		10. Barbara Harvey 209-770-2960
		Ridgewood I Tom Crosby 408-605-2770

2024 RNA Membership Dues Form
January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024

Please include this form with your \$20.00 payment for 2024 dues

Are you: the Homeowner _____ or a Renter _____ LOT #_____

How many years have you been a part of the Ridgewood community?_____

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

Land Line #_____ Cell Phone #_____

Alternate Cell Phone # (if applicable)_____

EMAIL ADDRESS_____

Alternate Email Address (if applicable)_____

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

ADDRESS_____

Please mark 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



In Case you missed the SAVE THE DATE
Announcements in the Newsletter...

Upcoming RNA Events

April 13, 2024 Saturday

Ridgewood 108 Firewise Event

1:00-3:00 pm

Moose Lodge - 20921 Longeway Rd
More details to follow!

May 5, 2024 Sunday

RNA Spring Social

Cinco de Mayo Potluck

2:00-4:00 pm

Todd and Cyndi Simonson

15951 Crestridge Ave

More details to follow!

Check the website for updated news and
information regarding both events!