



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

2024 Issue 5

Outgoing President's Message

Dear RNA neighbors,

As of August 1, 2024, I have resigned my position as President of the Board of Directors for Ridgewood Neighborhood Association. The position is now in the capable hands of David Ballard, who was formerly our exceptional Vice President, and we thank him for taking on this role. I have enjoyed the past two years getting to know many of you by phone or in person at our neighborhood gatherings.

It has been a pleasure serving and working with the current Ridgewood Board. We were all focused on the interests of our Community and have had a very productive couple of years.

I am grateful to everyone on our board for their support and their hard work.

Thanks to Don Nester, his daughter Katharine, and Karen Hebert for redesigning and updating our website, which is a great resource for our community. Thanks to Randy and Chrystal Aceves for their ongoing dedication in continuing our neighborhood as a part of Firewise USA, and to Chrystal for creating and sending our newsletter. Thanks also to Kristin Ballard, our treasurer, for updating and maintaining our books. And, many thanks to our other board members, Chris Amend, Tom Crosby, Sandy Fisher, Jeff Lee, Ralph Legg and Sandy Piercey for their many volunteer hours planning, contributing to our newsletter, and making our neighborhood meetings successful and fun. A big thank you is in order to Todd and Cyndi Simonson for generously opening their home for our well-attended Cinco de Mayo neighborhood gathering, and to Supervisor Ryan Campbell for taking time out of his weekend to speak to our community group.

The RNA Board will need a new Vice President now that David Ballard is our new President. If you are interested in joining our board of directors, please contact one of the board members, whose contact information is listed on our website and on page 8 of this Newsletter.

I will still be around and hope to see you at our next neighborhood gathering.

Thank You,
Charles E. Luke

New President's Message

I am honored to serve as your new President of the Ridgewood Neighborhood Association. I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all of you for entrusting me with this responsibility. I have had roots in Tuolumne County for more than 25 years with my wife Kristin and we have lived in Ridgewood since 2021. I look

forward to contributing my energy and ideas towards ensuring that Ridgewood will continue to be a great place to live and raise our families.

We look forward to seeing you at our next RNA community meeting!

Regards,
Dave Ballard, RNA President

Firewise News and Updates

Welcome to all the newest neighbors of our Ridgewood community.

Wildfires are a **REAL** risk in Ridgewood. We've made the choice to live in a high risk region...now make the choice to make a difference and do **YOUR** part to help protect your home and your neighbors! Take the time to learn about wildfires and how you can make your home and your neighborhood safer. Be cognizant that home ignition zones often overlap onto adjacent properties. This makes the conditions of neighboring homes and vegetation a part of the wildfire threat. It's **extremely** important that neighbors work collaboratively with each other – and talk with each other – to reduce their shared risk.



I recently completed the training and obtained my Home Hardening/Defensible Space Assessor (DSA) certificate. Once CalFire rolls out this program, I am trained to conduct defensible space and home hardening assessments (for Zones 0, 1 & 2) within the Ridgewood 108 Firewise community. This includes educating property owners about wildfire safety improvements that may be undertaken to harden a structure and make it more resistant to wildfire and assessing whether wildfire safety improvements have been completed on or around a structure.

If you don't think being an **active** participant in our firewise community has its benefits, go to link below and learn how the work of the residents in Mira Monte Firewise Community and the strategic placement of the Ponderosa/Mira Monte Fuel Break saved this community from the Canyon Fire which broke out on August 8, 2024. This article is compliments of the Union Democrat:

https://www.uniondemocrat.com/news/article_7f941a88-64cb-11ef-b1ce-5b57d805292f.html

In 2019 the Tuolumne Fire Safe Council received a \$420,000 Grant from the Department of Forestry and Fire (CAL FIRE) to construct the Ponderosa-Mira Monte shaded fuel break. The Canyon Fire was stopped on the Mira Monte section of the fuel break. Read all about it here:

<https://tuolumnefiresafe.org/the-story-of-the-canyon-fire/>

The Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPPP) has been completed and signed. Please go to the following link to learn more <https://cwpp.tuolumnefiresafe.org>.

In the last Newsletter, I mentioned my plans to put together a wildfire related neighborhood focused event. On April 13, 2024 there was an outreach and educational event. Thank you to those who attended. There were representatives

from CalFire, U.S. Forest Service, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices, and Sindelar Tree Service. Unfortunately our day was cut short due to snow.

To learn more about what you individually can do, on your own, within your home's defensible space in Zones 0, 1 & 2. go to the following link:

<https://www.readyforwildfire.org/prepare-for-wildfire/get-ready/defensible-space/>.

The 2024 Ridgewood 108 Firewise certificate is available upon request. Contact me at my email bighooya@comcast.net to request yours for 2024. Provide your name and address when requesting your certificate. Paid 2024 RNA dues is required to be eligible for the 2024 Firewise Insurance Certificate.

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!

Regards,
Randy Aceves, Ridgewood 108 Firewise Lead

Neighborhood Watch Information

Neighbors,

What a beautiful summer it has been in our community. As many of you are aware, the beautiful weather brings visitors and locals alike to our County to enjoy the great outdoors. With these visits come increased calls for service, including search and rescue events. The Sheriff's Office has an incredible volunteer Search and Rescue Unit which dedicates hundreds of hours a year to responding to these calls. When these activations occur, many community members want to help but are unsure of who to contact or where they can best be of service. I have included information regarding the Tuolumne County Community Service Unit and a link to the webpage below if you would like to explore the opportunity further. This is a fantastic way to get involved in community events year-round.



Community Service Unit (CSU)

Mission Statement

It is the mission of the CSU to work with the Sheriff's Office to help make Tuolumne County a safer and more enjoyable place to live, work, and visit.

Background

Tuolumne County encompasses 2,293 square miles of territory. The ability of the Sheriff's Office to provide law enforcement services over such a wide area is severely limited. The county continues to grow in population and law enforcement needs. The ability of the Sheriff's Office to meet the rising need for service has become more difficult with the current budget limitations.

The increased need for services by the Sheriff's Office requires increased personnel and added expenditure of public funds, which are not always available.

A partial answer to this problem is the utilization of the volunteer pool of talent and experience in the community.

CSU Volunteer Requirements

- *Minimum 18 Years of age
- *Must be able to volunteer a minimum of 4 hours per month
- *Must maintain professional and private life in a way that exemplifies integrity, trust, and morality as a representative of the Tuolumne County Sheriff's Office
- *Willingness to be called upon to assist in times of emergency and disaster

<https://www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov/347/Community-Service-Unit>

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 Resident list is Password protected to maintain the privacy of the residents. If you have paid your dues for the current year, you may request the password to access the resident list, please email Karen Hebert at karenr.hebert@gmail.com. If you have changed any of your contact information, please send an email to karenr.hebert@gmail.com with the updates.

If you have not paid your RNA dues, your support with the payment of the small twenty dollars (\$20.00) RNA dues will be appreciated and will help fund your RNA Ridgewood activities. 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 Newsletters and flyers for social events.

Contact Kristin Ballard, Treasurer via email at kballard108@gmail.com if you are not sure if you have paid for 2024!

Complete the 2024 RNA membership dues form at the end of this Newsletter and send the form along with your check to the address on the form. Your contribution is much appreciated.

Propane News

Dear Ridgewood Neighbor,

One of the benefits with paid 2024 membership dues and living in Ridgewood is our Propane Cooperative Program that is annually negotiated on behalf of our 164 homes to identify the best supplier(s). This information is password protected

on the RNA website and is only available to those who are current with their RNA annual dues.

J.S. West has committed to this price effective January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024.

I'm happy to report that there has been zero complaints or concerns regarding J.S. West's service.

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.

2025 price negotiations will begin late December for January 1, 2025 effectivity.

MOST IMPORTANT:

Please do not share this information outside the Ridgewood 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.

Please visit the website for pictures from our past recent Firewise Outreach and Cinco de Mayo events held earlier this year.

If you have any news that you want to share with the Ridgewood Neighborhood send us the information and we can post it on the webpage.

For any questions, suggestions, feedback, or comments, please contact us today, karenr.hebert@gmail.com

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 FORWARD 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

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

For more information contact Sandy Piercey, Chair.

209-533-2353, lapiercey@yahoo.com

****ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS****

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR NEXT ANNUAL GET TOGETHER

RNA Fall Event and General Meeting

October 13, 2024

12:00 – 2:00 pm

Moose Lodge

More Details to follow.

2024 Dues have increased

Pay your 2024 RNA Dues to continue to 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 mail your check in the amount of **\$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 contact information and send any changes/updates to [Karenr.hebert@gmail.com](mailto: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 a printed copy or she will mail it to you via snail mail.

All RNA Board members, Committee Chairs, and Block Captains are VOLUNTEERS!

Each of us choose to make a difference in our community by playing key roles in providing our Ridgewood community with resources and information to make positive changes that benefits everyone.

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

Currently the RNA is looking for volunteers to fill the Vice President and Block Captains 5 & 8 open positions. If you or someone you know might be interested in volunteering, or you need more information about what is required of any position, ask a current board member or attend a board meeting.

The next board meeting will be on September 23, 3:00pm at the Moose Lodge

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, David Ballard @ dballard12@gmail.com.

PLEASE DO NOT DISTRIBUTE OUTSIDE THE RIDGEWOOD COMMUNITY

<u>RNA Board of Directors</u>	<u>Committees</u>	<u>Block Captains</u>
<u>President</u> Dave Ballard 408-799-1213 <u>Vice President</u> OPEN <u>Treasurer</u> Kristin Ballard 209-732-4113 <u>Secretary</u> Chrystal Aceves 925-337-3013 <u>Member-at-Large</u> Ralph Legg 209 559-6845 <u>Co-Webmasters</u> Don Nester, 209 559-6471 Karen Hebert, 408-838-0902	<u>Architectural Committee</u> Chris Amend, Chair 209-541-4172, camend@mlode.com Sandy Fisher 209-532-3306 Karen Hebert 408-838-0902 <u>Neighborhood Watch</u> Jeff Lee, Captain megan.lee650@gmail.com <u>Ridgewood 108 Firewise</u> <u>Lead</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. OPEN 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

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.

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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

Revised January 2024



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