

## September Update

Dear neighbors,

As scary and stressful as the four weeks with the Woodward fire were, we have much to be thankful for. The Marin County Fire Department, Sheriff's department, NPS staff were first ones on the front lines and set a high bar for communicating with West Marin residents. Then the amazing fire crews from the Northern Rockies and Great Basin, Nevada arrived to successfully contain the fire while mitigating damage to the Park. Local organizations – KWMR, West Marin Community Services among them - and citizens such as our Disaster Liaisons - played critical roles as well. We owe them all huge thanks for their work. No doubt I've left out others who also deserve thanks. However, I also wish to give thanks to all of you in PRE, who have worked hard clearing brush and dead trees, establishing defensible space around your homes. The Marin Fire officers, who conducted inspections in PRE during the early days of the fire, were impressed with and thankful for what you've done.

### **TWO chipping days coming up this fall:**

As well as we've done, we can do more. Two additional roadside chipping days are scheduled in the next two months. First is the IRA-sponsored chipping, postponed from Labor Day weekend to a new deadline for signing up and making your \$50 payment of **October 9<sup>th</sup>**. Chipping piles must be on the roadside by October 11<sup>th</sup>. Please see the attached information sheet for instructions and note that the September date has changed.

The second chipping day will be November 9<sup>th</sup>. As with the August 26 chipping day, 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 in August. You can find them and register at: [www.chipperday.com](http://www.chipperday.com). The website is not open as I write, but it will be soon.

### **IRA Annual Membership dues rise to \$50 January 1<sup>st</sup>:**

At its September meeting the IRA Board decided to raise annual membership dues to \$50/year per household. This is the first increase in more than 20 years, and in many folks' view 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, subsidizing chipping days, organizing and maintaining evacuation routes, and now with PRERAB planning for the re-paving of Drake's View Drive. The dues change takes effect on January 1<sup>st</sup> for the 2021 calendar year. We thank you for your ongoing support.

### **Building social capital in PRE:**

The experience of the Woodward fire reminded many of us of the importance of a strong community as a key ingredient of community safety and security. Neighbors looked after neighbors. Disaster Liaisons kept in touch with residents, so they could inform first responders about who was home and provide assistance to anyone in need of food or other support. This works best when we actually know our neighbors and look out for each other. Let's continue to reach out and open ourselves to our community. The better we know and support each other, the safer and more secure we can be.

Finally, PRE resident John Parman asked that I circulate the link below for a *Point Reyes Light* article he co-wrote on steps homeowners can take to “fire-harden” their homes.

<https://www.ptreyeslight.com/article/peace-mind-wildfire-country-some-common-sense-advice>

Thank you and keep well,  
Tim Stanton

President, IRA Board of Directors