

November Update

Dear Neighbors,

I have a brief update for you today, as follows:

Last chipping day coming up very soon:

Reminder: the last chipping day of 2020 will be November 9th. This one is sponsored by FIRESafe Marin with funding from the new Marin Wildfire Protection Authority established by the Measure C parcel tax passed in March. Piles must be out by 8 AM that morning. The same rules apply as with the first Measure C chipping day in August. You can find them and **you must pre-register** at: www.chipperday.com.

In addition I wish to thank so many of you for participating in the year's chipping days, for strengthening defensible space around your homes and eliminating dangerous fire fuel from the community. These actions make PRE safer for all of us, and they are much appreciated by all residents, and certainly the Fire Department as well.

Wildfire Action Plan:

PRE became a member of Firewise USA last year. This membership enables us to apply to the County and State for grants for fire prevention work such as vegetation management along our roads and borders with the national and state parks. The IRA's fire task force is currently working on such a proposal. In the meantime Firewise has asked us to distribute the attached information sheet on how to develop a Wildfire Action Plan. Please take a look.

Battery Storage and Energy Efficiency Webinars:

Kellen Dammann of the Marin County Community Development Department Sustainability Team has asked me to provide you with the following information:

The County of Marin Sustainability Team, in partnership with the BayREN program, is working with Martin Herzfeld (certified solar and battery trainer) to provide two no-cost battery storage online webinars this fall/winter. The majority of the time will be spent on battery storage but we'll be covering home energy efficiency as well. There are two dates/times available for your convenience:

- Saturday, November 14 from 10am to 11:30am
- Wednesday, December 9 from 6pm to 7:30pm

Visit the Eventbrite page to learn more and register for your preferred date: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/battery-backup-and-energy-efficiency-webinar-for-homeowners-tickets-124752156057?aff=cities>

IRA Annual Membership dues rise to \$50 January 1st:

As I reported earlier the IRA Board decided recently to raise annual membership dues to \$50/year per household. This is the first increase in more than 20 years, and it is long overdue. IRA is an entirely volunteer-run organization and has sustained itself on these modest dues carrying out fire prevention work such as vegetation management, organizing and subsidizing chipping days, organizing and maintaining evacuation routes, and with PRERAB planning for the re-paving of Drake's View Drive. The dues change takes effect on January 1st for the 2021 calendar year. We thank you for your ongoing support.

Thank you and keep well,

Tim Stanton
President, IRA Board of Directors

From: Timothy Stanton tkeelst@aol.com
Subject: PRE news - November Update 2
Date: November 28, 2020 at 3:33 PM
To: tkeelst tkeelst@aol.com



November Update 2

Dear Neighbors,

I hope that you all have had a safe and joyful Thanksgiving. As we move into what looks to be a dry December, please continue to be mindful of fire danger, which will be with us until we get a serious soaking.

I have much information to pass on as follows:

- PRERAB has contracted with Inverness Garden Service to conduct its annual roadside ditch and culvert cleaning. In addition the IGS crew will repair and/or remove a few water bars on gravel roads. Please watch for IGS crew members and trucks on our roads. They expect to start work on Monday or Tuesday this coming week.
 - Also beginning this coming Monday crews will be chipping the more than 100-teepee-shaped burn piles along the Inverness Ridge Trail between Sunnyside and the end of DVD. Many residents have been concerned about this fuel piled so close to PRE homes for the past few years. We will all should be relieved when this chipping is completed and that it has been done this way rather than through prescribed burning, which was originally the plan for pike removal. Kudos and many thanks go to Maury and Bonnie Wolohan for pursuing this problem to successful resolution over many months, and to the Park Service's Fire Management Officer, Greg Jones, for making it happen.
 - While on the subject of chipping I pass along many thanks from the IRA Board for the participation of so many of you in both the IRA and Firewise chipping programs this year. While I do not have a specific number of piles chipped, the total is in excess of 100. Well done, PRE!
 - **ANNUAL MEETING** – Due to Covid restrictions the IRA will be unable to hold this year's Annual Meeting combined with lunch as in the past. Instead all residents are invited to attend a general business meeting to be held online on the morning of **January 23, 2021** (please mark your calendars now). The still forming agenda will include update reports from the Paving and Firewise Task Forces and PRERAB, as well as Board member elections. The Board needs new members and welcomes any resident who wishes to join. If interested, please contact any of us for further information (contact details are on the IRA website). The agenda and how to attend will be distributed in early January.
 - Parking issues have arisen in two ways in the last weeks. One is the prevalence of vehicles parked along DVD and other roads that are not completely off the road surface. Vehicles parked in this way pose hazards to drivers and can potentially obstruct emergency vehicles. Please park your vehicles completely off the roads at all times. If you are a landlord, please inform your tenants accordingly.
- The second issue is an increased number of cars parked at the end of DVD and Sunnyside by hikers from within and outside PRE seeking access to Park trails. Vehicles parked in these locations, especially those at the end of DVD, make it impossible for emergency vehicles to access the area and turn around, which is critical. In addition these vehicles block access to the cleared area just inside the Park, established a few years ago by the Fire Department to create an emergency staging space. With encouragement from the Park the IRA is exploring posting and enforcement of "no parking" regulations at least at end of DVD. Please cooperate by either walking to the trail access points or parking elsewhere. Thank you.
- Finally, I have received communication from the Park's Chief Ranger, Julie Byerly, regarding an increasing number of dogs observed on the trails and beaches – leashed and often unleashed. As I hope you all know, dogs are prohibited on Park trails and beaches other than Kehoe and part of Limantour. See the Park's website for an explanation of this regulation (<https://www.nps.gov/pore/planyourvisit/pets.htm>). Ms. Byerly asked me to let you know that due to the increase in dogs on trails and related, increasing complaints about them from visitors, the Park will step up its patrols and issuing of citations. For the health of wildlife in the Park and your dogs please cooperate with this regulation.

Thanks very much and keep well,

Tim Stanton

President

Inverness Ridge Association