



## January-February-March 2021 Newsletter

### **President's Message**

Hello Ridgewood Neighbors:

I am hoping that you and your families are safe and well and looking, as I believe all of us are, forward to 2021 retuning to near normal sometime soon.

I want to welcome our many new residents to Ridgewood and update all of you on the few happenings that have gone on since our last Newsletter in January 2020. For our new residents, under normal circumstances, we attempt to distribute a Newsletter quarterly and have two neighborhood gatherings, one in early Spring and the other in late Summer but due to COVID-19 our activities have been shut down since February 2020.

It's now obvious we will be unable to hold our Ridgewood Winter/Spring get together which we typically hold in February or March. However, at this time we are hopeful that we can have our Summer/Fall gathering which we usually hold in September or October.

For those who live in Ridgewood II, Marty Gerbasi, Dennis Hebert, and I met with Engineers from the County Public Works Dept. to discuss our concerns regarding County Service Area (CSA) use, vegetation maintenance, and annual budgeting. Our primary concern regarding the CSA use issue has to do with properties outside Ridgewood, having access to their properties using Ridgewood CSA roadways, without contributing to their upkeep. Response was that any amendment to the agreement would have to be presented to LAFCO, a County Agency, with application costs between \$3000-\$5000; Regarding vegetation maintenance, we have requested yearly service versus every other year. The County will consider this based on monies available in the Ridgewood Reserve Account. The County also agreed to notify the Ridgewood Neighborhood Assn. prior to their budgeting sessions.

I have recently received a few calls regarding the CC&R's that affect all our properties. All of us purchased our properties with this covenant as a condition of ownership. I want to point out that most of us were attracted to Ridgewood because of the appearance and upkeep of the properties, and many of us because the CC&R's would help maintain our property values. Before ignoring our CC&R's, think of your neighbors and how it may affect their concerns, as well as the rest of the neighborhood. Lastly, if you are considering any structural changes, please contact one of our Architecture Committee Members for their input.

We have a Board position open: Our present Treasurer, Jerry Lewis has been a temporary volunteer for many months, and he would like us to find a replacement for his position.

Jan/Feb/Mar 2021

Dennis Hebert who has voluntarily donated his and his wife, Karen's time to head up the forming of the Ridgewood 108 Firewise group. He will be stepping down effective June 30, 2021. Dennis has offered to continue in this capacity by assisting his replacement. If you have an interest in this area, call Dennis at (209) 694-5201.

Please help keep our Association going by volunteering your time to the Board and support positions as they become available. Your participation will provide new ideas and add to protecting our neighborhood. Be assured there will always be one of us, to assist you in performing the task of the position. If you are interested in helping, please contact me at [sonoraralph@gmail.com](mailto:sonoraralph@gmail.com) or by phone at (209) 533-4228.

On the pleasant side, I am happy to announce one of our newer neighbors, Det. Jeff Lee has volunteered to serve as our Neighborhood Watch Chair.

In closing, I want to thank our Board members, Block Captains and Activity Chairs for their dedicated service this past, "unusual year", in keeping things going.

**Ralph Legg, President**  
**Ridgewood Neighborhood Assn.**

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### **Ridgewood 108 Firewise**

The Firewise movement continues to expand to now having 9 registered groups in Tuolumne County. Our own group in Ridgewood continues to be active, but with the on-going pandemic in the past year, our progress is understandably slower. The Firewise committee has not met as a group for some time, and we will not meet until it is safe for all members.

Although Firewise group meetings are not active, I am glad to see that residents continue to focus on their own properties. With social gatherings on the decline, residents are spending time cleaning-up their properties, and this plays a major role in wildfire mitigation. If you walk the Ridgewood neighborhood, you will see several residents with chainsaws cutting down dead trees and limbs. As we all know, property maintenance is a never ending task, and I thank all residents for keeping the Ridgewood community as safe as we possibly can with the available resources.

We are all aware that the coming months will bring even more work to maintain our lots. I know the sound of weed eaters will soon be heard on a daily basis, and keeping weeds at a minimum will play an important role in reducing wildfires. If a few lots are overgrown with weeds and debris, it places all of the neighboring properties, and the whole community, at a high fire risk.

This summer will end my 2 year commitment to coordinate the Firewise agenda. I would like to turn over this leadership role to another person who believes that wildfire mitigation plays an important role in our community. If you are interested, please contact me by phone, or text, at 209-694-5201. I would like to continue to participate on the committee, but not in a leadership role. I would also like to thank the Firewise Committee members for our

accomplishments in the past year, and their involvement in keeping Ridgewood one of the best neighborhoods in Tuolumne County.

**Dennis Hebert**  
**Ridgewood 108 Firewise Chair**

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### **Neighborhood Watch**

As the winter months come to a close and we look forward to enjoying the spring and summer months, a few important things come to mind on how we can protect ourselves and our neighbors. Unfortunately, burglaries have been on the rise in our county the last few years and there are actions we can take to try and prevent them from happening to us and our neighbors.

One of the most effective tactics is to install security cameras around our properties. Criminals hate being recorded and will sometimes think twice about burglarizing a place when they believe there is a chance that they can get caught. It is tempting to conceal cameras, however if they are noticeable from a distance, they are a better deterrent for would-be thieves. Another important action we can take is to install alarm systems on our houses. Loud sirens and noises are a criminal's worst nightmare for theft. However, make sure to research the regulations in Tuolumne County regarding alarm permits and your chosen company's policies, as you don't want to be caught off-guard with a false alarm. Lastly, get to know your neighbors and establish a good relationship with them. Let them know when you are leaving town so they can keep an eye on your property for you. Exchange cell-phone numbers and call or text if you see someone or a suspicious vehicle at your neighbor's house. Burglars like to "case" neighborhoods so they can understand our "pattern of life." This helps them to better steal from us because they know when we are not home.

At the end of the day, if you see something...say something. Together we can help each other not fall victim to burglary. For non-emergencies, contact the Tuolumne County Sheriff's Office Dispatch at 209- 533-5815. For all emergencies, always dial 911.

**Det. Jeff Lee**  
**Neighborhood Watch Chair**

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### **Propane News**

As most of you are aware, Ridgewood has a Propane Program where we solicit known Suppliers in the area to attempt to receive the most competitive net price for delivery to our homeowners.

Prices quoted are based on the TARGA S.F. price as published by the Butane Propane Newsletter (BPN) that can be located at: [www.dgs.ca.gov/PD/Resources/Page-Content/Procurement-Division-Resources-List-Folder/Liquefied-Petroleum](http://www.dgs.ca.gov/PD/Resources/Page-Content/Procurement-Division-Resources-List-Folder/Liquefied-Petroleum), plus the price per gallon offered by the Supplier.

Presently, Ridgewood residents are provided the following prices from the noted suppliers, through December 31, 2021:

Jan/Feb/Mar 2021

Campora Propane: TARGA S.F., plus \$0.56/gal. Phone #209 532-3579

JS West Propane: TARGA S.F., plus \$0.65/gal. Phone #209 532-7475

In either case introduce yourself as a Ridgewood resident and that you are interested in the Ridgewood Program.

At this time of the year TARGA prices can change daily, and since our source to the posting is published once a week, delivered price can fluctuate \$0.04 - \$0.05/per gal.

**Please**, do not discuss Ridgewood's pricing with others outside Ridgewood to protect our ability to obtain special prices.

Tanks are available at an annual rental price, depending on size.

For more information refer to the Ridgewood Web site at: <http://ridgewoodsonora.org>.

**Alert:** Several complaints of slow to non-delivery by AmeriGas have been reported. In one situation the customer had been 2 days without Propane in our last snowstorm, in February.

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### It's that time of the year...



#### YELLOW STAR THISTLE

What does Star Thistle look like: Yellow star thistle is a gray-green to blue-green plant with a deep, vigorous taproot. It produces bright, thistle like yellow flowers with sharp spines surrounding the base. Yellow star thistle grows to heights varying from 6 inches to 5 feet.

What's wrong with yellow star thistle? Yellow star thistle infests between 10 and 15 million acres in California! It depletes the ground of soil moisture (it loves hot, dry areas) preventing other plants from growing. It forms dense stands that are difficult to walk through. Its seeds can remain viable in the soil for longer than three years.

What can you do?

- Hand-pull small infestations. Do not throw the plants into the garbage can or compost pile. Put them in double black garbage bags and place the bags in the sun for six weeks to kill the plants.
- Purchase only certified seed for lawns.
- When driving through areas infested with yellow star thistle, check vehicle tires to make sure you're not transporting seed.
- Because yellow star thistle is so competitive, once it's removed it's important to reseed areas with fast growing species such as wildflowers or bunchgrasses.

Now is the time to be on the lookout for Yellow Star Thistle starting to come up and to pull them up before the ground gets too hard, to remove the tap root. It's also time for herbicide

treatment, which should come during the winter rains (pre-emergent) or after seedlings have emerged in the spring (post-emergent).

You want to avoid spreading the seeds by mowing the plant after bloom.

### **2021 Cal Sierra Transfer Stations Voucher**

*Due to Covid the office is not open for walk-ins.* However, call 209-532-1413 **before** going to the Waste Management office, give them your account information and they will confirm you are in good standing and make 2 vouchers available for pick-up. Each voucher is good for free disposal of up to one-cubic yard of solid waste not more than 240 lbs. Two vouchers per customer may be used together or separately during the calendar year.

### **2021 RNA Membership Dues**

Please fill out the membership form at the end of this Newsletter and include your completed form with your \$10.00 annual 2021 membership dues. This form will guarantee the contact information listed on the resident roster is accurate and helps the RNA to keep you informed.

Your \$10.00 assists in defraying costs for our Post Office Box, postage, printing, and refreshments for Ridgewood gatherings and other related expenses.

**NOTE: If this Newsletter is addressed to "New or Current Resident" that means the RNA does not have the homeowner's name(s) associated with the residence.**

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### **RNA Website**

Visit the RNA website to get all the latest information regarding your Ridgewood neighborhood at [www.ridgewoodsonora.org](http://www.ridgewoodsonora.org). The website has Information specific to the Ridgewood community, i.e., upcoming events, current co-op propane prices, residents list (password protected), activities and news, neighborhood watch program, by-laws, CC&Rs and guidelines, maps, and RNA contact list and block captains, and Firewise information. The website also includes a list of Tuolumne County District Supervisors, and State and Federal representatives.

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 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, RALPH LEGG, 209-533-4228**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION AND UNDERSTANDING.**

## RNA Contacts

RNA Board of Directors	Architectural Committee	Block Captains
<p>Ralph Legg, President 209-533-4228</p> <p>Sandy Fisher, Vice-President 209-432-3306</p> <p>Jerry Lewis, Treasurer 209-588-9431</p> <p>Chrystal Aceves, Secretary 925-337-3013</p> <p>Dave Palmer, Member-at-Large 209-352-6157</p>	<p>Marty Gerbasi, Chairman 209-768-1589</p> <p>Sandy Fisher 209-532-2453</p> <p>Karen Hebert 408-838-0902</p>	<p><b>Co-Chairpersons</b> Jeanne Legg 209-533-4228 Karen Hebert 408-838-0902</p> <p><b>Ridgewood II and III</b> 1. Scott Gray 209-533-4880 2. Dave Palmer 209-352-6157 3. Dennis/Karen Hebert 408-838-0902 Marty Gerbasi (Deputy) 209-768-1589 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 Dave/Pat Shoemaker (Deputy) 209-532-4406 8. Open 9. Jeanne Legg 209-533-4228 10. Barbara Harvey 209-770-2960</p>
Webmaster	Neighborhood Watch	
<p>Don Nester 209-588-0782</p>	<p>Jeff Lee, Chair megan.lee650@gmail.com</p>	<p><b>Ridgewood I</b> Tom Crosby 408-605-2770</p>

### **2021 RNA Membership Dues**

Please include this form with your 2021 dues. Your dues pay for the Post Office Box rental, postage and printing for Newsletters and mailings, annual meeting party expenses, award gifts, special circumstance gifts (hospitalization and condolence), Firewise paraphernalia, and Ridgewood website fees.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Ridgewood Neighborhood Association

ATTN: Jerry Lewis, Treasurer

P.O. Box 1128

Soulsbyville, CA 95372



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