

THE KNOLLS NEWS

Summer 2018

A Publication of the Carmel Knolls Property Owners' Association
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FIRE FUEL MITIGATION WORK STARTS!

Great news! The long anticipated Fire Fuel Mitigation Work started Tuesday, June 26th in the canyon between Carmel Knolls and Rancho Rio Vista. A crew of 17 Gabilan Conservation Camp members, their supervisors and Cypress Fire District staff worked for 4 straight days removing low brush and low lying tree branches, thinning densely spaced saplings, and cutting down and sawing-up dead trees.

The Cypress Fire District selected the middle part of the canyon (roughly North of Dougherty Drive and East of Partridge Place) for this initial work. The ever-diligent Cypress Fire District Captain Kim Bernheisel directed the clean up efforts.

The attached photos show the wall of wood and brush that has been removed from the canyon and stacked along Segunda Drive in Rancho Rio Vista. Feel free to drive over to Segunda Drive and take a look at the work that has been done.

This fire fuel mitigation work seeks to reduce the chances of a fire burning through the canyon, and if one ever does burn, to reduce the intensity of the fire so that it can be more readily controlled and not cause catastrophic damage.

Now that wildfires are breaking out throughout California, the Gabilan Fire Crews are unlikely to be available for more fire fuel reduction work in Segunda Canyon – they will most likely be fighting fires up and down the State for the rest of the summer and into the fall. We will be meeting with Captain Bernheisel and Cypress Fire District staff to get their recommendations as to next steps in the Matching Grant Program.

THANK YOU TO OUR NEIGHBORS WHO DONATED TO THE MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM

None of this work would be possible without the generosity of the Knolls and Rancho Rio Vista neighbors who contributed to what we hope will be a multi-year effort to reduce the wildland fire hazard facing our neighborhood. A big thank you goes to the following Knolls residents for their financial donations:

Marc and Evelyn Sloan

Valerie Hunken

Judy Metz

Christopher and Tamara Meckel

Leslie Turrini and Doug Smith

Nana and Rob Bernadino

Carol and Bill Pendergast

Wendy and Ed Fincke

Sheila Xu

Jenny and Penn Shortes

Kay and John Krattli

Jody Parsons and Rich Wong

Celeste and Ousama Akkad

Please remember to send the Association (at ckpoa.ca@gmail.com) any receipts you have for time spent or work done on your property which would qualify for the matching grant, i.e., work that reduces fire fuels on your property beyond normal landscape maintenance.

Also please note, we anticipate soliciting your financial support in the coming year to help fund additional work.

These kinds of expressions of community spirit will make the multi-year Fuel Reduction Project possible.

If you have questions, please contact the Association or a Board member.

FREE FIREWOOD

The Gabilan crews have stacked cut firewood logs along the side of Segunda Drive. It probably won't last long, but it's free on a first-come-first-serve basis. So if you would like some free firewood, please go by and get some.

NEXT NEIGHBORHOOD CHIPPING DAYS

The Cypress Fire District's next regularly scheduled Chipper Days are July 9th through 20th. If you have debris conforming to the specifications in the attached flyer, you can place your cut branches/brush curbside and the District will chip and haul it away for free! We expect most of the wall of cut branches that are stock piled along Segunda Drive will be chipped and hauled during this time.

PG&E NEEDS TO DO MORE

As many of you are aware, a PG&E power line goes straight up Segunda Canyon. When PG&E clears dead trees and tree branches adjacent to its power poles, it cuts them down and tends to leave them where they fall. Dead branches and trees add fuel to a fire. We believe PG&E should remove what it cuts down and not simply leave it on the canyon floor. To that end, your Board has registered a complaint with PG&E which has been given the case number of **146 436 6972**.

If you agree that PG&E should remove what it cuts down in Segunda Canyon, please call PG&E and ask them to change their ways. Call **800-743-5000 (options #3 and then #4)** and reference the above case number. We believe PG&E needs to do its part in mitigating the fire fuel hazards in the canyons adjacent to our neighborhood.

SUMMER PARTY: 8/19/2018!!



Finally, to end on a far more festive note, we want to remind all of the upcoming traditional summer get together. As noted in our earlier Save the Date email, Mary Chamberlin has generously offered to open her lovely home for us to celebrate summer, our neighborhood's fire safe accomplishments and share our own personal news. We hope many will be able to join us for this potluck celebration.

WHEN: Sat. August 19, 2018 from 4 pm - 6:00 pm

WHERE: Mary Chamberlin's home, 25750 Carmel Knolls Drive (corner of CK Drive and Partridge)

WHAT TO BRING: Please bring your favorite dish, whether it's an entrée, hors d'oeuvres, salad, dessert, or favorite 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 August!