



July-August-September 2021 Newsletter

Past President's Message

In stepping down as President of the Ridgewood Neighborhood Association (RNA), I can't help, to again thank the many people that volunteered to assist me, including our Board Members, our Block Captains, Architectural Design Committee, Neighborhood Watch Chair, Web Master, and many others for their continued support. Without these people the Ridgewood Neighborhood Association would not exist. Also, although not operating directly under the RNA, thanks to Dennis Hebert and the volunteers that kept our Firewise group going and improving our fire protection. A special thanks to Karen Hebert for her generous contributions to the Block Captains, Web Page support, Firewise Assistant, and any other requests thrown at her.

We all should thank Beverly Handelman and Michael C. Moore for stepping up and filling the positions of President of the Ridgewood Neighborhood Association and Firewise Chairman, respectively. It's folks like these that help keep the Ridgewood neighborhood in an active and safe condition.

Please give serious consideration to support the RNA and the Firewise group to protect your home values, keep your neighborhood safe and to assist in protecting the desirability of the Ridgewood community, by participating personally in some of these groups.

Thank you, Ralph Legg

New President's Introduction

I would like to thank Ralph for his many years of service to the RNA; his efforts have provided many benefits to our community and for that, I, along with many others I'm sure, are very grateful. While Ralph is a hard act to follow, I am looking forward to serving the Ridgewood Community and working with the existing and new board members for the continued betterment of the Ridgewood Development. My husband, Marty Gerbasi and I built a home on Crestridge Ave. and have lived in the neighborhood for 25 years so my desire to keep our neighborhood one of the best in the county is very strong. Please note that I welcome all input and hope to hear from many of you in the months ahead.

**Beverly Handelman, President
Ridgewood Neighborhood Assn.**

Ridgewood 108 Firewise

Outgoing Firewise Message – Dennis Hebert

I would like to thank Michael Moore for taking responsibility for the Ridgewood 108 Firewise chair. Going forward, Firewise will continue to be an important function for all Ridgewood residents. With the Washington fire, we have all experienced the scare that our community is very vulnerable to being destroyed by fire. Being prepared for an evacuation and knowing what routes to take is key to our survival, and I encourage all residents to sign-up for the Everbridge emergency notification. This service still has some problems, but we need to work with the county OES to ensure that the problems with this service are corrected and all residents are notified. We also need to coordinate with other Firewise committees in Tuolumne County to have a stronger voice with the County OES. Compared to other counties, we are very weak in getting grants and other tools necessary for wildfire mitigation. One of the points that I took away from our RNA meeting is that we need to incorporate some guidelines in our CC&R's for empty lots. This will be difficult, but it is important that these empty lot owners understand that they need to comply with CC&R's.

I would also like to acknowledge the majority of residents in Ridgewood for maintaining their own property. Defensible space is a key ingredient for wildfire mitigation and Ridgewood residents do an excellent job in keeping their property and our community safe. This has made the Firewise goals very easy for me to administer and I know that Mike will appreciate all the hard work by residents in the future.

New Firewise Chair – Introduction

As a new member of the Ridgewood community, I would like to introduce myself. My wife and I moved to the neighborhood last November. After a sixteen-year absence, we are happy to return to the area where we met and where our family resides. My wife is a teacher for Tuolumne County, and I am an Electrical Engineer. I know that my professional experience with project management, interdisciplinary coordination, and technical understanding of NFPA codes and standards will translate well to the role of Firewise Chair.

I enjoyed meeting everyone at the Ridgewood neighborhood summer gathering and those of you I have met passing by our home. I look forward to meeting more members of the Ridgewood community and learning more about how each of you approach property maintenance. I can see from our neighborhood walks that many of you do a wonderful job keeping your property fire safe.

Finally, I would like to thank Dennis for his commitment to the Firewise program. Knowing Ridgewood was a Firewise neighborhood influenced our decision to purchase a home here. There is no value that can be placed on knowing the entire community is working together to be Firewise.

Michael C. Moore, Firewise Chair

Neighborhood Watch

Neighbors,

It was a pleasure to meet all of you that were able to attend the Ridgewood Neighborhood Association board meeting and car show. I'm looking forward to meeting more of you at the next event. As we finish up the summer months and look towards the Holidays, be aware that scammers may be gearing up as well. Scams can present in many forms, however telephone scammers are the most common and will take any opportunity to convince you they have a legitimate need for any of the following: paying "outstanding balances" for credit cards or utility bills by money order or gift cards, asking for social security numbers and other forms of personal identification and money orders to clear arrest warrants/threatening arrest for you or your family members, just to name a few. Never give out personal information over the phone if you did not initiate the phone call directly to a number you trust. You can always hang up and dial the number of the institution you know to be correct or call the non-emergency line at the Sheriff's Office if there is a threat of law enforcement use against you.

Also, as an important reminder as we just experienced the Washington Fire and many think we are headed out of fire season as the weather cools down, fire season will continue over the next few months and every household should have a plan for emergency evacuation. There are many great resources online to help you create a plan, including this outline from CalFire:

<https://www.readyforwildfire.org/prepare-for-wildfire/get-set/wildfire-action-plan/>

I hope everyone has a safe and healthy Fall season and please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

**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 Chair**

Propane Reminder

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

Be aware TARGA prices change daily, which is why you are encouraged to go to the TARGA S.F. price as published by the Butane Propane Newsletter (BPN) that can be located at: <https://www.dgs.ca.gov/PD/Resources/Page-Content/Procurement-Division-Resources-List-Folder/Liquefied-Petroleum-Gas-Fuel-Postings/> then add the price per gallon offered by the Supplier.

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

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. Tanks are available at an annual rental price, depending on size. For more information refer to the Ridgewood Web site at: <http://ridgewoodsonora.org>.

Contact Ralph Legg 209-533-4228 or Tom Crosby 408-605-2770 for questions or comments regarding propane suppliers.

2021 Cal Sierra Transfer Stations Voucher

If you haven't picked up your two (2) vouchers per customer that may be used together or separately during the calendar year, call 209-532-1413 **before** going to the Waste Management office. Provide your account information and they will confirm you are in good standing and make your 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.

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 will help the RNA to keep you informed.

Your \$10.00 assists in the defraying of costs, i.e., Post Office Box rental, postage, printing of this Newsletter, and other related expenses.

RNA Treasurer Jerry Lewis would like to ask Ridgewood residents who pay their dues via a check to please be patient and do not place stop payments on checks prior to calling him. Note checks are not necessarily cashed immediately upon receipt, there may be a delay to avoid multiple trips to the bank. He prefers to coordinate trips to town. Residents who pay via cash and do not include their membership form need to include their Name and Address so he can identify who to credit payment of their dues!

RNA Website

Visit the RNA website to get all the latest information regarding your Ridgewood neighborhood at www.ridgewoodsonora.org. The website has Information specific to our Ridgewood community. 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 assigned 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, BEVERLY HANDELMAN, 209-768-9919
THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION AND UNDERSTANDING.**

Ridgettes

The plan is to get the Ridgettes started up again. For those who don't know, the Ridgettes are a group of women from Ridgewood that meet once a month at someone's house. We socialize, play games, and have a potluck lunch.

It is the choice of the individual "hosting" the Ridgettes to open their home for a potluck lunch or wine and cheese social. There is also the option to make the arrangements to have the gathering at a local restaurant.

If you're interested in joining our group please email me at lapiercey@yahoo.com.

Sandy Piercey, Chair

RNA Contacts

RNA Board of Directors	Architectural Committee	Block Captains
<p>Beverly Handelman, President 209-768-9919 Sandy Fisher, Vice President 209-432-3306 Jerry Lewis, Treasurer 209-588-9431 Chrystal Aceves, Secretary 925-337-3013 Ralph Legg, Member-at- Large 209-533-4228</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Webmaster</p> <p>Don Nester 209-588-0782 Karen Hebert, Co-webmaster 408-838-0902</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ridgettes</p> <p>Sandra Piercey 209-533-2353</p>	<p>Marty Gerbasi, Chairman 209-768-1589 Sandy Fisher 209-532-2453 Karen Hebert 408-838-0902</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Neighborhood Watch</p> <p>Jeff Lee, Chair megan.lee650@gmail.com</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Firewise</p> <p>Michael C. Moore, Chair m.c.moore9@gmail.com</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Block Captains Co-Chairpersons</p> <p>Karen Hebert 408-838-0902 Open (2nd Co-Chairperson)</p>	<p>Ridgewood II and III</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Scott Gray 209-533-4880 2. Chris Amend 209-541-4172 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. Annie Brosnan 209-694-8508 10. Barbara Harvey 209-770-2960 <p>Ridgewood I Tom Crosby 408-605-2770</p>

Thank you to those who stepped up to fill our open positions and support the continuation of the Ridgewood Neighborhood Association. The following positions are still looking for volunteers:

Block Captains (Ridgewood II & III):

2nd Block Caption Co-Chairperson and Block Captain 8 (Parkridge Ave/Pineridge Ct). Refer to Block Captain Guidelines. Ridgewood I is identified as Block 0 (Ridgewood Web Page @ ridgewood.netfirms.com; "Maps" Tab; "Block Captain Map for Ridgewood II & III").

Summary of the neighborhood block captains duties include:

- * Promoting neighborhood security
- * Encouraging neighborhood communication
- * Welcoming new neighbors, giving them a new neighbor packet
- * Initiating a "telephone tree" for their blocks in the event of an emergency
- * Notifying their deputies when they are out of town

Ridgewood Neighborhood Summer Party, Car Show and Meeting

Positive comments about the party/meeting/car show were received immediately following the event, and a number of e-mails were received afterwards as well.

We had a wonderful turnout for our Summer get together on September 12th. Thank you to all who participated in the neighbors-only car show. There was an informative panel discussion with Ryan Campbell, Supervisor District 2; David Goldemberg, Supervisor District 1; Bill Pooley, Tuolumne County Sheriff; Emily Kilgore, Cal Fire Representative and Dore Bietz, Office of Emergency Services/Firewise Representative.

Questions presented to the Supervisors:

- 1. Road maintenance on the entirety of Ridgewood Dr. is desperately needed (weed abatement, repair of curbs from last winter's snowplowing, potholes). Would you be able to help us get that accomplished?**

Ridgewood Dr. is included in the current, and next two years, repair plan. Tom Crosby asked if the residents could be given the opportunity to prioritize the work on Ridgewood Dr. The answer was yes, to reach out to Kim McFarland. Work orders can be submitted on-line via the website. Let Ryan know when contact with Kim has been made, providing photos is helpful, and he'll follow-through with the appropriate departments and personnel.

- 2. Nate's Tree Service has done some tree removal work in our area. Thank you! We'd like to arrange to have more of that done. Who arranged for and paid for that? Who do we speak to schedule additional tree removals? Additionally, some trees were badly pruned and need to be fixed however the homeowner(s) have not been successful in getting the company to come back to fix the mistakes.**

Nate's Tree Service was given a contract from PG&E to trim and remove trees, and clean-up, shred, take away the debris. If mistakes need to be addressed contact PG&E as Nate's needs to be held accountable. As far as getting additional work done, not sure if that is possible although OES is also addressing this.

- 3. Fire Insurance! Is the county involved at all with the issues that homeowners are having in not only securing, but keeping fire insurance policies? What can the county as a whole do to combat the insurance companies that are cancelling policies and raising the rates so high?**

Ryan is also very concerned about this issue. There is a push underway to change how residential developments move forward – to prohibit developments due to fire risks. The county and state are tackling the issues but the state isn't allowing much input from the counties (who know what is needed, where, when, how, etc.). At this time there is no county-wide ordinance to force vegetation management. Other counties do have such ordinances and Tuolumne County is working on it (Bietz and Goldemberg are on the committee). Dore Bietz noted that \$250,000 has been allocated for weed abatement/code enforcement so if the property owner doesn't clean up their property then the county will do it and send a bill to the property owner and/or place a lien on the property. There are three issues being addressed and a 3-pronged approach to tackle the issues.

4. Please tell us about the upcoming re-districting.

This is still under discussion, no decisions made at this time. The public will be given the opportunity to provide input. Right now, the districts have very unequal populations so an effort will be made to equalize the number of people in each district.

5. We continue to research grant opportunities, and other funding, to implement fire mitigation efforts. Can the county help us at all with that effort?

Dore has suggestions and can offer assistance. Efforts to contact her to gather the information will be pursued immediately.

Other points of discussion from the panel:

Escape Routes: Law enforcements/T.C. Sheriff is responsible for handling evacuation notifications. Know your neighbors! Know if they'll need help should an evacuation be necessary. When law enforcement tells you to leave, leave. If you don't leave when instructed they will not come back for you – too risky, dangerous and they won't have the time. Be prepared to save yourself and neighbors that may need assistance – do not count on law enforcement and fire protection as they are very short staffed (although notify law enforcement if you know a neighbor needs assistance and you can't offer it). Have a plan! Have your important papers, pets, personal items ready to go. Get reliable information only from Sheriff or Cal Fire sources (Facebook, Twitter, etc.), don't rely on other social media as info could be outdated or just flat-out incorrect. Law Enforcement agencies and OES work cooperatively.

Evacuation Warning Definition: A warning will be issued to allow residents time to pack-up and prepare to leave. Leave then if desired, especially if extra time is required.

Evacuation Order Definition: This means to leave now!

Some pics from the Sept 12th event



2021 RNA Membership Dues
Please include this form with your 2021 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: Jerry Lewis, Treasurer



Ridgewood Neighborhood Association

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