

Dear Friends,

We hope the new year is getting off to a good start for everyone who lives in the Knolls, despite the recent rains and wind. We understand that our loss of power this week is attributed to downed utility poles both on Arroyo Trail and in the backyard of one of our board members, Carol Pendergast. Given the vast areas affected by this latest front to blow through, we are lucky that PG&E was able to get us up and running as quickly as they did! If you have not signed up for PG&E alerts to power-loss status, you can do so [here](#). The [Knolls weather station](#) recorded a top wind speed of 45 mph during these mid-February storms, and we've recorded over 18 inches of rain as of 2/23/17.

Given that we were recently concerned about fires — and now we are concerned about floods, we'd like to start off this newsletter with notification that the Monterey Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is planning another training session for anyone interested in formal emergency preparedness training. CERT "educates individuals about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations." At least three of us here in the Knolls have had this training and highly recommend it to others. We've attached their most recent newsletter that contains registration information for their next training, starting on March 9th.

Along those same lines, the board would also like to ask if others here on the Knolls have received the same or similar training in the past. Additionally, do any of you own equipment or have specialized expertise that might come in handy should we experience a severe emergency that would isolate us, similar to what happened in 1989 with the Loma Prieta earthquake? We believe it would be helpful to keep a list of those we could go to for help at such times.

To boost security and community spirit, we have a thriving Neighborhood Watch program. There are 12 neighbors who have volunteered to serve as captains for their section of the Knolls:

Maggie Segale	624-6693
Channaorah Meir	
Valerie Hunken	625-6641
Birgit Mouton	625-3901
Doug Harris	624-7389
Marshal Coleman	917-9676
Audrey Kalber	624-2375
John Krattli	293-8458
Hilary & Peter Brewer	626-6618
June Chu	622-0705
Karen Klee	624-6113
Leslie Turrini Smith	626-6320

Penn Shortes, our newest board member, created a map to show which houses are covered by each captain. It is located at the end of this newsletter. We want to take this opportunity once again to thank Valerie Hunken and all the other captains for volunteering their time to making our community more cohesive.

The Carmel Knolls Property Owners Association has the following mission: *"To Preserve Protect and Defend The Rural Character and The Natural Beauty of Carmel Knolls and the Carmel Valley."*

The board remains vigilant — watching for local development projects that might positively or negatively influence our mission. In the past, the board and neighbors have successfully changed the course of development in the Valley. Here are the projects currently listed at the Monterey County Planning Department.

- 1) [“ValVerde”](#) 24 single family units planned near Carmel Rancho Rd. and Rio Rd.
- 2) [Rio Ranch Marketplace](#)---30,000 sq ft market on Rio Rd.
- 3) [Rancho Canada Village Subdivision](#)
- 4) [Many Projects related to the Carmel Lagoon and Carmel Valley mouth.](#)

There is a flurry of activity regarding *open space* in our region. The Big Sur Land Trust is working closely with State Parks and Regional Parks to develop a world class recreational open space that reduces urban flooding and improves wildlife corridors.

If all goes according to plan, Highway One will be elevated on a causeway across the valley bottom. A trail below the causeway will connect Carmel River State Beach to Palo Corona Regional Park. From there, there will be continuous public land and trails connecting to Point Lobos and points south — all the way to Garrapata Creek and the Joshua Creek Canyon Ecological Reserve. Maps of some of this plan are available at the County planning web site, listed above. Other maps are available at the [Big Sur Land Trust](#) web site. The board plans to host a public presentation about these long-range plans this summer. Stay tuned!

You might have noticed the "Rough Road" sign that the county recently erected down close to the bottom of Carmel Knolls Drive. We (board members and other neighbors) contacted Public Works county staff to see what can be done about the tree roots that are causing significant rough spots especially on the west side of our main street. Hop Essick (831-755-4926) is the county's Road Maintenance Superintendent. He states that, given county budget issues despite Measure X funds, our bump has taken low priority in comparison to other road problems in the county. His response to our calls for road repairs....is this sign.

Meeting minutes and other Carmel Knolls Property Owners Association documents are conveniently [archived on our web site](#). Please contact the board with issues you would like to see us tackle on behalf of the neighborhood.

Celeste Akkad, President

On behalf of the CKPOA Board

Carmel Knolls Neighborhood Watch Map

