

# INVERNESS RIDGE ASSOCIATION

## Update — November/December 2018

### IMPORTANT — IRA ANNUAL MEETING — IMPORTANT

Mark your calendars now for the **IRA Annual Meeting, Saturday, January 19th, 2019**, to take place at the home of Barbara Jay, 100 Douglas. We expect the agenda to focus on improving fire safety in PRE and the upcoming DVD re-paving project. Details to come later in December and early January.

Dear Neighbors,

I hope you all have had a warm and wonderful Thanksgiving. As you may recall, we were blessed with marvelous weather that day in between the rain storms that arrived that week to dampen our grounds and clear the air, for which we should all be thankful.

#### **DEFENSIBLE SPACE:**

I am also thankful to all PRE residents who have acted to clear defensible space around their homes and yards as required by State and County regulations. In doing so you have taken significant steps to help ensure safety not only for you and your residence, but for the rest of PRE as well.

The IRA Board recently heard a report from residents of Yosemite West, a residential community adjacent to Yosemite National Park, which is similar in many ways to PRE. Over the last several years they have taken many steps to improve fire safety and prevention on their properties, steps the speakers attributed to their emerging unscathed from the deadly Ferguson Fire, which surrounded them. We will be discussing these issues at the Annual Meeting and steps the Board's fire task force is considering for similar action here.

*In the meantime all property owners have legal responsibility to comply with the **defensible space** 30-foot and 100-foot house perimeter requirements and ensure that there are no dangerous trees or shrubs along a 10-foot border between one's property and the middle of any PRE road.* Information on these regulations and ways to comply is available at: <http://www.firesafemarin.org/defensible-space>.

As most know, the Marin Fire Department conducted defensible space inspections this summer and fall. 36 PRE properties passed these inspections, but close to 79 properties failed in some way. It is critically important that we strive for 100% compliance with these regulations. Fire scientists say that successfully clearing defensible space is the most important step in preventing loss of life and property in wild fires. This is both an individual as well as community-wide concern.

**MARIN COUNTY ALERT SYSTEM:**

*It is advisable for us all to register our cell phone and VOIP phone numbers with Alert Marin, as these are not automatically registered the way landlines are. If you have not done so already, go now to [www.MarinAlert.org](http://www.MarinAlert.org). All PRE home/property owners, whether part-time, full-time, or absent, may register for this service. Please pass the word about this service and the need to register to your tenants, friends and neighbors.*

**NEIGHBORHOOD LIAISONS STILL NEEDED:**

The Point Reyes Disaster Council (PRDC) recruits and organizes Neighborhood Liaisons. During an emergency these liaisons become the “eyes and ears” to alert First Responders to changing conditions (e.g., neighbor or house in trouble, downed trees, power lines, flooding, etc.). They convey essential information via a two-way radio network to help professionals prioritize their response. PRE residents are needed to volunteer for this community role between 100 and 328 DVD and on Upper (West) Robert. Volunteers receive a radio, training and practice. For further information please contact our local disaster coordinator Steve Bowers, 415-663-9551, 415-827-8546, [srbowers@horizoncable.com](mailto:srbowers@horizoncable.com).

The **IRA TRAIL WORK DAY** on October 20<sup>th</sup> was a great success, with important drainage clearing on the Inverness Ridge Trail accomplished and new friendships established. Trail Day coordinator Sydne Bortel reports that there were 12 volunteers, many of whom “expressed their delight at getting to know new neighbors, or ‘old’ neighbors they had never spent time with.” She is considering a second work day for Spring. Many thanks to these volunteers for their work, to Sydne for her coordination, and to her and Kay McMahon for providing lunch.

**ALWAYS IMPORTANT:**

If you haven't yet paid your **Inverness Ridge Association dues** for 2018, or want to get a jump on dues for 2019, you can do so now. Send \$25 (a bargain price that will not last indefinitely) to IRA, P.O. Box 342, Inverness, CA 94937. Many thanks to those who signed on as new members during the summer chipping program!

Tim Stanton  
IRA Board President