



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

2025 Issue 1

## President's Message

Hello Neighbors,

I hope 2025 is treating you well and you are enjoying this beautiful weather! Our Ridgewood Neighborhood Association Board of Directors have been busy in January as we discuss topics that will bring more value to our community and ultimately make Ridgewood an even better place to live, but we need your help. Our Board of Directors and associated Community Positions are impactful but limited, and we are looking for more direct involvement from neighbors like you! If you are interested in participating whether in a currently designated role (Secretary position is OPEN) or have an idea which would enhance things, we would love to hear from you.

On behalf of the RNA Board team, we are looking forward to meeting more of you at our next RNA Community meeting, details follow in this newsletter. Thanks for the opportunity to serve you and to build more lasting relationships as we move through 2025.

Regards,  
Dave Ballard, RNA President

## Firewise News

Happy New Year Ridgewood!

Our hearts and prayers go out to the victims and their families who have been impacted by the LA wildfires.

The LA wildfires have caused me to pause and emphasize the **REAL RISK OF A WILDFIRE IN RIDGEWOOD!**

The RNA website, <https://ridgewoodsonora.org/>, has information and links for resources and tools to educate the importance of individual property wildfire mitigation and to help guide you on what you can do, on your own, to make your property and surrounding properties fire safe.

Available links include: home hardening guidelines, tips from NFPA to protect your home, and defensible space specifically in Zones 0, 1, & 2. These links are a sampling of information, more information is available on the Tuolumne Fire Safe Council website: <https://tuolumnefiresafe.org/>

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!

Paying annual dues and attending the social events can bring many benefits; meeting your neighbors, getting involved in the community, taking advantage of



discounted services for fire mitigation, pest control, tree trimming and skirting, pre-emergent herbicide spraying, and weed whacking to mention a few.

There is an “*Emergency Evacuation Items to Gather*” reference sheet on the RNA website here <https://ridgewoodsonora.org/emergency-evacuation-items-reference-list/>. The sheet is a check list of items to think about collecting if you receive a 15-minute warning, a 30-minute warning, a 1-hour warning and a 2-hour+ warning.

The 2025 Ridgewood 108 Firewise certificate is available upon request at [bighooya@comcast.net](mailto:bighooya@comcast.net) to request a copy. Provide your name and address when requesting your certificate. **Paid 2025 RNA dues is required to be eligible for the 2025 Firewise Certificate.**

### **May 3, 2025 is a National Wildfire Community Preparedness Day**

This day is a campaign that encourages people and organizations everywhere to come together on a single day to take action to raise awareness and reduce wildfire risks. It is held annually in the United States and Canada on the first Saturday in May. Ridgewood 108 Firewise is committed to participating in this very important event in 2025. Community participation will be essential for reporting and renewal of the Ridgewood 108 firewise certificate in 2026.

For more information, go the RNA webpage/Firewise Events:

<https://ridgewoodsonora.org/firewise-events/>

Each of us can help promote wildfire protection by participating in risk reduction projects on or before the first Saturday in May. Studies show that measures taken at the home and in the area within 100 feet of it, known as the Home Ignition Zone (HIZ), have a significant impact on minimizing damage and loss. Something as simple as clearing the immediate 5-foot zone around the home can assist in making a huge difference in avoiding a catastrophe.

To help our residents in this effort, Ridgewood 108 Firewise together with the RNA is planning an event on **March 9, 2025 at the Moose Lodge from 2:00-4:00pm** to bring residents and potential services together. This will be an opportunity to gauge interest and understand the needs on individual properties to prepare for the May 3rd clean up campaign.

In closing, please save the date of **March 9, 2025** to attend the RNA membership preparation social event. This event will focus on identifying properties that would like to enlist in preparing their properties by contracting services at a discount for tree trimming and skirting, weed whacking, and raking of fallen pine needles and leaves for the May 3rd pick-up and removal.

Thank you in advance for your participation.

Regards,  
Randy Aceves, Ridgewood 108 Firewise Lead

## **Neighborhood Watch Information**

Neighbors,

The Tuolumne County District Attorney's Office recently announced their specialized DUI Prosecution Unit following the award of a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety in response to the increased need for DUI enforcement in Tuolumne County. In the first quarter, the Unit reviewed a staggering total of 83 DUI cases, 67 of which resulted in convictions.



Our community is smart, conscientious of others, and has the resources available to never excuse making the choice to drive while impaired. We must do better. Plan ahead and designate a sober driver. If this is not an option, taxi and Uber services are both available in Tuolumne County. Call a neighbor, a friend, or a relative. One choice to drive while impaired could change the course of your entire life, and most importantly of anyone who is a victim of your choice.

To report a suspected impaired driver:

- Call 911 (if you have a passenger, please have them call)
- Provide your location, speed, and details about the vehicle
- Stay far away from the vehicle
- Most importantly: keep yourself safe

**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

## **Propane News**

Dear Ridgewood Neighbors,

J.S. West has again committed to serve the residents of Ridgewood at a discounted rate for tank leases along with a discounted price per gallon rate for the 2025 calendar year. J.S. West has pledged to provide the residents of Ridgewood with the highest level of service, safety, and reliability.

One of the benefits of RNA membership 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.

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

**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 <https://ridgewoodsonora.org/>. Did you know you can fill out a yearly membership form online at <https://ridgewoodsonora.org/become-a-member/> and not have to print and mail it in. You can mail a check to the address listed on the form or pay by Venmo @RNASonora.

Please visit the website for past newsletters, pictures from our past events, and the latest Firewise news. Please note that you must have the current year membership dues paid to be able to access the password protected areas (contact list and propane pricing). If you would like the password, please email <mailto:karenr.hebert@gmail.com>

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, <mailto: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**

If you are considering a project, I encourage you to contact one of the Committee members in advance, to answer any questions or concerns.

The County will not issue a permit without a letter of review provided by the Ridgewood Architectural Control Committee.

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 value of everyone's property.

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

### **2025 Membership Dues are Now Due – Karen Hebert**

Pay your 2025 RNA Dues to continue to take advantage of Firewise benefits, cooperative programs which include discounts with JS West Propane, Knight's Solutions, Rodgers Pest Control, and community wide events.

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

We can now take membership payment by Venmo. Please include your name, address, and lot number. If you are new to the RNA, please also include your telephone number and email address.

Venmo: @RNASonora

### **Newsletter Distribution**

ONLY residents current on 2025 dues can request a printed copy of the Newsletter. Send an email to Karen Hebert @ [karenr.hebert@gmail.com](mailto:karenr.hebert@gmail.com) to request a copy.

### **Ridgettes**

For the new homeowners in Ridgewood - Ridgettes is for the Ladies who live in Ridgewood. It's a great way to get to know the other women in the neighborhood, maybe find a walking partner. We are looking for hostesses for the new year. Last year Ridgettes only met a couple times, but we had lots of fun! A fun get together at Kristin Ballards house in the afternoon and a poolside wine and cheese afternoon at Judie Hastings house. As the hostess, you decide what you want to do, play board games, have a potluck lunch, or meet at a restaurant or just socialize and have an afternoon meeting.

If you would like to host a get together at your house, or plan a lunch date at a restaurant, please contact Sandy Piercey, Chair. Phone 209-840-4243 or email: [lapiercey@yahoo.com](mailto:lapiercey@yahoo.com).

The Ridgettes is also looking for a volunteer to take over this chair position from Sandy.



**All RNA Board of Directors, Committees, and Block Captains are VOLUNTEERS!**

All of us donate our time, labor and expertise to:

- Annually renew the Ridgewood 108 Firewise Certificate
- Annually negotiate the propane cooperative program
- Manage and update the information on the website
- Collect dues and maintain the records and roster
- Identify and network for discounted services
- Create and distribute newsletters and event flyers
- Organize events and arrange venues

**Currently the RNA is looking for volunteers to fill the following OPEN positions; Secretary, Block Captains 5 & 8, and Ridgettes chair. 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 RNA is looking for new faces with fresh ideas to make this community great again! Consider becoming an RNA Board member, committee chair, or block captain. We are stronger in numbers!

**The next board meeting will be on February 10, 2025 @ 3:00pm  
If you are interested in attending the Board meeting,  
please contact the RNA President for location.**

The RNA encourages all Ridgewood residents to participate in our community events. Next social event is scheduled for:

**March 9, 2025 at the Moose Lodge from 2:00-4:00pm.**

**We need your input!**

Due to the low turnout at our last social event in 2024, we want to hear from you. These events take a lot of time, planning, and organization from our volunteers. We've been very fortunate to have speakers including Supervisor Campbell, Sherriff's department, CalFire, etc. and these speakers give up their time for us!

Please help us to understand how to better serve our Ridgewood Community!

The survey is not long, and you can fill it out online and your answers are automatically submitted. We will post the answers that we receive on our website. We ask that you take the survey as soon as possible.

<https://ridgewoodsonora.org/rna-homeowners-survey/>

**PLEASE DO NOT DISTRIBUTE OUTSIDE 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> Chrystal Aceves 925-337-3013  <u>Treasurer</u> Kristin Ballard 209-732-4113  <u>Secretary — OPEN</u> BACKFILLING UNTIL REPLACED: Chrystal Aceves 925-337-3013  <u>Membership</u> Karen Hebert 408-838-0902  <u>Member-at-Large</u> Ralph Legg 209 559-6845	<u>Architectural Committee</u> Chris Amend, Chair 209-541-4172, <a href="mailto:camend@mlode.com">camend@mlode.com</a>  Sandy Fisher 209-532-3306 Karen Hebert 408-838-0902  <u>Neighborhood Watch</u> Jeff Lee, Captain <a href="mailto:megan.lee650@gmail.com">megan.lee650@gmail.com</a>  <u>Ridgewood 108 Firewise Lead</u> Randy Aceves, 925-337-3736 <a href="mailto:bighooya@comcast.net">bighooya@comcast.net</a>  <u>Co-Webmasters</u> Don Nester, 209 559-6471 Karen Hebert, 408-838-0902  <u>Newsletter Coordinator</u> Chrystal Aceves 925-337-3013  <u>Ridgettes</u> Sandra Piercey, 209-840-4243	<u>Block Captains' Coordinator</u> Karen Hebert 408-838-0902  Co-Block Captains' Coordinator: Jamie Pooley 209-613-6706  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. <b>OPEN</b> 6. Kathie Luke 209-533-3683 7. Sandra Piercey 209-840-4243 8. <b>Open</b> 9. Annie Brosnan 209-694-8508 10. Barbara Harvey 209-770-2960  Ridgewood I Tom Crosby 408-605-2770



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