

THE KNOLLS NEWS

Winter 2019

A Publication of the Carmel Knolls Property Owners' Association

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FIRE FUEL MITIGATION UPDATE

We are pleased to inform the neighborhood that a second year of the \$10K matching Fire Grant was approved by the Cypress Fire Department board. Based on our discussions with the Fire District, we expect that the work to be done this year will include the use of private contractors (as well as, hopefully, the fire crews) and be much more expensive than the work done last year.

For our next phase, the Fire District has identified additional areas in Segunda Canyon, above and below the area worked on last year, to focus on in 2019. However, for this work to take place, we must have the Cooperative Agreements (which Cal Fire mailed to each owner last year) from the various property owners whose property borders the targeted areas. Your board has attempted to procure permissions from these individuals several times with no luck, and will renew those efforts this year.

The grant is an ongoing process, and we are in the process of arranging a meeting with the Cypress District staff to understand when Phase II will get underway.

Please remember that although money donations can carry over from one fiscal year to another, invoices for tree removal or brush removal by individual residents must be submitted and counted within a specific fiscal year.

A big thank you to Peter and Hilary Brewer and Audrey Kalber for sending the Association copies of their invoices for the tree removal/pruning work they recently had done as a result of this winter's storms. We will submit those invoices as part of our match for this year's grant.

FIRE SAFETY COMMUNITY MEETING

Several board members (and perhaps other interested Knolls' residents) attended February 31st Fire Safety meeting at Palo Corona's headquarters at Rancho Canada. While it was originally organized by concerned citizens in the Valley, much of what was discussed at the meeting obviously applies to us in the Knolls. The major points made by representatives of the Office of Emergency Planning, Monterey Regional Fire District, Cal Fire and the Sheriff's office are as follows:

1. Given the devastating recent fires, it is important that everyone consider how fire safe their homes are. Remember that each house that is fire-safe-prepared protects every other home in our neighborhood. Flying embers can destroy homes up to a mile ahead of a wildfire. Some of the things we can do to harden our homes are:

Roofs - replace wood shake roofs with composite, metal, or tile

Vents - screen vent openings to prevent flying embers from getting into your attics

Eaves - should be protected with ignition-resistant materials.

2. Two zones make up the State-required 100 feet of defensible space:

ZONE 1: 30 feet of Lean, Clean and Green

- Remove all dead plants, grass, and weeds
- Remove dead or dry leaves and pine needles from your yard, roof and gutters
- Keep tree branches 10 feet away from your chimney and other trees

ZONE 2: 30-100 feet of Reduced Fuel

- Cut or mow annual grass down to a maximum of 4 inches
- Create horizontal spacing between shrubs and trees
- Create vertical spacing between grass, shrubs and trees

We were informed at this meeting that many insurance companies are using the fact of compliance when they decide whether to renew fire and homeowner insurance policies.

Please see the last page of this newsletter for CALFIRE's handout, WILDFIRE IS COMING – ARE YOU READY? You can also find much more information at this [link](#).

3. If you have not yet done so, be sure to register your name, mobile number and email address with [Alert Monterey](#) so that you can stay informed of late-breaking information regarding emergencies. **Only 15% of the residents of Paradise had registered!**

4. Being prepared beforehand is critical. Each speaker emphasized how important it is for every resident to have a **GO KIT**. The information in this [link](#) should help you start thinking of the unique items you would want to pack in a kit that you can easily take with you in case of emergency. One official suggested that we not necessarily rely upon in-home safes, but rather scan or photograph all important documents and keep it on a portable thumb drive that can go into the kit.

5. There is no “magic route” for evacuation because each disaster can be different. Obviously, we have one way in and one way out, as do most other communities in our area. All professionals emphasized that, in the case of an emergency, they will do their best to coordinate communication regarding evacuation.

6. This meeting was live-streamed and should be available soon for those interested in seeing the hour-long discussion. Once we have specifics, we'll let you know.

THANKS TO MONTEREY COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS AND YOUR BOARD THERE'S NO MORE BUMP!

It appears neighbors and your board members' calls to the county paid off! A key county official acknowledged that, were it not for those calls, the money he realized remained from the Highway One road expansion fund would not necessarily have gone to our tree root problem. We can imagine each resident of the Knolls rejoiced in September when those tree roots down at the bottom of Carmel Knolls Drive were removed. Our cars are undoubtedly happy too. He further informed us that the continuing water drainage problem at the intersection of Carmel Knolls Drive and Dougherty is on their list. It must wait until after the rains to repair it more properly. The moral of this story is that calls to the right agency can pay off!

NEIGHBORHOOD ISSUES

1. We have recently made a call to Public Works to determine when we can expect county street sweepers to make their annual trip up and down our neighborhood. While we don't yet have a set date, we urge all who live by street drains to take the extra effort to remove the pine needles that currently are blocking those drains. That, of course, applies to any drains you might have on your property and to your gutters.

2. Here's the regular plea to all drivers in the Knolls: **PLEASE SLOW DOWN AND REMEMBER THERE ARE PEDESTRIANS USING OUR ROADS ON A REGULAR BASIS. CHP officers are now patrolling our neighborhood on a regular basis and issuing tickets to speeders!**

3. The board has noted downed trees and branches on several properties, as well as the sign at the island. We have notified the county of the latter. We will also contact our Supervisor, Mary Adams, who can be a resource in relation to the county. As we have mentioned, unfortunately during the recent storms, Peter and Hilary Brewer and Audrey Kalber had tree removal/trimming work done on their properties. They have provided the Association with copies of their invoices which we will submit as part of our match for the current fiscal year Fire District's matching grant.

NEXT NEIGHBORHOOD CHIPPING DAYS

Please remember that if you have dead trees/branches in your yard, now is the time to remove them. The Cypress Fire District's CHIPPER PROGRAM can help alleviate some of the work/expense!

The schedule for 2019 is as follows:

April 8-26

July 8-19

September 16-27

November 4-15

Of course, if your work is extensive and/or requires outside, paid workers, please be like Audry, Peter and Hilary and consider submitting your hours worked or money spent to the board so that we can include it in our grant submissions for this fiscal year.

LANDSCAPING ON CARMEL KNOLLS DRIVE

Your board is concerned about the appearance and condition of some of the trees that line the east side of our main road. We would like to trim and/or remove dead and/or unsightly growth and are in the process of obtaining bids for that work. Any expense incurred here, of course, should go toward our matching grant fund.

NEW WEB PAGE FOR THE KNOLLS: NEIGHBORHOOD CORNER

We have become aware of a neighbor in need and have been discussing at the board level ways in which the association can encourage more neighborliness since that is really the mission of the Carmel Knolls Property Owners Association. To that end, we have created a new page at our [website](#) that we're calling NEIGHBORHOOD CORNER. It is in this section of our site that we encourage neighbors to share your fund raising efforts; share names of good, reliable people who've done work for you; solicit help if you're in need of a ride or help of any kind. In other words, the Neighborhood Corner will be a resource for all of us to use for truly local news.

We inaugurate our page with information we received not too long ago that we'd like to share now. JT Ferguson who lives at the corner of Partridge and Carmel Knolls Drive was involved in a life-changing accident at Thanksgiving time this past year. As he dropped off a friend at the San Jose airport and was heading back to the peninsula, he was involved in an accident while attempting to move out of the way of an aggressive driver. His car turned over 6 times, and he suffered severe injuries to his head. In the two months since that horrible accident, JT has been in and out of

hospitals and requires regular visits from a nurse to monitor the device that's helping him heal. It is a long process that is adding to the bills incurred from the original first surgeries. We all know how expensive these kinds of medical procedures are today, particularly if you have inadequate insurance. In JT's case, the bills are just as life-changing as the accident itself.

The CKPOA board feels that helping our neighbors is an integral part of preserving and protecting our neighborhood. If you agree, please go to our website's [Neighborhood Corner](#) to learn how you can help JT during these next months when he continues to face at least two more surgeries.

WEB MASTER SEARCH

With the inauguration of the new Neighborhood Corner, your board feels it is important to improve our [website](#). If there is anyone living here in the Knolls who is web-savvy and is willing to volunteer time to improving the site so that it is more user-friendly, we'd welcome the expertise. Please contact the board at ckpoa.ca@gmail.com.

WINTER PARTY: 3/03/2019!!



Ending on a festive note, we want to announce our next neighborhood gathering. Once again, it will be down at neighbor Rich Brimer's art studio in the Barnyard. Come to share a favorite dish or beverage and learn what's new in our neighborhood and update us on our own personal news. We hope many will be able to join us for this potluck celebration.

WHEN: Sun. March 3, 2019 from 4 pm - 6:00 pm

WHERE: Carmel Visual Arts in the Barnyard

WHAT TO BRING: Please bring your favorite dish, whether it's an entrée, hors d'oeuvres, salad, dessert, or beverage. The Association will provide additional beverages and other essentials.

WHY: A great time to catch up with old friends and make new ones and to celebrate our latest achievements!

We hope to see old and new faces in March!

WILDFIRE IS COMING. ARE YOU READY?



Defensible Space is your property's front line defense against wildfire. Creating and maintaining defensible space around your home can dramatically increase your home's chance of surviving a wildfire and improves the safety of firefighters defending your property. 100 feet of defensible space is required by law.*



ONE LESS SPARK
ONE LESS WILDFIRE

*For more information on creating defensible space and legal requirements visit

READYFORWILDFIRE.ORG

TWO ZONES MAKE UP THE REQUIRED 100 FEET OF DEFENSIBLE SPACE:

ZONE 1: 30 feet of Lean, Clean & Green

- 1 Remove all dead plants, grass and weeds.
- 2 Remove dead or dry leaves and pine needles from your yard, roof and rain gutters.
- 3 Keep tree branches 10 feet away from your chimney and other trees.

ZONE 2: 30-100 feet of Reduced Fuel

- 4 Cut or mow annual grass down to a maximum height of 4 inches.
- 5 Create horizontal spacing between shrubs and trees.
- 6 Create vertical spacing between grass, shrubs and trees.

Use Equipment Properly to Keep from Sparking a Wildfire

- 7 Mow before 10 a.m., and never on a hot or windy day. String trimmers are a safer option (vs. lawnmowers) for clearing vegetation.



VERTICAL SPACING

Large trees do not have to be cut and removed as long as all of the plants beneath them are removed. This eliminates a vertical "fire ladder."



HORIZONTAL SPACING

Create horizontal and vertical spacing between plants, the amount of spacing will depend on how steep the slope is and the size of the plants.